

Composting & Gardening Tips

Composting

Turn Your Scraps into Garden Gold!

Keep Queensland Beautiful – One Bin at a Time

Dig In — Let's Turn Scraps into Soil and Gardens into Gold!

Composting is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to reduce waste, enrich your garden, and contribute to a healthier environment. By turning your food scraps and garden clippings into nutrient-rich soil, you're helping divert waste from landfills and nurturing the planet—one banana peel at a time. Composting and gardening are more than just eco-friendly habits — they're hands-on, feel-good ways to connect with nature, cut down on waste, and grow something amazing! Whether you're a balcony gardener, backyard enthusiast, or total beginner, we've got tips to help your garden thrive and your compost come alive. From kitchen scraps to garden hacks, let's make your green thumb even greener!



Composting Made Easy — Turn Waste into Wonderful!

Composting is a simple, natural way to recycle your kitchen and garden waste and turn it into nutrient-rich soil for your plants. Not only does it reduce landfill waste, but it also gives your garden a healthy, chemical-free boost! Composting can become a part of your daily routine — and it's easier than you might think.

Composting & Gardening Tips

Where to Compost Hard-to-Dispose Items

If you have items that aren't suited for backyard composting, here's where you can take them:

- **Meat, Dairy & Oils:** These are not recommended in regular compost bins. Consider a Bokashi bin, which pre-ferments food waste (including small amounts of meat and dairy). You can bury the contents in your garden or add to compost after fermentation.
- **Used Cooking Oils:** Do not compost. Collect and take to local council drop-off points or recycling centres. In Queensland, many councils accept waste oil—check [Recycling Near You](#).
- **Pet Waste:** Avoid placing pet droppings in regular compost, especially if compost is for edible gardens. Some areas offer pet waste composting systems, and dedicated pet waste compost bins are available from garden suppliers.
- **Synthetic Materials:** Plastics, synthetic fabrics, foil, and treated wood are not compostable. Use local soft plastics recycling programs or designated disposal points for responsible disposal.

Why You Shouldn't Burn Green Waste

Burning green waste—such as branches, leaves, and grass clippings—may seem like a quick solution for garden clean-up, but it poses serious environmental and health risks:

- **Air Pollution:** Burning releases harmful particulate matter and greenhouse gases into the air, contributing to poor air quality and climate change.
- **Fire Hazards:** Especially in Queensland's dry seasons, backyard burning significantly increases the risk of bushfires.
- **Legal Restrictions:** Many local councils in Queensland ban or strictly regulate green waste burning due to health and safety concerns.
- **Missed Opportunity:** Composting or mulching green waste returns nutrients to the soil and supports sustainable gardening.

Instead of burning, consider composting, chipping for mulch, or using green waste bins provided by your local council.

Composting & Gardening Tips

Types of Compost Bins — Find What Works for You

There are several types of compost bins to suit different homes, spaces, and lifestyles -- whether you've got a sprawling backyard or a small balcony:

- **Traditional compost bins** – Ideal for larger outdoor areas, these allow you to add garden and food waste over time and let nature do its work.
- **Tumbler bins** – Great for quicker composting and easy turning, these enclosed bins help mix materials and speed up decomposition with minimal effort.
- **Worm farms (vermicomposting)** – Perfect for small spaces or apartments, worm farms use special composting worms to break down food scraps into nutrient-rich castings and liquid fertilizer.
- **Bokashi bins** – These compact, indoor-friendly bins ferment food scraps (including meat and dairy!) using a special bran, making them perfect for kitchens and smaller households.

Type	Best For	Pros
Traditional Bin	Backyards	Low-cost, holds large volumes
Tumbler Bin	Easy turning & faster compost	Neat, sealed, no heavy lifting
Worm Farm	Small spaces & food scraps	Great for apartments & kids love it!
Bokashi Bin	Indoors, all food types	Ferments food, compact, no smell

You can find these bins at most local garden centres or hardware stores, but don't forget to check out [Compost Revolution](#). This Australia-wide initiative partners with local councils to offer discounted compost bins, worm farms, and bokashi systems, along with free tutorials to get you started.

