

Summer is Sweet Tomato Time

EDIBLE GARDENS



Cherry tomatoes are one of the nicest things picked straight from the garden. You'll know when they're ripe cos they'll change from green to red, yellow or orange and will be sweetened by the warmth of the sun. It's called nature's treat time when the stuff in your garden gets ripe enough to devour.

Don't hesitate, taste now!

After you've had first pick, you can proudly take in a handful or two to the kitchen! With luck you've planted enough to add to the salad for tonight's dinner. Don't forget there'll be more to come as the bees pollinate the flowers and the fruit sets.

All they need to flourish in your garden is:

- ☺ plenty of direct sunlight, 8 hours or more each day
- ☺ fertile soil - dig in some manure, blood and bone and compost
- ☺ good drainage and plenty of organic matter to help with moisture retention
- ☺ a good soak weekly once established - more frequently for pots
- ☺ apply liquid fertiliser every month
- ☺ watch for naughty pests and squash with your fingers when necessary!

Jobs to do end of January

Start preparing vegie beds for sowing winter crops.
Dig over and add compost.



Did you know?

Growing your own food means that less fuel will be used transporting food across Australia to our cities and towns and this means less pollution. The more we can produce in our own backyards will deliver really fresh food to your table that not only tastes really good but helps the environment too!

Make a new start in your garden this year and go all the way in 2009!

Start an eco-friendly organic garden.

- ☺ set up a water tank at home
- ☺ on rainy days fertilise and mulch your garden
- ☺ grow natural food plants to provide seed and nectar for native birds
- ☺ set up a bird bath in your garden for hot, thirsty birds
- ☺ try not to kill ladybirds, bees and all the good guys like praying mantis, lizards and frogs - avoid using chemical sprays
- ☺ don't forget to mulch the garden to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds

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