

# PADBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWSLETTER # 4

## NOONGAR SEASON KAMBARANG • SECOND SPRING • OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Welcome to the fifth season of the Noongar calendar, running from October to November, and is marked by an abundance of wildflowers and rising temperatures. The Acacias continue their prolific blooming in bright yellows along with many of the Banksias, Kangaroo Paws and Orchids. Reptiles awaken from their long winter sleep of hibernation and the magpies continue their swooping in protection of their precious babies. Traditionally at this time of year, Noongar people would have moved towards the coast where their diets would have been supplemented by freshwater crayfish, frogs and tortoises.



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## From the Chair

Welcome to our bi-monthly newsletter which celebrates the Noongar season Kambarang!

This edition provides a good mix of what the Padbury Community Garden committee and community have been up to recently, some upcoming events that may interest you, as well as our fundraising activities and seasonal gardening tips.

We are also having a special General Meeting on 12th November at 12.30pm at Gibson Park Hall. This will start with a motion to pass some changes to our Terms of Reference to allow us to qualify for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). We would also like to take the opportunity for a bit of a get together. Please see page 11 for more details.

I would like to thank all of our returning and new paid members for your ongoing support and to the broader community for the ongoing interest, not least providing some terrific Facebook posts on your gardening exploits. Which reminds me, I must post one on my chilli and capsicum seedlings having picked up some tips from the seed saving workshop earlier in the year

Happy gardening!  
**2022 PCG Chair - David Hay**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

If you would like to be part of the PCG or know more about what we do, then please contact us through [PadburyCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:PadburyCommunityGarden@gmail.com)

Annual fees for Padbury Community Garden

Single \$15 | Family \$25 | School Group/Organisation \$30

Follow the QR code to complete the form. Or alternatively go to <https://forms.gle/33fkindsHCXDazqQ9>

Please pay via secure payment link provided in online registration form.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our community!



# What to Plant

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Beans    | Aster         |
| Beetroot | Carnation     |
| Capsicum | Chrysanthemum |
| Cucumber | Cosmos        |
| Lettuce  | Marigold      |
| Melon    | Petunia       |
| Squash   | Snapdragon    |
| Corn     | Statice       |
| Tomato   | Zinnia        |

When growing from seed, the temperature of the soil dictates success - so make sure soil is consistently warm enough when planting out many summer crops (most prefer soil temperature above 23 degrees). Space out sowing seeds every couple of weeks to improve your chances of getting planting times just right.





## What We've Been Up To



We had another fabulous afternoon of fun the last weekend of August at the Padbury Community Garden painting workshop.

Thanks to Gabrielle from The Pickled Paintbrush for coming all this way and thank you to our Happy Painters who came along and supported our fundraising workshop.

We raised \$425 with this event!



That same weekend we joined forces with the Lions Club at the Gibson Park Community Centre and offered a sale of succulents that we lovingly grew and potted. It was great to see new and friendly faces and we are thankful for the support yet again.

We also raffled a pair of potted succulent arrangements - congratulations to winners Cindy and Dawn!

That day we raised \$432!



# Hydrophobic Soil

Sometimes you might hear from a fellow gardener that your plant is struggling because the soil has become hydrophobic.

## What does this mean?

This condition occurs when water sits on top of the soil or potting medium and does not soak in. It arises in dry conditions and most often in sandy soils like most of us have here in Padbury. As prevention, avoid frequent use of undecomposed wood-based mulches such as wood chips. Use a variety of mulches from season to season. Try to incorporate decomposed organic matter and/or cocopeat to beds/pots before planting. If using cocopeat, it needs to have some high nitrogen material (manure) added along with it because it adds carbon to the soil.

If you think your pot plants are water stressed due to their hydrophobic medium the best treatment is to repot them. When pot plants are too large to repot you can poke holes into the medium then water slowly with a dilution of compost tea and or/seaweed emulsion so it flows into the holes. Seaweed emulsion contains algin which is a natural wetting agent.

For soil beds that become hydrophobic you will have to loosen a few centimetres of the dry topsoil with a hoe. Work some clay in, aerate with a garden fork and water the bed with a long, slow irrigation. You can add seaweed emulsion to your water if you like. Incorporate compost or decomposed manure. Repeat the watering. Mulch.

# Homemade Organic Fertilisers

Spring is fertilising time. One of the best decisions you can make for your plants, your soil, your health, your wallet, and the environment is to make your own fertilisers at home. It's cheap and it's easy. Here are some of our favourite recipes.

## **Worm Tea, Compost Tea, and Aged Manure Tea**

These brews are nutrient rich and great for plant health. Put two handfuls of worm castings, compost or manure (use gloves!) into a hessian bag/cotton bag (old cotton pillowcases work great!) and suspend it in a container with water. Ideally use a bucket with a lid because wow-wee these things can smell. Pop an aerator in the water (find these at pet shops/fish tanks use them) and leave it overnight. If you can use rainwater rather than tap water, that works even better because of the nitrogen rainwater provides plants with. Next morning you will find the water has turned into tea bubbling with microorganisms, nutrients and minerals your plants will love. Dilute the tea with water in a ration of 1:10 (one part tea to ten parts water) before feeding them. You can chuck your "teabag" in the compost to further break down. Win win.

