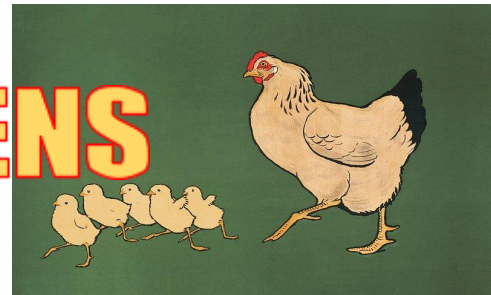




BALGOWLAH COMMUNITY GARDEN

EDUCATION MODULE 1

CHICKENS



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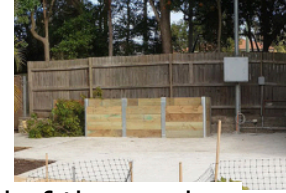


COMPOST

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1. Compost Guidelines



1.1. Compost Bays for garden vegetation only

There are three compost bays located at the South end of the garden, labelled as follows:

Chopped vegetation - Chopped vegetation from the garden (except weeds or thick/hard branches) and leaves/straw/**chook poo** cleared from the chook shed.

Leave to rot - Full bay to be left to decompose for a few months

Compost for use - Compost ready to be used in the garden beds. It may need to be sifted to get rid of sticks etc.

Do not add food scraps as they attract vermin. **Do not add** weeds or vegetation which will not break down within a few months (e.g branches, bamboo).

Hessian sacks or cardboard sheets should be placed over compost bays.

Leaves swept from our pathways do take some time to break down

1.2. Compost Bins for food scraps

The garden has five compost bins located near the garden entrance. Food scraps left in the buckets outside by the community are to be added to any bin with a **green** label. Please remove all citrus, onions, meat, bread, and plastic from the buckets before transferring them to the compost bins. Click [here for the diagram](#). On occasion disallowed food may end up in the buckets which can develop maggots. *Maggots are beneficial to the system, simply add more brown material.*

Members are responsible for ensuring all compost bins are regularly attended to, including turning (aerating), emptying and ensuring a correct balance of green to brown material. When aerating make sure the material at the very bottom of the bin is spread throughout the mixture to avoid rotting.

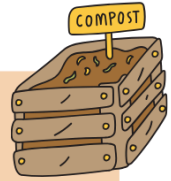
Green (nitrogen) and brown (carbon) material should be added to the bins in equal amounts:

- Green material includes fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shell and coffee grounds
- Brown material includes coffee husks, dead leaves, shredded paper and cardboard

1.3. **Some solutions to common problems**

- 1.3.1. If compost appears wet and is unpleasantly smelly, more brown material should be added to the compost bin and the contents turned more regularly.
- 1.3.2. Comfrey and Yarrow (growing in Biodiversity Bed) should be added to the compost bins to aid with the rotting down process.
- 1.3.3. Citrus, Onion (including Leek and Garlic), meat, bread, plastic (even compostable), weeds and hard material which will not decompose (e.g. Avocado stones, coconut shell, corn husk) should not be added to the compost bins.
- 1.3.4. When a compost bin is nearly full, it should be marked with a red 'Leave To Rot' label. However, it still must be regularly stirred to aerate the material
- 1.3.5. When a compost bin is available for use, it should be marked with a green 'Feed Me' label.
- 1.3.6. Only one bin should be made available for use at any one time to ensure continuous bin availability.

BCG Composting System



1. Find an “Open” Compost bin

- Add scraps in “Green” labelled bins only



2. Add vegetable scraps

- Check the chart for what can and cannot be added
- Chop up scraps for faster composting
- No plastic bags (even if written ‘compostable’)



3. Mix

- Twist in and pull out a number of times until the added scraps are mixed with the existing compost.
- Ensure the material on the bottom is moved through the mix to prevent rotting.
- Clean the stirrer and put it back in its spot.



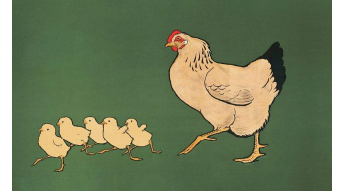
4. Add Browns

- Add the same volume of browns (leaves, cardboard, wood) as you added veg. scraps.



Any questions or suggestions? Email us at balgowlahcgc@gmail.com

2. Chickens and Chicken Shed Maintenance



The garden may have up to five chickens at any one time.

Members are shown chicken care tasks as a part of their garden induction and are responsible for the care of the chickens.

2.1. Chicken Roster (Daily Tasks)

Members can sign up to care for the chickens for a day via the online Chicken Roster - Click on the below link.

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1578701/true#/invitation>

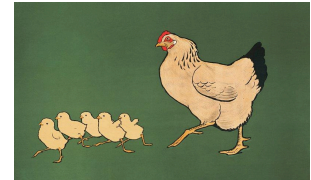
The roster is hosted on a free app called Sign-Up. The account can also be accessed via the Garden's website in the "Resources" tab or our Facebook account (refer to Facebook account login details).

Daily chicken roster care tasks are as follows -

1. Let the chickens out to scratch and forage for at least 45 minutes
2. Fill the water in the container inside the chicken shed (plug to empty/fill is on underside) and add half a cap of apple cider vinegar. This keeps their gut healthy. The apple cider vinegar is kept near the nesting boxes.
3. Harvest some fresh greens from communal beds and place them in the feed basket. The chickens like green sorrel, cabbage, broccoli, kale, lettuce and Warrigal greens.
4. Clean droppings from roosting beams and floor and add to the Chopped vegetation compost bay).
5. Replenish the pellets in the feeder and add a sprinkle of shell grit to aid in the hardness of the egg shells. Layer pellets are kept in a bin at the back of the coop. Shell grit is kept in a tin near the nesting boxes.
6. Collect eggs from nesting boxes.

7. Scatter one cup of scratch grain on the pen floor to give the chickens something to keep them occupied. Scratch grain is kept in a bin at the back of the chicken shed.
8. Put the chickens back in the chicken coop before leaving the garden. The chickens must not be left unattended when out in the garden.

2.2. Cleaning the Chicken Shed (Monthly Tasks)



The chicken shed is cleaned on the last Saturday of the month, every month (can be completed at the end-of-month working bee). Monthly chicken shed cleaning tasks are as follows -

1. Remove leaves, straw and chicken poop from the floor, and straw from the nesting boxes and put in the chopped vegetation compost bay.
2. Sweep underneath nesting boxes
3. Put new straws on the floor and in the nesting boxes (add any garlic skins members may collect to deter lice).
4. Sprinkle diatomaceous earth powder on the floor, roosting benches and nesting boxes. This is to prevent the chickens from getting mites. Diatomaceous earth is kept in a white tub at the back of the chicken shed
5. Every three months, add Kilverm Poultry Wormer to the chicken's water. This targets sensitive strains of parasites in poultry.

Happy Gardening Everyone