

Charlie's Garden: A Fruit & Vegetable Garden

A Plan of Work for the Year

January

Weather to Expect: Typical temp range from 19 - 26°C. 12 days of rain bringing 103 mm rainfall 7 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 26°C

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, do plants need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements described below. Place Council Green Bin out to be emptied every second Tuesday evening and then return to garden. Remove gum leaves from beds. Weed paths if necessary.

Soil Management: Ensure soil is mulched to maintain moisture and to build organic matter.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn compost frequently with the compost spiral tool to promote an aerobic environment and to avoid a very smelly anaerobic environment which also slows down the production of compost. Add 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, a handful rock dust monthly and a handful of bentonite monthly. Shut down when bin is full, continue turning and use when temperature has fallen to av soil temp of beds.

Worm Farm Management : Add chopped greens to worms frequently and check worm farm is protected from direct sun. Check there is enough moisture in the worm farm to prevent spiders from choosing to nest in there. Worm tea can be collected in the jug under the tap of the worm farm. Dilute this tea 1:10 with water and use as a foliar feed to all plants as needed.

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Planting Plan. African marigolds, French and climbing beans, beetroot, brassicas, capsicum, cucumber, eggplant, leek, lettuce, chard, sweet corn, spring onion and tomato, basil and lettuce are typical crops.

Fertilising : Apply blood and bone (40g/ sq m) to all parts of the garden in week one and give citrus Iron Sulphate (1 T/4.5 L water) at the drip line.

Harvesting: Typically tomatoes, eggplant, beans, spinach, kale, lettuce, cucumber, zucchini, amaranth, passionfruit and rhubarb. To harvest leafy greens gently twist one leaf from the base of the plant taking only two or three leaves from one plant. To harvest basil use secateurs to clip just above two buds. To harvest rhubarb twist a stalk gently at its base. Only take two or three stalks from each plant.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water. Water citrus deeply once a week.

Pest Management: Check citrus for scale and treat with white oil if affected.

Tomatoes need constant staking, shaping and checking for fruit fly. If detected remove tomato and place in green bin for council disposal. Do not place in compost bin.

FEBRUARY

Weather to expect - Typical temp ranges from 19 - 26°C. 12 days of rain bringing 117mm rainfall. 7 hours of sunshine with average soil temperature 25 C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Place Council Green Bin out to be emptied every second Tuesday evening and then return to garden. Remove gum leaves from beds. Weed paths if necessary.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly. Shut down when bin is full, continue turning and use when temperature has fallen to average soil temp of beds.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly and check worm farm is protected from summer sun. Ensure there is sufficient moisture in the worm farm to prevent spiders from choosing to nest in there. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan. Typically beans, corn, beetroot, kale, capsicum, eggplant, chard, sweet corn, spring, onion, tomato, basil and lettuce are growing.

Fertilising: Fertilise corn with side dressing of potash and blood and bone. Week 2 fertilise citrus with chicken manure (half handful at root zone underneath mulch). Apply liquid fertiliser to all vegetables in weeks two and four.

Harvest: Typically beetroot, lettuce, spinach, kale, baby rocket, beans, cucumbers, lettuce, basil, eggplants, corn, capsicum, herbs and rhubarb.

Pest Management: Spray diluted milk on zucchini affected by powdery mildew, watch brassicas for white cabbage moth and remove caterpillars by hand. A net could be placed over the crop. Remove tomatoes if diseased.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water. Water citrus deeply once a week.

Mulching: Replenish mulch if necessary.

MARCH

Weather to expect Typical temperature range from 18 - 28°C 13 days of rain bringing 131 mm rainfall 6 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 24°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, do plants need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Place Green Compost bin out fortnightly on a Tuesday for council to collect. Return to garden. Remove gum leaves from beds. Weed paths if necessary.

Soil Management: As Seasons vary a little on an annual basis this may occur in March or April. As Summer crops finish, remove them and prepare beds for Crop Rotation and planting of Winter crops. Purchase fertilisers (5kg blood and bone & 20kg dolomite lime) and manures (2 bags each chicken, sheep & cow) from Enfield Produce. Beds can be supplemented with compost and manure or a Green Manure crop planted. Apply 2 handfuls of dolomite lime / sqm 2 weeks before planting broad , spinach and peas.