Bonus Tip:

Many local councils across Queensland and Australia are currently offering subsidies, discounts, or reimbursements on composting systems to encourage residents to reduce household waste. It's worth checking your council's website or contacting them directly to see if you're eligible -- you might just score a free or heavily discounted compost bin!

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Want to DIY? Make Your Own Compost Bin!

Making your own compost bin is a fun and affordable project! You can use items like old garbage bins, wooden pallets, or large storage containers with holes drilled in them for airflow. Just make sure your bin has a lid (or a way to keep it covered), some ventilation, and is placed in a well-drained spot with some sun. If you're looking for inspiration, check out the easy-to-follow DIY guides on [The Spruce – Compost Bin Plans](#), which features a variety of ideas to suit any skill level or space. You can also explore local tips through Brisbane City Council's composting resources, with advice tailored specifically for Queensland homes and gardens.

Remember the following to improve you DIY!

Basic Backyard Bin:

- Choose a shady, well-drained spot.
- Use a compost bin or create a 3-sided bay with pallets or timber.
- Ensure good airflow—drill holes or leave space between boards.
- Cover with a lid or tarp to control moisture and heat.



Worm Farm Setup:

- Purchase or DIY a worm bin with trays.
- Add bedding (shredded paper, coconut coir).
- Introduce composting worms (e.g., red wigglers).
- Feed small amounts of kitchen scraps regularly.



What To Do With Finished Compost:

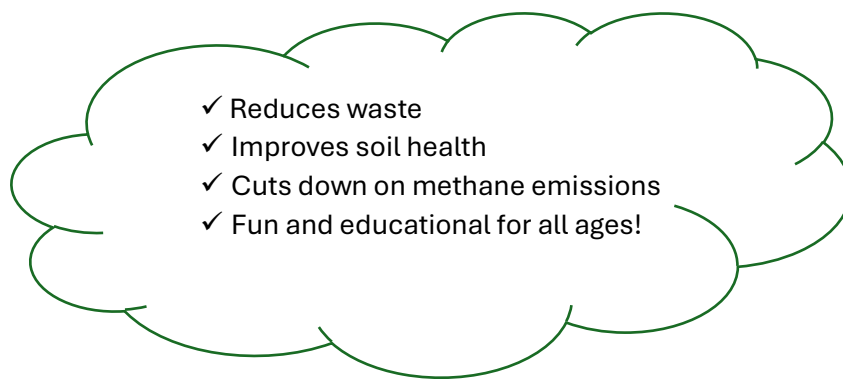
- Garden Beds: Mix into soil for veggies, herbs, or flowers.
- Potting Mix: Blend with other materials for container plants.
- Top Dressing: Sprinkle around trees and shrubs.
- Lawn Booster: Rake a thin layer over your lawn.
- Gift or Share: Give excess compost to neighbours or community gardens.



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Why Compost?

Composting is one of the easiest and most rewarding ways to reduce your household waste while giving back to the earth. Instead of sending kitchen scraps and garden waste to landfill, you can turn them into rich, healthy compost — perfect for feeding your garden and helping the environment.



How to Make Your Own Compost Bin

Creating your own compost bin is simple, affordable, and a great weekend project! Here's what you'll need:

Materials:

- An old rubbish bin, wooden pallet frame, or large plastic storage container
- A lid or cover (to keep it dry and tidy)
- A drill (for airflow holes)
- Optional: bricks or wooden slats for a base

Steps:

1. Drill small holes around the sides and bottom for ventilation.
2. Place your bin in a warm, well-drained spot with some sunlight.
3. Add a mix of “**green**” and “**brown**” materials daily.
4. Turn your compost every 1–2 weeks to speed up the breakdown process.

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What to Compost (Daily!)

Green Materials (Wet)

- Fruit and Veggie Scraps
- Coffee grounds and tea leaves
- Grass clippings
- Plant trimmings
- Egg Shells

Brown Materials (Dry)

- Dry leaves
- Cardboard (shredded), egg cartons and paper towel rolls
- Paper towels/napkins (unbleached)
- Sawdust (untreated wood only), straw and hay

Avoid Composting

- Meat, bones and dairy
- Oily or greasy food
- Pet waste
- Glossy paper or plastic-lined products
- Synthetic materials (plastic, foil, etc.)

