

YILGARN TRADERS



## Seed Catalogue

*Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Varieties*

\$3.30 per packet plus postage



# CHEMICAL-FREE SEEDS

Drylands Permaculture Nursery & Research Farm

333 David Rd, Waggrakine, Geraldton, Western Australia 6530

Email: [yilgarn@midwest.com.au](mailto:yilgarn@midwest.com.au) Tel. (08) 9938 1628

## Yilgarn Traders' Heirloom Chemical-Free Vegetable & Herb Seeds

**Thank you** for choosing to purchase and propagate our heirloom vegetables and herbs. Like you, we are passionate about developing organic sustainable food production systems that honour heirloom seed saving traditions and the diversity of life that sustains us through the generations.

In purchasing our seeds you are also supporting our continuing Permaculture enterprises at the Drylands Permaculture Research Farm that is located in the challenging Dryland coastal climate of Geraldton in Western Australia. In addition to heirloom seed sales we also operate a commercial native and permaculture plant nursery, both which fund the development of our education centre and continuing research in Drylands Permaculture.

Permaculture as a pathway towards sustainability embraces the ethics and methods of a variety of growing systems. On our research farm, over the last 18 years, we have chosen to encompass and develop microbial farming and organic systems suited to our climate. We propagate our own plants in our onsite-nursery, grow and save their seed for our own use and sale.

As an ethical and practical choice we have purposely chosen never to use any chemical herbicides, fungicides or insecticides as they deplete life and do not offer more than a short term remedy to a larger problem. We also don't use raw manures or synthetic fertilizers, choosing instead to feed the soils with our own compost and registered organic products.

Our seed gardens also provide our food and recognise that we are only as healthy as our soils, our water, air, plants and animals. Our plant health is maintained by seedling selection, careful planting times, maintaining healthy soils and diverse plant systems, crop rotation, pest predator habitats and creating beneficial microclimates.

While we have a thorough understanding of NASAA organic standards and apply these to our seed production, we are not certified organic producers. The reason for this is the small scale of our heirloom seeds saving enterprise and how we operate as primary producers.

An important part of our business ethic has always been to establish a strong relationship with our customers and in doing this we have earned their respect and trust as well as sharing with them knowledge about how we produce our seeds.

Our revenue from seed saving is small in comparison to the cost of becoming certified, and a small part of what we do. Our heirloom seed business is a non-profit part of our Permaculture enterprise that we maintain as we believe that saving and distributing genetic diversity in the form of seeds is an essential service to humankind and instrumental in moving towards an ecologically sustainable culture. It is the part we play in preserving some of the richness of days gone by and making it available for the generations of today and the future.

If anyone would like more information about our gardening techniques and management strategies, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our website contains more information on who we are and what we do, for those who cannot take a walk through our Permaculture property.

I wish you all good health in your life and gardens.

Julie Firth  
Owner and Manager  
Drylands' Permaculture Research Farm &  
Yilgarn Traders Heirloom Chemical-Free Seeds  
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# Yilgarn Traders' Chemical-Free Heirloom Seeds

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## Vegetables

### ASIAN GREENS

*Brassica juncea*

#### Bok Choi

Sow autumn,

Grown for the broad white leafstalks which are widely used in Chinese stir-fries. Leafstalks should be picked often, like silverbeet. Small compact plant, very easy and quick to grow. Matures after 60 days and has an excellent resistance to bolting.

### ASPARAGUS

*Asparagus officinalis*

#### Mary Washington

Sow anytime.

Grown from seed, it's best left to grow for a full two years to develop a crown before harvesting. Once harvesting begins plants shouldn't be visible except for shoot which is usually harvested when 150-200mm long. Check everyday during spring-summer harvest time as they can grow >100mm a day. This variety holds a tighter bud longer than other varieties with heavy uniform yields.

### ASPARAGUS PEA

*Tetragonolobus palestinesis*

Sow autumn.

A ground covering annual plant with delightful red flowers. Pods are 50-60mm square in cross section & are harvested and eaten fresh.