Fertilising: Week 2 fertilise citrus with chicken manure (½ handful at root zone underneath mulch).

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly and check worm farm is protected from summer sun. Ensure there is moisture to prevent spiders from nesting. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan

Harvest: Typically cucumbers, lettuce, basil, eggplants, chard, beans, corn, capsicum

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster and water according to weather.

Mulching: Remove mulch if necessary during soil renovation

Weeding: Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from vegetable beds.

APRIL

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 15 - 22°C 12 days of rain bringing 127 mm rainfall 6 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 16°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Place Council Green Bin out to be emptied every second Tuesday evening and then return to garden. Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from vegetable beds

Soil Management: As seasons vary yearly this may occur in March or April. As Summer crops finish, remove them and prepare beds for Crop Rotation and planting of Winter crops. Beds can be supplemented with compost and manure or a Green Manure crop planted. Apply 2 handfuls of dolomite lime / sqm 2 weeks before planting broad beans and DEdS.

Fertilising: In week 4 fertilise citrus with blood and bone (½ handful at root zone underneath mulch) and give new seedlings liquid Seasol fortnightly. Fertilise asparagus with composted cow manure after pruning.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly and check worm farm is protected from summer sun. Ensure there is moisture to prevent spiders nesting. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan

Harvest: Herbs and organise making basil pesto if there is a large crop of basil

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster to water appropriately for weather and crop requirements.

Prune: Olive trees are espaliered and plan is to prune to enable cropping on alternate sides in alternate years, prune asparagus.

General: Maintenance of tools, purchase manures and fertilisers from Enfield Produce if not done in March.

MAY

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 15 - 22°C 12 days of rain bringing 127 mm rainfall 6 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 16°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Place Council Green Bin out to be emptied every second Tuesday evening and then return to garden. Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from vegetable beds.

Soil Management: Green Manure crop can be dug in

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10. Worm castings can be added to mature compost.

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan. To plant seedlings ensure soil is well composted, dig soil over, ensure plant specific supplements have been added, then plant seedling so collar of plant is at the same level as in seedling tray.

Harvest: herbs and lettuce

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster to give all vegetables a deep water according to prevailing weather and crop requirements.

Prune: As ferns yellow prune asparagus and fertilise with composted manure then cover with mulch

JUNE

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 9 - 17°C, 11 days of rain bringing 128 mm rainfall, 5 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 12°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from vegetable beds.

Fertilising: Give liquid fertiliser to young plants, give broad beans a side dressing of potash. Dress citrus with chicken manure based fertiliser pellets in week 2 and apply a light sprinkling of chicken manure based fertiliser pellets to entire garden.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Typically peas, spinach, kale, broad beans, leeks and beetroot are growing.

Harvest: herbs and lettuce

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the cooler months.

Prune: As ferns yellow prune raspberry canes and fertilise with composted manure then cover with mulch.

JULY

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 8 - 16°C, 10 days of rain bringing 98 mm rainfall, 6 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 16°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Soil Management: Give liquid fertiliser to young plants in second and last week, in the last week give broad beans a side dressing of potash and give peas a side dressing of sheep manure. Dress citrus with chicken manure based fertiliser pellets in week 2 and in last week dress all the garden with blood and bone.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertilizer 1:10.

Harvest: Spring onions, leeks, herbs and lettuce

Pest Management: Charlie's Garden has a susceptibility to Root Knot Nematode (Eel) Worm) and Linda Woodrow an NW Ag Dept recommend maintaining a high level of chicken manure and organic matter which encourages a healthy population of worms and fungi to displace nematodes.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the cooler months.

Prune: Cut back strawberry runners and foliage. Prune perennial herbs.

AUGUST

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 9 - 18°C, 10 days of rain bringing 82 mm rainfall, 7 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 19°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as

described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Soil Management: Give liquid fertiliser to young plants in weeks two and four, give broad beans a side dressing of potash in second week. Dress citrus, at the root zone, with chicken manure based fertiliser pellets in week two and apply Dynamic Lifter to the entire garden in week four.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10.