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Composting is a simple habit that makes a big difference—for your garden and the planet. Whether you have a balcony or a backyard, there's a composting solution that fits your lifestyle. Start small, stay consistent, and you'll soon be reaping the rewards of rich, living soil.

Final Tips

- Balance “greens” and “browns” for best results.
- Keep your compost moist, like a wrung-out sponge.
- Turn it regularly to speed things up.
- Patience is key — it can take 6–12 weeks for ready-to-use compost!

Composting & Gardening Tips

Gardening

Welcome to Gardening – Made Easy!

Whether you're growing basil on a windowsill or dreaming of your own veggie patch, gardening is a rewarding way to slow down, get your hands dirty, and connect with nature. The best part? You don't need a big backyard or fancy tools to get started—just a little curiosity and a love for watching things grow.

In this section, you'll find simple tips, beginner-friendly advice, and clever tricks to help your plants thrive. From choosing the right soil to knowing what to plant when, we're here to guide you every step of the way.

Let's dig in and grow something beautiful—one plant, one patch, one pot at a time.

Grow your own way: Be creative – Cultivate your gardens with what you have.



Whether you've got sprawling garden beds, a compact balcony, or just a sunny kitchen windowsill, there's a growing method that suits your space and lifestyle. The beauty of growing your own herbs, vegetables, and fruits is that it doesn't need to be complicated — you just need the right setup and a little love. Let's explore some of the most practical and creative ways to grow your favourite plants, no matter where you live!

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In-Ground Garden Beds

If you've got the yard space, in-ground beds are a classic and productive way to grow a wide variety of plants. They allow deep roots to spread naturally and offer plenty of room for larger crops.

Best for:

Carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, fruit trees, pumpkins, rosemary

Tips:

- Prepare the soil with compost and organic matter before planting
- Choose a sunny spot (most veggies need 6+ hours of sun)
- Rotate your crops each season to maintain healthy soil

Raised Garden Beds

Don't have great soil? Raised beds are your best friend. These are especially helpful for people with limited mobility or poor native soil, and they offer excellent drainage and soil control.

Best for:

Zucchini, beans, beets, leafy greens, basil, cucumbers

Tips:

- Build your beds from timber, corrugated iron, or upcycled materials
- Fill with layers of compost, manure, and soil
- Mulch well and water regularly

Pots & Containers

Perfect for small spaces, patios, or renters. Containers are incredibly versatile and allow you to grow almost anything as long as you choose the right size and give your plants enough love.

Best for:

Mint, thyme, parsley, chives, cherry tomatoes, spinach, strawberries

Tips:

- Ensure good drainage holes
- Use high-quality potting mix
- Keep an eye on watering — pots dry out faster!

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Vertical Gardens

Short on floor space? Go vertical! This space-saving solution is great for herbs and greens, and adds a gorgeous green wall to your space.

Best for:

Basil, lettuce, coriander, strawberries, kale, rocket

Tips:

- Use recycled pallets, stacked pots, or wall planters
- Choose lightweight plants and water regularly
- Ensure good sunlight exposure

Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets aren't just for flowers — they're ideal for trailing herbs and compact fruiting plants too. Plus, they look beautiful on balconies or pergolas.

Best for:

Strawberries, mint, cherry tomatoes, nasturtiums, oregano

Tips:

- Use breathable liners and a moisture-holding soil mix
- Position in a sunny, sheltered spot
- Feed often with liquid fertiliser

Hydroponics

Hydroponics is a fantastic soil-free method that's growing in popularity, especially for indoor gardeners. It's clean, efficient, and great for herbs and leafy veggies.

Best for:

Lettuce, basil, mint, spinach

Tips:

- Choose a beginner-friendly kit or DIY setup
- Monitor water, light, and nutrient levels
- Great for kitchens, sunrooms, or garages with light

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No-Dig Gardens

A no-dig garden is an excellent way to build soil health naturally while avoiding the heavy labour of traditional gardening. It's eco-friendly and weed-suppressing.

Best for:

Silverbeet, pumpkins, cucumbers, beans, zucchinis

Tips:

- Layer cardboard, compost, and straw directly on the ground
- Avoid disturbing the soil structure
- Top up layers as they break down

Grow Fruit Trees in Pots

Yes, even fruit trees can thrive in pots! Dwarf varieties are perfect for patios and balconies, offering big rewards in small spaces.