This plant is native to the Palestinian mountains where it is heavily sought after by children who pride in finding large patches. The bean tastes like a mixture of asparagus and peas.

### BEAN

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### Franco's Green Bean

Sow Spring (In Geraldton, sow autumn).

A white seeded variety of green bean whose pods are best eaten when young. A vigorous climber with yellow flowers and a good seed set. Pods to 200mm long.

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### French Epicure

Sow after frosts, (Geraldton, early autumn)

This is a highly productive stingless green bean. If pods are left to dry, white seeds can be eaten as dried beans. Bushes exhibit good heat tolerance. Proven to grow well on sandy soils.

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### Half White Runner

Sow spring (Geraldton, autumn-spring)

60 Days to maturity. Grows to 1.5m. Beans can be used when young and green as snap beans or shell beans when older. Vigorous productive variety with white seeds. Has potential to be a good market gardening variety.

### BEAN

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### Purple King

Sow spring,

A strong handsome purple leaved and podded vine. These delicious snap beans have an excellent flavour and turn dark green when cooked. Stringless if picked before maturity.

*Lablab purpurea*

#### Seven Year - Highworth

Sow spring.

Strong summer grower and a wind tolerant climber (when tendrils are wound around a trellis). Tip vines to encourage outward growth. Young tender pods & immature seeds are eaten as a fresh bean. Leaves are eaten fresh or dried, as spinach. The delicious flowers are best eaten raw in salads. Do not eat mature seeds! Cyanide is present in the seed coat.

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### Staley's Surprise

Sow early autumn or early spring.

A sprawling dwarf variety capable of producing a second flush after picking of pods around 18cm long holding large narrow variegated purple and ivory coloured seeds. Eaten as a green bean, and suitable for growing in pots, this variety bred in 1880s East Gippsland, Victoria by Arthur Staley also exhibits good tolerance of cooler temperatures.

*Phaseolus lunatus*

#### Tropical Lima

Sow spring (In Geraldton, autumn to spring).

This perennial bean vine lasts approx. 4 years. It is a strong climber & needs a strong large trellis. A prolific producer, it has burgundy & white mottled beans which can be used dried or sprouted (in stir-fries). Once established it is quite tolerant to heavy wind and heat under 42°C.

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

#### Zebra

Sow early Spring (In Geraldton Autumn or Spring)

Also known as 'Scotia' bean, a stringless 'pencil-pod' climbing bean with thin speckled purple pods around 12cm long and 'zebra' stripe patterns on seeds. Pick once pod reaches full size and best eaten as a green bean lightly steamed.

### BEET/CHARD

*Beta vulgaris circla group*

#### Italian Bledon Silverbeet

Plant early winter.

This wonderfully sweet lime green leaf vegetable will supercede all other silverbeets once you taste it. It is so sweet it makes a great lettuce substitute. A vigorous and fast growing variety, seeding in it's first summer in Geraldton.

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## BROAD BEAN

*Vicia faba*

### Peruvian Emerald

Sow mid winter to spring.

A green seeded broad bean with 3-4 seeds per pod. It sets seeds even in the warmer winter areas. A good disease resistant variety. Prolific bearer. Whole pods can be eaten immature as steamed greens or when more mature, shelled beans (still soft) as steamed beans. Dry beans can be soaked, cooked and eaten in bean salads or substituted for kidney or borlotti beans in italian or mexican dishes.

## BROCCOLI

*Brassica oleracea italica*

### Verdante

Sow early autumn,

The flowering buds and stems of this plant are harvested and eaten fresh or stemmed. In warmer climates this plant lasts for several years. This variety produces one large head then on-goingly produces multiple small flowering heads. Sowing early autumn in the midwest will allow the large heads to mature before the winter cycle of aphids..

## CAPSICUM

*Capsicum annuum*

### Centinel

Sow spring (Geraldton, Autumn-spring)

An excellent flavoured sweet capsicum, turning red when ripe. This fruit has a long tapered chilli shape to 130mm. This variety fruits prolifically with records of up to 700 fruit per plant.

