

MARCH IN THE FOOD FOREST AT BOOYONG

WHAT'S HAPPENING

With the recent rains Booyong is becoming green and lush, the mornings are misty, and the weather is cooling into the mornings and afternoons. It just goes to show how important rain is to the garden.



We've had some damage to the bridge and were concerned about the drive way that has been graded, but compared to our neighbours and the people of Wauchope and Port we have fared very well in the flooding. It's good to know for the future and puts our minds at ease.

Brett and I have met and welcomed our new tenants Brendan and Mollie and they are lovely. It's nice to know we have tenants who love and care for Booyong as much as we do.

In the food forest, the Salvia's are flourishing after being cut back and the bees and birds are loving them. Everything is growing beautifully and looking great.

The herb spiral has experienced some erosion but nothing that can't be fixed.



SEWING SEEDS

- Sow Amaranth, Beetroot, Broccoli, Broad beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Carrot, Daikon, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mizuna, Mustard Greens, Radish, Rocket, Salsify, Shallots, Spinach, Onions, Peas and Oriental salad seeds



- Plant Legumes - Crimson Clover in late March to April for nitrogen under [pecan](#) trees and Red Clover March-June or August-October.

- In the Herb garden sow [Calendula](#), Chamomile, Chives, Chervil, Coriander, Echinacea, Fennel, Feverview, [Lemongrass](#), Mint, Oregano, Parsley and [Thyme](#).

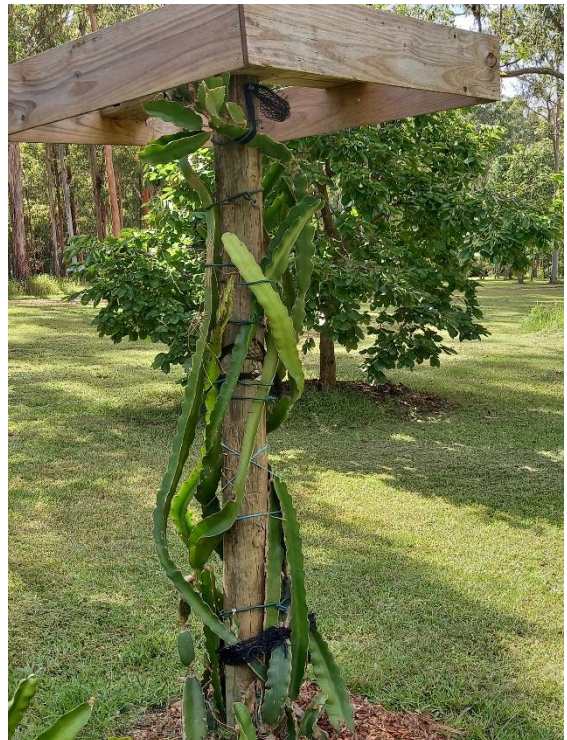
- Some great pollinators and flowers to attract beneficial insects to the garden this month include Alyssum, Candytuft, Forget me nots, Poppy's and Sweet peas

PLANT

- Plant out cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and spinach seeds for winter harvest
- Water [pecan trees](#) (1300 litres per day)
- I visited the secret garden and planted two more salvia's, in addition a Vanilla bean and Fejoia plant has been added.
- The Herb garden was eroded considerably following the rains but all herbs have done well. Horseradish was gifted by our friend Mette and has settled in well.
- The Lemongrass has established well as a border plant and the comfrey is also doing it's job well.

ROUTINE CARE

- Remove any dead foliage and clean out veggie beds
- As the crops finish prepare the beds for winter seedlings, add compost and manure and look at improving soil structure where possible.
- Fertilize [Seville Oranges](#)



- Fertilise [Macadamia nut tree](#) - When fertilising use a native or citrus plant product as they are sensitive to phosphorus
- Fertilise [Dragon fruit](#) with light fertiliser (Chicken manure) and lime. Make sure it is mulched well in preparation for summer and take any cuttings from Ariel roots on pole. The [Dragon fruit](#) has also been tidied up as it's growing so much.



- Reduce watering as weather cools and hopefully rainfall increases.
- Cut back perennial herbs and flowers once they have finished flowering.
- Continue weeding where required, most of the food forest has been done – just the berry patch to go.
- Stone Fruit Salad Trees and Apple Fruit Salad Trees will start to shed their leaves, check to see that trees are balanced and prune where necessary. Cut off any dead wood.
- Remove roots from under graft of fruit trees
- Leaves will start to fall of [Persimmon tree](#) after fruiting.
- Fertilise all citrus trees, keeping away from the trunk,
- Top up mulch on orchard trees
- Add coffee grounds to Blueberries



flowering

- Rhubarb - regular feeds of cow and chicken manure in autumn.
- Fertilise Apple tree
- Grapefruit – apply iron sulphate. I put one tablespoon in 4 and half litres of water

- Finally the grape vine is growing – so happy.
- Blueberries - while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seazol or liquid fish.
- Avocados - Searles Kickalong Fruit & Flower organic plant in early autumn with a bit of extra potash
- Mangos - Withhold water for the three months prior to

- Chickens – Scrub water containers daily to prevent algae. Check net litter weekly and replace if soiled. Add crushed garlic to drinking water monthly to reduce internal parasite (1 clove per 2-3 hens)
- Mulch and fertilise [Passionfruit vine](#) with chicken manure and a little blood and bone

HARVESTING

- [Persimmons](#) are ready for harvest
- Harvest [Pecan Trees](#) (not this year due to limited rain)
- Harvest beans (Scarlet Runner beans), zucchini, spinach, summer cabbage, eggplants, chillies and cucumbers etc
- Lift carrots and potatoes and beetroots
- Harvest Pomegranate - Fruit can be picked prior to maturity and will ripen in storage and can be stored for several months if hung in a cool aired place
- Harvest Birds Eye Chilli's and Anne's Bell peppers are going great guns.
- Harvest Finger limes
- Harvest [Tamarind Indica Tree](#)
- Harvest [Passionfruits](#) – so lovely



HERB SPIRAL



- Harvest [Borage](#) flowers and dead head flowers to encourage more growth. Leaves can be chopped and dropped and harvested all year round.
 - Propagate [Borage](#) and [Marigold](#) by seed
 - Harvest [Marigolds](#) and dead head flowers to encourage more growth
 - Harvest [Watercress](#)
 - Harvest [Licorice herb](#) as required
 - Harvest [Lemongrass](#) as required

- Prune [African Blue basil](#) one third to keep it from going woody, harvest leaves all year long.
- Divide [Tansy](#) and share with family and friends.
- Mulch [White perennial basil](#) and cut back two thirds to encourage more growth and flowers
- Harvest perennial [White](#) and [Blue basil](#), hang to dry and place in cooking herb jars and make pesto
- Harvest [Calendula](#) flowers, dry to make oil or add to salads and meals.

NATIVE FOOD FOREST

- [Wild Quince](#) flowering

NORMAL FARM AND CABIN MAINTANENCE

The belts on the mower were replaced and shell has learnt to use the zero-turn mower – so exciting. It's quite fun.

GARDEN BEDS AROUND THE CABIN

Shell is very happy to see the [little wrens](#) and [finches](#) have returned and we've kept the birdbath full during the hot Summer days so they can bath and play.

Shallots and parsley have been added to the herb garden.

The Cabin garden beds and carport have been weeded once again in preparation for our new tenants, the garden is looking great.