Best for:

Lemons, limes, blueberries, olives, figs

Tips:

- Choose a large, sturdy pot with great drainage
- Fertilise regularly and keep well-watered
- Ensure 6–8 hours of sun daily

No matter your space or experience level, there's always a way to grow something fresh, tasty, and satisfying. From juicy tomatoes in a raised bed to fragrant basil on your windowsill, gardening is about finding what works for you and enjoying the process. Start small, stay curious, and let your garden grow with you!

Tips for Gardening:

Whether you're growing herbs on your balcony or planting veggies in the backyard, these simple tips will help you garden smarter—not harder.

Composting & Gardening Tips

Start Small

Don't overwhelm yourself. Begin with a few easy-to-grow plants like basil, cherry tomatoes, or lettuce. These are great for beginners and grow well in small spaces.

Use Good Soil

Healthy plants start with healthy soil. Mix your compost with good-quality potting mix to give plants the nutrients they need.

Water Wisely

Water deeply but less often to encourage strong roots. Early morning is best to avoid evaporation and fungal issues.

Know Your Sunlight

Check how much sunlight your garden gets. Most veggies need 6+ hours of direct sun. For shady spots, try leafy greens or herbs like mint and parsley.

Go Natural with Pest Control

Use crushed eggshells or coffee grounds to deter pests. Companion planting can also help protect your crops naturally.

Reuse and Recycle

Upcycle old containers as planters, or use kitchen scraps in compost or worm farms. It's budget-friendly and eco-conscious.

Mulch it Up

Mulching helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Use straw, bark, or even dried leaves.

If you've made it this far, chances are you're genuinely interested in growing your own garden — and that's exciting! If you already have an idea of what you'd like to grow, the following list will help you pair plants that grow well together, making the most of your space and encouraging a healthier, more productive garden.

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Companion Planting Quick Guide for Herbs, Vegetables & Fruits

Herbs:

- Basil is a garden superstar—plant it near tomatoes and peppers to boost their flavour and help deter pests like aphids and whiteflies. It also pairs well with oregano and lettuce.
- Parsley does well alongside tomatoes, carrots, and chives, and can help improve nearby plants' scent and flavour.
- Mint is a natural pest repellent that benefits cabbage, broccoli, and tomatoes—but grow it in a pot to keep it from taking over.
- Coriander loves being near spinach, basil, and lettuce. It helps attract beneficial insects like hoverflies.
- Chives repel aphids and are great companions for carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, and even roses.
- Dill works well with cabbage, cucumbers, and corn but should be kept away from carrots.
- Rosemary pairs nicely with beans, cabbage, and carrots—its strong scent helps deter pests.
- Thyme is a versatile herb that works well near cabbage, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Vegetables:

- Tomatoes love being planted with basil (a classic combo), carrots, onions, marigolds, and nasturtiums, which help keep pests at bay.
- Carrots benefit from growing near chives, lettuce, peas, and tomatoes, and they're good neighbours in tight garden beds.
- Cucumbers thrive when planted with beans, peas, dill, and even sunflowers, which can act as natural trellises.
- Lettuce pairs well with carrots, strawberries, beets, and radishes, and its shade-loving nature means it can tuck into small spaces.
- Spinach grows well with strawberries, peas, and radishes, and appreciates some light shade from taller plants.
- Zucchini does great when planted alongside corn, beans, and nasturtiums. Broccoli benefits from the company of celery, dill, onions, and beets.

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- Peppers enjoy having basil, onions, spinach, and carrots nearby, which help with pest control and growth.
- Beans are a go-to companion for corn, cucumbers, radishes, and marigolds, which deter beetles and bugs.
- Corn grows best with beans, pumpkins, zucchini, and peas—the classic "Three Sisters" method used in traditional planting.

Fruits:

- Strawberries grow well with lettuce, spinach, borage, beans, and onions. Borage, in particular, attracts pollinators and improves fruit flavour.
- Blueberries enjoy acidic soil, so companion plants like thyme, strawberries, and rhododendrons are a perfect fit.
- Melons do best with corn, marigolds, nasturtiums, and radishes that help repel pests.
- Apple trees benefit from the company of chives, garlic, marigolds, and nasturtiums to help deter codling moths and aphids.
- Citrus trees enjoy the companionship of garlic, marigolds, and nasturtiums to help deter pests and improve soil health.
- Banana plants, common in tropical regions like Queensland, thrive with sweet potatoes, legumes, and turmeric planted around them.