*Capsicum annuum*

### Japanese

Plant Spring,

This is a prolific bearing variety with large sweet squarish fruit. Sown into a rich soil and keep moist. Large leaves protect this fruit from sunburn. Fruit will become smaller if nutrients are inadequate. May benefit from a filtered shade in summer. Fruit can be picked when full size, either green or later when red.

## CARROT

*Daucas carota*

### Majestic Red

Sow autumn,

Performs well in our sandy soils. These succulent long carrots seed at the end of it's first season, which is great for places with hot summers as you will be able to save your own seed! The top of these carrots turns purple/red if exposed to the sun. Mix seed with sand to avoid sowing too thickly, cover with 3mm of soil, keep soil damp.

## CELERY

*Apium graveolens*

### Golden Self-Blanching

Sow winter.

This variety has very pale golden-yellow leaves and stems. It is a compact variety with stringless stems and a delicate flavour. It is best eaten young and when grown in blocks rather than rows natural blanching will improve the flavour.

## CELTUCE

*Lactuca sativum augustana group*

### Narrow Leaf

Sow spring (In Geraldton, sow autumn).

Also called 'asparagus lettuce'. This chinese vegetable is left in the ground until it develops a stem length of 30cm. They are then peeled and thinly sliced before being stir fried. The hearts can also be eaten like small lettuces.

## CEYLON RUNNING SPINACH

*Basella alba*

Plant spring,

A fast growing twiner grown for its leaves and young stems. Use as spinach or silverbeet. Like lots of moisture, heat and enriched soil. Perennial in tropical climates. An insect free, wind tolerant reliable summer green.

## CHICORY

*Cichorium endiva*

### Green Curled Endive

Sow Autumn or after frosts.

This annual plant is grown like lettuce. The leaves are often tied or plant covered after 2 months, with dark pots to blanch centre and make them less bitter. They are then picked and used as salad greens. If left to flower, the plants produce long spikes laced with delightful blue flowers. Will tolerate full sun or part shade.

## CHILLI

*Capsicum annuum*

### Banos Red

Sow spring.

Extremely attractive colourful upright pointing fruit 30mm long and 15mm wide. Bush grows to 400mm with deep green foliage and purple flowers. The purple fruit turns orange then red when ripe.

*Capsicum chinense*

### Habanero

Sow spring.

This brilliant orange, bonnet-shaped chilli brings a beautiful contrast to other garden colours. It is nematode resistant and is reportedly the hottest chilli in the world! (Will test the most adventurous chilli eaters) Even the smell of this deceiving chilli burns your nostrils.

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## CHILLI

*Capsicum annuum*

### Inferno

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, sow autumn).

Upright red fruit 40mm long and 10mm wide tapering to a point. A compact bush form with a long heavy fruiting period.

Seems to exhibit nematode tolerance.

*Capsicum annuum*

### Poblano

Plant Spring ( Geraldton, also Autumn)

A mildly hot chilli used in stews. Good to stuff with rice or fish.

Good fruit are a chocolate brown colour when ripe around 150mm long and 100mm wide.

A good heat tolerant variety.

*Capsicum annuum*

### Red Thai Long

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, sow autumn).

Bush grows to 600-700mm with long thin green fruit 80mm long and 5mm wide with a tapering point, that turns red when ripe. Slight circular ridging around the fruit. Hot, pungent and flavourful fruit that dries well.

*Capsicum annuum*

### St Helena Orange

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton autumn)

These strong plants produce a tapered 75mm long hot chilli colouring to a deep orange when ripe. Plants can also be grown from root suckers.

*Capsicum baccatum var pendulum*

### Yellow Peruvian

Sow spring (In Geraldton, spring to autumn).

This bush produces attractive, bright yellow, tapered chillies approx. 50mm long. A rare Peruvian cultivar for the gourmet palate. A prolific bearer over two years in frost free areas. This is a very hot, flavoursome chilli suited to many red bean dishes.

