

# winter veggies

Have you ever considered building your own veggie garden but aren't quite sure how to go about it? Let us show you how...

## Preparing the Perfect Veggie Garden

1. Where to build your garden - You will need an area that gets lots of sun and does not have to compete with the root systems of large trees and shrubs for nutrients. It's a good idea to only make your garden twice as wide as the length of your arm so that you can easily reach everything that it contains.

2. Once you have chosen the area, dig the soil over to the depth of a fork. After digging, add compost, organic matter (old veggie scraps) and composted manure to ensure that the soil is rich and nutritious for the soon to be planted veggies. Add some plant tonic and slow release fertilizer (Searles Robust). If your soil is clay-rich, add some gypsum.

3. Now that this is all done, you are ready to plant your veggies! Follow the directions given with the seedlings or on the back of the seed packet, and remember to water them in well. Keep up the water for the first few weeks until the plants have established themselves and then go to a schedule of giving them a deep soak a couple of times a week rather than a superficial watering daily.

4. Maintenance wise, you will have to keep on top of weeds, as the weeds will compete for nutrients and potentially crowd your plants. Good mulch will help with weed prevention and also keep the water in the soil, where you want it.

## A "No Dig" Veggie Garden

If you don't have time to prepare the soil correctly, then a no dig garden may be perfect for you. If your chosen site is over existing lawn, then you will need to mow the grass down as much as possible. If you have chosen a hard surface such as old paving, you will need to lay some cushioning organic material such as soil or straw.

1. To start your no dig garden, you should lay down a layer of newspaper approximately a quarter of an inch thick. Once you have done this, lay a border around your garden using bricks, wood, rocks, or whatever other suitable material you may have to at least a height of eight to ten inches to contain the organic material and discourage weeds. Ozlogs concrete sleepers are perfect for this - see Ozlogs below.

2. After building the border, put down a layer of lucerne mulch approximately 4 inches thick. On top of this, layer some good organic fertiliser or composted manure to a thickness of one inch. A six inch thick layer of loose straw should then be laid followed by another layer of fertilizer and then finished off with a four inch thick layer of compost.

3. Now that this is done, just water the garden thoroughly - but not to soaking wet. You can then start planting! Just remember to never walk on your no dig garden as you will compact the layers and this can cause problems later on.

## Winter Veggies

Try seed potatoes (we stock Sebago, Kipfler and Red Rascal); beetroot; brussel sprouts; cabbage; beans; leeks; onions; and spinach, or see in-store for many other varieties.