The following list will help you choose plants that thrive in Queensland's tough and often unpredictable climate, making it easier to grow a productive and resilient garden year-round. Queensland has two main planting seasons: warm (September–March) and cool (April–August), though some areas allow year-round growing with the right care.

Queensland Seasonal Planting Guide

Warm Season (Spring to Early Autumn – Sept to March)

Best time to grow heat-loving plants and fast growers. Make sure to water deeply and mulch to retain moisture.

Spring Gardening Pro Tips (September–November)

Spring is go-time! Plants love the warmth, and the growing season kicks off in full swing.

Sow summer veggies like tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, capsicums, and pumpkins.

Start basil, chillies, and lemongrass—herbs that thrive as temps rise.

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Use a slow-release fertiliser to support new growth and blooming.

Pest patrol begins now—aphids, caterpillars, and fruit fly start appearing.

Mulch early to suppress weeds and keep roots cool as summer approaches.

Prune back woody herbs like thyme and rosemary to encourage soft new shoots.

Pro Tip:

Spring is perfect for **starting a compost system or worm farm**—the warmth speeds up decomposition, and you'll have rich compost ready for summer planting.

Herbs:

- Basil
- Coriander (early spring & autumn—bolts in summer)
- Lemongrass
- Mint (partial shade)
- Chives
- Thai basil
- Dill

Vegetables:

- Tomatoes
- Zucchini
- Cucumber
- Capsicum (bell peppers)
- Chillies
- Eggplant
- Corn
- Beans (snake beans love the heat)
- Sweet potato
- Rocket
- Lettuce (heat-tolerant varieties like oakleaf)

Fruits:

- Watermelon

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- Rockmelon (cantaloupe)
- Passionfruit
- Pineapple (plant tops)
- Banana
- Mango (plant trees in spring)
- Papaya

Autumn Gardening Pro Tips (March–May)

Autumn in Queensland is the sweet spot—**less heat, fewer pests, and perfect conditions** to prep for winter crops.

Start your cool-season veggies like broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, spinach, kale, and peas.

Refresh your soil with compost and organic matter after summer's heavy growing season.

Divide herbs like mint and chives and replant for fresh growth.

Mulch and weed now to lock in moisture before the drier winter air arrives.

Plant strawberries in late autumn for sweet winter/spring harvests.

Check your compost—it's cooler now, so turning helps maintain warmth and breakdown.

Pro Tip:

Autumn is also a great time to **plant citrus trees**, giving them time to establish before summer.

Cooler Season: Late Autumn to Winter – April to August

Perfect for leafy greens and root crops that thrive in cooler, less humid conditions. Less pest pressure too!

Winter Gardening Tip for Queensland

Winter is the perfect time to grow cool-season veggies and leafy greens without battling pests or scorching heat. Take advantage of the milder temperatures and plant crops like **broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, kale, peas, carrots, and beetroot**. Herbs like **parsley, coriander, thyme, and chives** also thrive now.

Pro Tip:

Add compost or aged manure before planting to boost soil health and give your winter crops a strong start. And even though it's cooler, don't forget to **water regularly**—dry winter winds can still dehydrate your soil.

Bonus: Winter gardens are **less maintenance** and incredibly productive with just a little care.

Herbs:

- Parsley
- Coriander

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- Thyme
- Oregano
- Sage
- Chives
- Mint
- Rosemary

Vegetables:

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Beets
- Spinach
- Lettuce
- Radish
- Peas
- Onions
- Kale
- Silverbeet

Fruits:

- Strawberries (plant runners in late autumn for winter/spring fruiting)
- Citrus trees (lemons, oranges, limes – plant or care for existing trees)
- Avocado (early winter planting is best in warm zones)

In Queensland, summer (December–February) is hot, humid, and often rainy—especially in coastal and tropical areas. But don't worry—there are still plenty of herbs, vegetables, and fruits that love the summer warmth and thrive during this season.

Summer tips.....