## CORN

*Zea mays*

### Chinese Mini

Sow after frosts (Geraldton can also produce a late crop if sown early to mid March. ) A short variety of strawberry popping corn. Plants reach 1.5m and tend to be multiple stemmed. Each plant produces approximately 15 cobs.

These can be harvested when premature (when the silks are pink) and eaten as chinese mini corn. If let mature, the small red kernals may be used as popcorn. If saving seed, cull any over sized plants.

*Zea mays*

### Mexican Sweetcorn

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, late winter or late summer - March)

A delicious variety not exhibiting the insipid sweetness of many hybrids. 250mm long kernels, 2-3 cobs per plant. Seeds are a golden yellow colour. 4 months to maturity.

## CORN

*Zea mays*

### Multi-Coloured Aztec

Sow spring - summer.

This plant grows to 2.5m high and produces a beautiful cob speckled with white red, blue and yellow kernels.

This corn can also be eaten if harvested in its immature stage. Cobs make excellent dried ornaments. Dried seeds are usually ground to make a cornmeal for breads and cornchips.

## COWPEA

*Vigna unguiculata*

### Black-Seeded Thai

Sow spring (In Geraldton, early spring).

This is a summer bush bean which needs light shade through the hotter months over 40°C. It has been highly productive with little soil improvement. Very good as a stringless green bean or a dries bean.

*Vigna unguiculata*

### Burkino Faso

Sow Spring.

This extremely heat hardy cowpea from Africa has adapted well to the Geraldton climate with irrigation. Eat young beans as a steamed vegetable or dried seeds as a pulses.

*Vigna unguiculata*

### Crowdu Butter Pea

Sow spring.

This is a summer growing pea suited to the warm climates, in the United States they are called Southern Field Peas. This the most vigorous heat and drought tolerant american variety tested so far at our farm. The peas are commonly eaten as a dried bean and are excellent quality. The plant is also used as a cover crop.

## CURRENT TOMATO

*Lycopersicon pimpinellifolium*

### Broad Ripple Yellow

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn).

A vigorous vine that requires staking; grows to 3m tall and produces a mass of sweet yellow fruit 10mm in diameter in grape like bunches. Unlike other tomatoes they will not split if left to dry on the vines and hence do not attract fruit fly.

Prolific self-seeder.

## EDIBLE CHRYSANTHEMUM

*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*

### Serrated Leaf

Sow spring (In Geraldton, autumn)

Sometimes referred to as 'ChopSuey Greens'. Leaves are eaten in Stir fries in Chinese food. This annual plant grow to 1.5m and has masses of 30-40mm yellow chrysanthemum flowers.

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## EGGPLANT

*Solanum melongena*

### Laos Tiger Green Stripe

Sow spring (In Geraldton - sow all year).

A non-bitter eggplant with pleasant flavour. Small round attractive fruit 50mm in dia. Cream-coloured fruit overlaid with green "tiger stripes" on upper half. When fruit is picked at this stage no pre-processing is needed. Cook entire fruit with skin. Bears prolifically over 3-4 yrs. Tolerates a light frost. Plant stands 1.5m high. Heirloom from Laos.

*Solanum melongena*

### Pintong Long Improved

Sow Spring

Improved strain of a Taiwanese cultivar. Light purple fruits 200-250mm long 25-50mm wide. Excellent for slicing and pickling. Very early productive upright plants, up to 20 fruits per plant. Resistant to extreme heat and humidity.

## GOURD

*Lagenaria siceraria*

### Perhentian Island

Plant spring,

A vigorous running climbing vine similar to a pumpkin. Can be grown up a trellis or along the ground. Keep well aerated to avoid powdery mildew. This is one of our most mildew tolerant strains. White flowers produce young fruit which can be eaten curried, grated into fritters, even pickled.

## JEW'S MALLOW

*Corchorus olitorius*

Sow Spring.