Harvest: Leeks, broad beans, peas, kale, spring onions, herbs and lettuce

Pest Management: Net brassica bed if White Cabbage Moth is present.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the cooler months.

Prune: Deciduous fruit trees.

SEPTEMBER

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 11 - 20°C, 10 days of rain bringing 69 mm rainfall, 7 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 22°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Soil Management: As Winter crops finish, remove them and prepare beds for Crop Rotation and planting of Summer crops in October. Beds are supplemented with compost and manure or a green manure crop planted. In week two give citrus iron sulphate 1T/4.5L water and seaweed fertiliser 3T / 4.5L water. In week four apply blood and bone to the entire garden. Also in week four dress citrus, at the root zone, with blood and bone, a pinch of trace elements in 4.5 L water. Drench roots of fruit trees, including citrus, with Seasol to stimulate healthy root growth.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan

Harvest: Rhubarb, herbs and lettuce

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water as soil temperatures and evaporation levels begin to rise.

OCTOBER

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 14 - 22°C, 12 days of rain bringing 77 mm rainfall, 7 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 24°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Weed paths if necessary and remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Soil Management: Add compost and manures to garden beds in preparation for Summer crop planting this month.

Give liquid fertiliser to young plants in weeks two and four. Apply Dynamic Lifter to the entire garden in week four.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan

Harvest: Artichokes, mustard, herbs, rhubarb and lettuce

Pest Management: Set fly traps near compost if needed. Look out for snails and fruit flies on tomatoes.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the warmer months.

Mulch around new plantings

Prune and stake tomatoes.

NOVEMBER

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 16 - 24°C, 11 days of rain bringing 83 mm rainfall, 8 hours of sunshine with average soil temp 24°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Place Council Green Bin out to be emptied every second Tuesday evening, then return to garden.

Soil Management: Give liquid fertiliser to young plants in weeks two and four, give broad beans a side dressing of potash in second week. Dress citrus, at the root zone, with chicken manure based fertilizer pellets in week two and iron sulphur 11/2t / 4L at root zone.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10

Planting: Consult Crop Rotation Plan

Harvest: Early beans, herbs and lettuce

Pest Management:

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the cooler months.

Mulching: Maintain mulch around growing annual vegetables, perennials, herbs and fruit trees.

DECEMBER

Weather to Expect: Typical temperature range from 18 - 25°C, 11 days of rain bringing 78 mm rainfall, & hours of sunshine with average soil temp 19°C.

General: Walk through garden and look to assess plants - is there evidence of pest or disease, do they need water or fertiliser, is there crop to harvest, does it need staking or pruning, or is the plant ready to remove? Check compost bins and turn to aerate and tend to supplements as described below. Council Green Bin: Take out to lane for collection on a fortnightly Tuesday and return to garden. Remove fallen gum leaves from garden beds.

Soil Management: Give liquid fertiliser to young plants in weeks two and four. Dress citrus, at the root zone, with chicken manure based fertilizer pellets in week two and apply Dynamic Lifter to the entire garden in week four.

Compost Management: Ensure ratio of carbon and nitrogen additions is 50:50. Coffee grounds from Shortlist Café can supplement nitrogen and egg cartons from Darling Thai Cafe and soft wood shavings from Enfield Produce can supplement carbon. Turn frequently, Add 1/3 bucket manure fortnightly, 1 cup dolomite lime weekly, handful rock dust and bentonite monthly.

Worm Farm Management: Add chopped vegetables (no citrus) to worms weekly. Drained worm juice can be used as a liquid fertiliser 1:10.

Harvest: Typically tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, kale, spinach, herbs and lettuce

Pest Management: Tomatoes need careful vigilance to prevent pests, particularly fruit fly. Thin plant to enable airflow.

Watering Regime: Ensure there is a watering roster four times a week to give all vegetables a deep water as required in the hotter months. Citrus require deep watering once a week.

Stake: tomatoes