Mulch heavily to keep soil cool and reduce water loss.

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Water early morning or late afternoon to avoid leaf scorch.

Watch for pests like fruit fly, aphids, and caterpillars—use netting or organic sprays.

Choose heat-tolerant varieties when buying seeds or seedlings.

Herbs:

These herbs love the heat and are perfect for adding fresh flavour to summer meals:

- **Basil** – Thrives in warmth; keep well-watered and pinch off flowers.
- **Lemongrass** – A tropical staple, great for curries and teas.
- **Mint** – Loves moist soil and part shade; great for pots.
- **Chives** – Tolerates sun and heat with regular water.
- **Thai Basil** – More heat-tolerant than sweet basil.
- **Vietnamese Mint** – Perfect for hot, humid weather.
- **Dill** – Short-lived but quick to grow—succession plant every few weeks.

Vegetables:

Focus on heat-loving, fast-growing, and pest-resistant varieties:

- **Tomatoes** – Choose cherry or smaller varieties for quicker harvests.
- **Cucumber** – Fast grower and loves consistent watering.
- **Zucchini** – Grows quickly and produces heavily.
- **Sweet Corn** – Plant in blocks for good pollination.
- **Eggplant** – A summer staple; plant early for long harvest.
- **Capsicum (Bell Peppers)** – Needs full sun and steady moisture.
- **Chillies** – Thrive in hot weather and produce abundantly.
- **Snake Beans** – Great for tropical QLD; more heat-tolerant than regular beans.
- **Okra** – Perfect for hot, humid regions.
- **Pumpkin** – Needs space to sprawl; loves warmth.
- **Sweet Potato** – Grows well in summer, especially in sandy soil.
- **Amaranth** – Heat-loving leafy green alternative to spinach.
- **Kang Kong (Water Spinach)** – Grows in wet, warm conditions.

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Fruits to Plant or Harvest:

Some fruits love Queensland's tropical vibe and can be planted or are ripening in summer:

- **Watermelon & Rockmelon** – Plant early in summer; harvest mid-to-late season.
- **Passionfruit** – Grows quickly with sun and water; plant now for fruit later in the year.
- **Papaya (Pawpaw)** – Loves full sun and well-drained soil.
- **Bananas** – Continue growing strong through summer; keep well-watered.
- **Mangoes** – Trees fruit in summer; prune lightly after harvest.
- **Pineapple (tops)** – Takes time to grow but summer is ideal for planting.
- **Dragon Fruit** – Cactus-like vine that thrives in hot, dry conditions.

Tips by Climate Zone in Queensland

- **Coastal SE QLD (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast):** Great year-round growing; just watch summer humidity and rain.
- **Tropical QLD (Cairns, Townsville):** Dry season (April–Oct) is ideal for most growing. Wet season can cause fungal issues.
- **Inland QLD:** Shorter growing windows; check frost risk in winter and extreme heat in summer.

Grow All Year Round in Queensland

Herbs (Perennials or Long-Growing)

These herbs grow well most of the year with basic care and regular harvesting:

- **Basil** (thrives in warmth, protect in winter or grow in pots)
- **Mint** (vigorous, prefers some shade and moisture)
- **Parsley** (flat-leaf and curly varieties do well all year)
- **Chives** (low maintenance, cut often to promote growth)
- **Rosemary** (hardy and drought-tolerant)
- **Thyme** (grows well in pots or ground, low water needs)
- **Oregano** (heat-loving and great for containers)
- **Vietnamese Mint** (ideal for tropical conditions)
- **Lemongrass** (tropical and fast-growing, loves sun)

Composting & Gardening Tips

Vegetables (Continuous Cropping or Succession Planting)

These veggies can be grown successively throughout the year with seasonal timing and good soil:

- **Lettuce** (grow heat-tolerant varieties in summer, cooler types in winter)
- **Rocket** (quick-growing leafy green, best in partial shade in summer)
- **Silverbeet / Swiss Chard** (very hardy, tolerant of heat and cold)
- **Kale** (grows year-round with pest watch in summer)
- **Beans** (especially snake beans in summer, bush beans in cooler months)
- **Radishes** (fast and easy to grow anytime)
- **Carrots** (can be sown across multiple seasons in well-drained soil)
- **Zucchini** (cycle through plantings for near year-round harvest)
- **Cherry Tomatoes** (long-growing types that keep producing in warm climates)
- **Capsicum (Bell Peppers)** (long fruiting period, especially in frost-free zones)
- **Chillies** (perennial in warm zones, super productive year-round)