A high protein summer spinach substitute to 1.5m requiring good soil moisture to perform well in the hot weather. Leaves should be well cooked for the most enjoyable texture and flavoured with garlic and coriander for an authentic taste of the Middle East.

## LEEK

*Allium ampeloprasum porrum group*

### Perennial Bunching Leek

Sow Autumn,

Grow in full sun. This leek produces a large mother leek surrounded by many small leeks. Harvest the mother leek and leave others to mature and harvest as needed, these in turn will also produce small leeks which may be divided and you'll have an on-going leek supply. This leek is often grown by bulbets, in Geraldton it seeds in March, at other latitudes in may never seed.

## LETTUCE

*Lactuca sativa*

### Brown Romaine

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn to winter).

A frilly open leaved lettuce with glossy brownish-red leaves. It has a crisp texture and a good flavour with a hint of sweetness. This is a cos lettuce, the leaves can be picked as needed.

*Lactuca sativa*

### Goldrush

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn to winter).

A spectacular golden oak-leaved type lettuce. Often has a diameter of 500mm and dome shaped. The leaves can be picked as needed. In Geraldton is best grown in part shade for best flavour. Good companion with onions & beans.

*Lactuca sativa*

### Light Green Wavy Leaf

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn to winter).

This is a sweet lettuce with lovely lime green leaves to 400mm in length. Leaves can be individually harvested from the base of the plant providing an on-going lettuce supply. This is our fastest growing early maturing lettuce.

*Lactuca sativa*

### Purple Oak

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn).

A vigorous late seeding French Red Lettuce with an oakleaf shaped deep purple and green leaves. The outer leaves can be regularly picked and eaten after 6 weeks from sowing.

*Lactuca sativa*

### Rabbits Ear

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn to winter).

Upright growing, ear-shaped, open-hearted leaved plant. This is a cos lettuce that can have it's leaves picked as needed. Delicious sweet variety that produces over the winter and spring months. Good companion with onions and beans.

*Lactuca sativa*

### Red Batavian

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, autumn to winter)

Very distinctive French lettuce with red/brown ruffled leaves that are sweet and juicy without bitterness. Plants begin to open like loosehead lettuces becoming compact and heavy at full maturity.

## MELON

*Cucumis melo*

### Minnesota Midget Rockmelon

Plant spring.

A vigorous bushy plant rather than a running vine. Fruit have a delicious balanced flavour. Fruit are 100-125mm round with deep orange flesh. They are suitable for one person, one meal.

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## N.Z. SPINACH

*Tetragonia tetragonioides*

Plant Spring (In Geraldton - anytime)

A vigorous shade and salt tolerant ground cover.

This perennial substitute spinach is rarely grown. Grows well in dry sandy soils and hot weather. Harvest 200mm young shoots and tender leaves; best eaten steamed.

## OKRA

*Basella esculentus*

Sow spring/summer. (In Geraldton, spring)

A summer annual, keep well watered and fertilised.

Harvest fruit when young before turning woody.

Can be sliced and fried, good in tomato-based recipes.

## ONION

*Allium cepa*

**Hebrew Brown**

Plant Autumn

Harvest Oct-Dec

Large brown skinned onion with good keeping qualities.

It grows well in the Geraldton region. SEED SAVING:

Will seed in it's first summer. Onion seed varieties will

cross. They will also cross with all of the onion families

i.e. leeks, garlic chives etc.

## PEA

*Pisum sativum*

**Japanese and Medusa**

Sow spring (In Geraldton, autumn)

We're mixing two varieties to reduce powery mildew spread. Japanese peas are short and grow to one metre.

Best to stake or grow on trellis. Produces masses of green

peas. Tender juicy variety performing well in Geraldton.

Medusa is a stable cross which is mildew tolerant. It is a

leafless garden pea with lots of tendrils. Grows to the

same height as the Japanese pea.