Note: please do not use cat or dog manure as they can contain pathogens

## **Weed Fertiliser**

Rather than binning the handfuls of weeds you pull out ever so often you can brew them into a tasty drink for your plants. The best weeds (but all are game) to use are those that are deep rooted such as dandelion, nettle and comfrey because they are good at sucking up the nutrients found in the soil. These nutrients are stored in their leaves and by submerging the leaves in water we claim back those nutrients they have stolen from us! So fill your boots and top a container with 1 part weeds to 5 parts water. Pop the lid on and leave it for about four weeks. This one also stinks. Embrace yourselves. Use this fertiliser with water at a ratio of 1 : 10 before feeding your plants.

## **Banana Peel Fertiliser**

Submerge banana peels in a lidded jar of water. Close and set aside on your kitchen counter for about 2-3 days. Mix this liquid with water at a ratio of 1 : 10 to feed your plants. Banana peels leach out phosphorus, calcium, potassium, and other elements into the water which are highly beneficial to plants.

## **Kitchen Cooking Water**

Water used to boil veggies, pasta (no salt!) and eggs can be cooled down and then given to plants. It seems very simple but plants love it.





To the great PCG volunteers that helped support the Whitfords Lions Club with their hiring stall at the Royal Show. The Lions have donated \$1500 in appreciation to the Padbury Community Garden for helping out!

**If you have ANY ideas or contacts for workshops the PCG fundraising team would LOVE to hear from you!**

**Ideas big or small they will all be really appreciated - don't be shy and please reach out on our social media pages or email.**

**Have a look at the workshops we have planned for this month:**



## Padbury Community Garden Fundraising Workshop

Saturday 22nd October 2pm- 4.30pm.

### Macramé Plant Hanger

Here you will learn skills required to create your own macramé plant hanger. In this workshop you will be shown step by step instructions and guidance to the basic art of macramé. All materials are provided including plant pot.



\*\* Only 12 places available - \$30 pp + booking fee



### Bracelet Making

Another great workshop being held at the same time. In this workshop you will learn to create **two** 3 banded wrap around bracelet with your own unique design.

Choosing from a large variety of glass beads in a range of beautiful colours and sizes, everything is provided for you to create two beautiful bracelets.

\*\* Only 30 places available - \$20 pp + booking fee

### Tickets

The great thing is both of these are being held at the same hall so you can come along with family & friends together but still do the workshop of your choice.

*Great opportunity for a wonderful Mother - Daughter afternoon of fun & laughter*

Tickets for the different workshop can be purchased on the same order, **BUT** please remember there is only time for 1 person to attend 1 workshop.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/401561299657>  
Location: Padbury Hall, Caley Road. Padbury

### Take Home Kits For Sale

Additional Macramé & Bracelet kits are available on the day - **With Christmas fast approaching these will make great gift pack!** We will also have a variety of plants for sale to complete your plant hanger.

All proceeds go to Padbury Community Garden Fundraising Goals - As usual Tea & Coffee will be provided - BYO your own cup please.



# SALE

Our loving succulent potters have diligently arranged and planted an array of stunning succulents in pots. There are so many colours and shapes and sizes to chose from! They are also very happy to custom make to order. These gems make great gratitude gifts for teachers and work colleagues or the best gift of all - a gift to yourself! They will also be releasing Christmas designs leading up to the festive holidays. Succulents make great gifts and you will also be supporting your community garden!

Please contact Ellen Ender for all your succulents needs.







## Special Resolution Meeting / Sausage Sizzle

PCG have called for a **SPECIAL RESOLUTION MEETING**.  
At the meeting we will be voting in our amended 'Terms of Reference', to allow us to become an endorsed **Deductible Gift Recipient** (ie. receive donations from others who can then claim the donation on their tax return).  
So we thought... why not come together for lunch, show you all the garden plans and where the garden is likely to be!!

**Please join us**  
**Saturday 12th November 2022**  
**12:30 - 2:30pm**  
**Gibson Park Hall**

The PCG, with the assistance of the Lions Club of Whitford, will be putting on a **Free sausage sizzle** for all **VOTERS\*** and their family!

For all non-voters **Sausage sizzle \$2.50** **Soft drinks \$1.00**

- Meet the Committee and other members
- Talk to the Committee about future plans.
- View the proposed Garden location
- View the Garden concept plan
- Activities for the kids
- Succulent sale
- Raffle



<https://fb.me/e/1SXb0cTGU>

\*Voters must be paid members, 15 years old or over. Drinks not included.



- ▶ Bulbs that have finished flowering should be fertilised with completed fertiliser and kept well watered. Do not cut off foliage until it begins to yellow.
- ▶ Apply foliar fertiliser and trace elements to veggies and annuals to keep them growing well. Best applied in the late afternoon.
- ▶ Azaleas and camellias require fertilising after flowering.
- ▶ Prune bottlebrush behind flowering heads as brushers fade. Light clipping after flowering keeps native shrubs compact.
- ▶ Keep plants watered on dry and windy days to maintain spring show. Remove spent heads. Keep vegetable beds weeded.
- ▶ Regular mowing of lawns is needed to keep down annual weeds and stop them from seeding. If you're thinking of planting a new lawn, October is the month to do so. Grass seed is cheaper than turf and establishes well now.
- ▶ Cut runners off strawberry plants.
- ▶ Vegetables and summer flowering annuals require side dressings of blood and bone or an all purpose fertiliser and water.
- ▶ Shrubs, fruiting trees and ripening vegetables should be sprayed for fruit fly or alternatively hang fruit fly traps.
- ▶ Plant out dahlia tubers and stake.





## Padbury Community Garden

Padbury Community Garden Inc. is established to be a not-for-profit, charity whose purpose is to advance mental health and relieve social isolation through operating a 'community shed'.