Fruits (Tropical & Subtropical Favourites)

Some fruit trees and vines will fruit seasonally but grow well year-round:

- Banana (constant growth with seasonal fruiting)
- Papaya / Pawpaw (fast-growing and productive year-round)
- Passionfruit (vigorous vine with long fruiting season)
- Pineapple (slow-growing, but ideal in warm climates all year)
- Dragon Fruit (cactus family, thrives in heat with minimal care)
- Strawberries (plant in late autumn but maintain runners year-round)
- Mulberries (deciduous, but hardy and easy to maintain)
- Citrus Trees (lemons, limes, mandarins – evergreen and productive annually)

Tips for Year-Round Growing

- **Mulch and compost regularly** to keep soil fertile and retain moisture.
- **Rotate crops** to avoid disease and replenish nutrients.
- **Water consistently**, especially in summer and dry winters.

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- **Provide shade cloth in extreme heat** and frost protection in inland or elevated areas.

* What Does It Mean to Rotate Crops?

Crop rotation is the practice of growing different types of plants in the same garden bed across different seasons or years, rather than planting the same crop in the same spot over and over again.

Rotating crops helps:

1. **Prevent soil depletion**
 - Different plants use different nutrients. Repeating the same crop (e.g., tomatoes every season) drains specific nutrients from the soil.
2. **Reduce pests and diseases**
 - Many pests and diseases target specific plants. If you keep planting the same veggie in the same place, pests and diseases can build up in the soil.
3. **Improve soil health**
 - Some plants, like legumes (beans, peas), actually add nitrogen to the soil, which helps future crops grow stronger.

Crop Rotation Example:

Let's say you have 3 garden beds. You might rotate like this:

Year 1

- Bed 1: Leafy greens (e.g. lettuce, spinach)
- Bed 2: Root crops (e.g. carrots, beets)
- Bed 3: Fruiting crops (e.g. tomatoes, capsicum)

Year 2

- Move the leafy greens to Bed 2
- Move the root crops to Bed 3
- Move the fruiting crops to Bed 1

And so on each year. You can also include **legumes** (beans, peas) in the cycle to naturally replenish nitrogen.

Composting & Gardening Tips

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Composting

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- Queensland Government – Seasonal Gardening & Composting: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment>
- ABC Gardening Australia – Seasonal Guides & Expert Tips: <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening>
- Gardenate – Regional Planting Guides: <https://www.gardenate.com>
- Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA): <https://www.sgaonline.org.au>
- The Diggers Club – Heirloom Seeds & Monthly Advice: <https://www.diggers.com.au>
- Yates Gardening Australia – Calendars & Care Tips: <https://www.yates.com.au>
- Compost Revolution – Composting & Worm Farming Info: <https://www.compostrevolution.com.au>
- Fight Food Waste CRC – Food Waste Data: <https://www.fightfoodwastecrc.com.au>
- Recycling Near You – Organic Waste & Drop-off Locations: <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au>
- Planet Ark – Gardening & Waste Resources: <https://planetark.org>

Composting & Gardening Tips

Natural Fertilisers & Pesticides

- National Pesticide Information Center – Using Pesticides Safely Around Pets:

<https://npic.orst.edu>

- Rodale Institute – Organic Pest Control: <https://rodaleinstitute.org>

- The Old Farmer’s Almanac – Natural Garden Pest Control & Homemade Fertilizers:

<https://www.almanac.com>

- University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources – Organic Pest Notes:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu>

- North Carolina State Extension – Compost Tea and Natural Fertilizers:

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu>

- Korean Natural Farming – Fermented Fertilizers & LAB: <https://naturalfarminghawaii.net>

- Planet Natural Research Center – DIY Garden Solutions: <https://www.planetnatural.com>

- Purdue University Extension – Organic Garden Pest Management:

<https://extension.purdue.edu>

- Mother Earth News – How to Make Your Own Organic Fertilizer:

<https://www.motherearthnews.com>