## PUMPKIN

*Cucurbita moschata*

**Pawpaw**

Sow spring (Geraldton in winter)

90 days to maturity. Orange skin with orange flesh. Fruit

shaped like a pawpaw. Nutty sweet flavour. Medium

sized climber. Exhibits good disease and mildew

resistance. Can be grown through the winter in warmer

climates. Does not like hot weather.

## SNAKE BEAN

*Vigna unguiculata ssp. sesquipedalis*

**Two-tone**

Sow spring - summer.

Red and white seeded climbing variety is heat and shade tolerant. It needs hot weather to produce and likes some shade on extra hot days. Bean pods up to 600mm should be regularly harvested when young and tender. They can be eaten fresh in salads or steamed. Snake bean have a delicious sweet asparagus like flavour.

## SNOWPEA

*Pisum sativum var sativum*

**Chinese Snow Pea**

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, early winter).

A heavy bearing and vigorous climber with delicate pink flowers producing delicious sweet pods when young or shelled peas a little later in the season. Sprouted dried peas make excellent quality salad sprouts.

*Pisum sativum*

**Giant and Delta Matilda**

Sow spring - summer (In Geraldton, autumn)

We're mixing two varieties to reduce powery mildew spread allowing the preservation and better crops of the traditional Giant variety. Plant Delta Matilda either side of Giant.

Giant is a vigorous tall climbing snowpea. It produces masses of huge sweet pods. These can be eaten whole or shelled. Delicious eaten raw.

Delta Matilda is a vigorous stable cross with red/pink flowers. Mildew resistant strain. Green/brown seed.

*Pisum sativum var. macrocarpa*

**Sugar snap and Super Nova**

Sow after frosts (Geraldton, autumn)

We're mixing two varieties to reduce powery mildew spread.

Sugar snap peas are eaten whole and remain sweet and tender until quite large. This variety was developed in N.Z. and matures in 70 days. This is a vigorous 2m vine needing a good support. Pods are round and plump, crisp, sweet and juicy. This variety freezes well.

Super Novas are a stable cross and are a vigorous mildew resistant variety. Grow as Sugar snaps.

## SPINACH

*Spinacia oleracea*

**Japanese**

Sow autumn).

An annual prickly seeded variety with lobed leaves and more cold and heat tolerant than traditional smooth seeded varieties. This delicious fast growing variety of Japanese spinach doesn't leave the unpleasant after effects on teeth like Silverbeet.

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## TOMATILLO

*Physalis ixocarpa*

### Large Green

Sow spring.

An annual plant growing to 0.5m with lobed fruit encased in jackets similar to Cape Gooseberries. The 30mm fruit berry is harvested when soft. Eaten cooked with tomatoes and is the original 'taco' flavour.

*Physalis ixocarpa*

### Purple

Sow spring.

A rare variety of Tomatillo. Fruit is rounded, not lobed, 20-25mm in diameter that turns purple when ripe. Jacket turns papery when ripe. Cooked with tomatoes produces the 'Taco' flavour known in Mexican cooking.

## TOMATO

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Black Krim

Sow autumn-spring but after frosts. This large tomato is one of the beefhearts. These unusual shaped tomatoes are called the 'crinklelies'. Their flesh is a maroon-purple colour and extremely meaty with a tasty flavour. The vine is vigorous and needs staking. Performs well in Geraldton.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Black Russian

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A staking vine bearing round 60mm chocolate-brown fruit when ripe. This variety was revived from some old seed found in the East Gippsland Organic Association Seedbank. This is a rare heirloom variety of salad tomato.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Budiah

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). This is a strong bush tomato bearing heavy crops of sweet deep red rounded fruit. It tends to exhibit some nematode tolerance.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Golden Sunrise

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A staking variety. Excellent sweet flavour, medium-small gold yellow round fruit, 50mm diameter. Low acid prolific indeterminate vine. 80 days to maturity. One of the few yellow heirloom varieties still available.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Green Zebra

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). Bears after 80 days from transplanting. Apricot-sized fruit with a greenish lime colour and deep green stripes. The green flesh has a mild pleasing flavour. Indeterminate\* vine.

