

# Backyard Veg: Workshop Series

## Keen to up your veggie gardening game, but still not completely sure about a whole lot of things?

- You've watched 100 videos on YouTube and now you really don't know where to start!
- You can't even keep houseplants alive, how could you reliably grow your own food?
- Composting sounds like the right thing to do, but you're nervous about the mess.
- Your veggies do well at first, but then it kind of peters out.
- The bugs got to your plants and you quit because organic means no pesticides, right?
- So many tools at the garden centre - where does one start?
- Where can one source good quality supplies?

Sign up now for all or some of our new hands-on veggie gardening workshops. Just imagine how much you could learn by having an experienced, local biodynamic farmer guide you through a full cycle of backyard veg growing! The course consists of a series of four workshops - one for each season. Each workshop will have a maximum of 15 participants getting their hands dirty right here on our farm.

Register your interest by sending an email to Debbie Tschepen on [DTschepen@warrahfarmshop.org.au](mailto:DTschepen@warrahfarmshop.org.au) and you will be contacted to make the payment over the phone.

The cost is **\$100** for Workshop 1 and **\$75** for each of the others (or pay \$260 upfront for the full workshop series).



## Your Facilitator

Rob Greatholder was Warrah's Farm Manager for 6 years before moving into his current role coordinating our social therapeutic horticulture programs. Rob has been farming and gardening for the last 15 years. Having undertaken the Diploma of Biodynamic Agriculture training in the UK, he has worked on many different scales and projects in different parts of the world, from broad acre biodynamic farms and market gardens, to 1 acre no-dig permaculture models and off-grid community reforestation projects. More recently, the focus of his work is around connecting people to landscape and developing opportunities for engagement and wellness through farming, gardening and natural building.

# Workshop 1 - Getting Started

Our first workshop will provide an overview of getting a successful veggie garden started and will provide trouble shooting advice and tips on getting the most out of your garden.

## **Farm Walk – what is growing where at this time of year?**

Propagation and nursery skills for spring seedlings

Includes seed selection, propagation materials, making your own seed raising mix, sowing seeds, care and maintenance of seedlings, when and how to plant, differences between direct sowing and transplanting.

## **Creating a Growing Space**

Includes taking a bed from grass to workable using both dig and no dig methods, tools required, resources required, irrigation, basic soil and ph. test.

## **Workshop Format:**

- You will be working in the nursery and discovering the secrets to making your own potting mix in order to produce healthy seedlings at home.
- We will look at seedlings in different stages of growth and from there move to the farm and get a couple of beds ready for planting.
- By the end of the day, you will know the principles of raising healthy seedlings, where to source seed, what to sow and when, how to prepare ground and plant, what resources you need and where to source materials.
- You will also know how to convert or improve your area at home into a growing space, be that dig or no dig.

## **What to Bring:**

Suitable boots, clothes and gloves. We will provide the tools and material required for the workshop.

## **Take Home:**

- Handouts - propagation and planting charts (what to sow when, spacing, weeks to harvest, etc.) and a brief introduction to biodynamics.
- Seedling trays sown on the day for your spring garden. We will also supply some seasonal seedlings for you to start with right away.

## **Date:**

Saturday 29 August 2020\* from 9am – 3pm (includes a 1 hour break for lunch. Bring your own food and we will supply a fresh salad just picked from the garden).

## **Venue:**

Warrah Farm (20 Harris Road Dural)

## **Cost:**

\$100 (or \$260 for the full workshop series)

## **More information and bookings:**

Contact Debbie Tschepen

Phone: 9651 3869

Email: [DTschepen@warrahfarmshop.org.au](mailto:DTschepen@warrahfarmshop.org.au)

\* Date subject to change in inclement weather

# Workshop 2 - Spring Into Action

**Farm Walk – what is growing where at this time of year?**

**Nursery skills revisited – summer sowings - take home seedlings**

**Direct sowing and trellising - care and trellising of tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, foliar feeds, and pest and disease management.**

**Compost Making**

**Introduction to Biodynamic Compost Preparations**

**Workshop Format:**

- You will be working on the farm in beds that you will be able to emulate at home. By the end of the day, you will know how we grow our fruiting crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, etc.), how we train and trellis and what we do about pests and diseases.
- We will also visit the nursery to brush up on our skills and sow some seeds for summer.
- We will introduce the biodynamic preparations and make our own compost heap.

**What to Bring:**

Suitable boots, clothes and gloves. We will provide the tools and material required for the workshop.

**Take Home:**

Some seasonal seedlings

Handouts - composting information, introduction to biodynamics.

**Date:**

Saturday TBD late October 2020\* from 8:30 to 1pm. (Includes a half hour break for morning tea. Tea and coffee provided.)

**Venue:**

Warrah Farm (20 Harris Road Dural)

**Cost:**

\$75 (or \$260 for the full workshop series)

**More information and bookings:**

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# Workshop 3 - Summertime

**Farm walk – what is growing where at this time of year?**

**Nursery skills revisited – sowing for autumn - take home seedlings**

**Weed and pest management – tools, resources, strategies including organic foliar applications for pest and disease management.**

**BD soil activator preparation – making, stirring and application of Biodynamic soil activator**

**Training, trellising and pruning tomatoes and cucumbers – how, why, when**

**Making your own liquid organic fertilizers, pesticides, compost tea.**

## **Workshop Format:**

- You will be working on the farm in beds that you will be able to emulate at home. By the end of the day, you will know how to prune and care for tomatoes and cucumbers. You will have an understanding of strategies for weed and pest management and know how to make and apply foliar amendments.
- And as if that isn't enough, we will also make biodynamic soil activator and apply it on the farm!

## **What to Bring:**

Suitable boots, clothes and gloves. We will provide the tools and material required for the workshop.

## **Take Home:**

- Seasonal seedlings
- BD soil activator.

## **Date:**

Saturday TBD Early February 2021\* from 8:30 to 1pm. (Includes a half hour break for morning tea. Tea and coffee provided.)

## **Venue:**

Warrah Farm (20 Harris Road Dural)

## **Cost:**

\$75 (or \$260 for the full workshop series)

## **More information and bookings:**

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# Workshop 4 - Autumn, Preparing for Winter

**Farm walk – what is growing where at this time of year?**

**Nursery skills revisited – sowing for winter, the importance of timings**

**Season extension – low cost ways to create covered cropping areas to increase production through cooler months**

**BD preparation 500 - making, stirring and application**

**Direct sowing – preparing ground, tricks and tips for better germination, sowing carrots, radish, rocket and beets.**

## **Workshop Format:**

- You will be working on the farm in beds that you will be able to emulate at home. We will visit the nursery and understand the importance of timings, and being ahead of the coming cooler months and brush up on our nursery skills.
- Ever had troubles getting your carrots to germinate? By the end of the day, we will have gone through all the steps from ground prep to sowing and you will know how to successfully grow carrots, rocket, radish and beets from direct seed sowing, what varieties work for our climate and when to sow.
- Bring suitable boots, clothes and gloves. We will provide the tools and material required for the workshop.

## **Take Home:**

Seasonal seedlings

## **Date:**

Saturday TBD April 2021\* from 8:30 to 1pm. (Includes a half hour break for morning tea. Tea and coffee provided.)

## **Venue:**

Warrah Farm (20 Harris Road Dural)

## **Cost:**

\$75 (or \$260 for the full workshop series)

## **More information and bookings:**

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