Good for processing, as well as eating out of hand or in salads.

## TOMATO

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Indian Mayan

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A short staking variety that bears strongly. Meaty bright red pear shaped fruit, 75mm long that dry and process well. Compact determinate vine.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Lemon Boy

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). Medium-sized, deep globe shaped, lemon-yellow fruit. Vigorous yielder that needs staking, resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilts, and nematodes. Indeterminate vine that was originally a hybrid but now is a stabilised open-pollinated variety. Maturity from 75 days. Very good flavour.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Mama Lucie

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). Prolific indeterminate vine with good quality yellow fruit to 40mm size. Good foliage cover and multiple disease resistance. This a good salad tomato. Maturity from 85 days.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Persimmon

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). Large, deep, globe-shaped fruit 100mm diameter. Bright orange skin and flesh with solid, meaty flesh and a few seeds. Strong distinctive flavour. Susceptable to blossom end rot. Large indeterminate vine that matures from 80 days. Excellent for slicing.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Peruvian Red Cherry

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A staking salad variety. Heavy bearing strong plants. Delicious small round cherry red fruits. Excellent for eating out of hand.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Pink Ponderosa

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A large, flattened globe-shaped tomato. The deep pink fruit of excellent flavour is fleshy with few seeds. Very good for drying, slicing, canning or stewing. Needs staking. Bears continuously over a long period.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Purple Calabash

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). 90 days to maturity. Medium sized 'flat pumkin' shaped ruffled brownish-purple fruit, 100mm across. Firm and meaty with an intense flavour. Tolerates hot, dry summers. Said to be 'the ugliest but most delicious tomato in the world'.

Short-term storage tomato. Can be used to make a fine quality vinegar.

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## TOMATO

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Red Chick

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A medium-sized, red slicing tomato that bears heavily over 18 months in frost-free areas. A drought tolerant variety which produces a flavourful tomato under water stress. Indeterminate vines show multiple disease resistance.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Rio Colorado

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn). Medium to early in maturity, it produces an intense red plum shaped fruit which makes an excellent sauce or drink. Highly productive and disease resistant variety with firm pulp and few seeds. Better for processing than for the fresh market.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### San Marzano

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, spring). 80 days to maturity with elongated flat sided blunt-ended fruit 75mm in diameter. The meaty fruit stores well, doesn't crack, dries well and processes to a deep red paste. Fruit produced in clusters.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Stupice

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn) A Czechoslovakian variety. Early maturing in 50 days with small/medium 50mm flattened fruit with a glossy red colour, juicy and tasty. Compact, productive vine with potato like foliage.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Sweetie

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn) Vigorous staking vine producing large long bunches of grape like bright red cherry fruit, 12 to 20 fruit per cluster. 63 days to maturity. Fruit is unusually sweet and flavourful, 25-30mm in diameter.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Thompson Green Grape

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). 80 days to maturity. Distinctive yellow-green round fruit similar to a large green grape, 25mm in diameter. Sweet and juicy. Strong compact staking vine. Fruit borne in clusters like grapes.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Tigerella

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). A striking orange-striped staking tomato. This indeterminate tomato is fleshy and suitable for drying. Orange tomatoes are the most nutritious of all the colours available as they contain very high amounts of betacarotene.

## TOMATO

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Verna Orange

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn). Heart shaped large fruit 120mm in diameter of superb flavour. Bright orange skin, a meaty flesh with only 15% jelly and almost seedless. Being orange they contain the highest Betacaradine content of all coloured tomatoes. Maturity in 84 days. Indiana heirloom.

*Lycopersicon lycopersicon*

### Yellow Plum

Sow after frost (In Geraldton, early autumn to spring). 78 days to maturity. Small 'sunflower yellow' teardrop shaped fruit, 30mm long. Excellent mild sweet flavour. Fruit borne in clusters. Prolific vine.

## WATERMELON

*Citrullus lanatus*

### Palestinian Pride

Plant early Spring. A round soccer ball sized melon. Dark green skin with dense crisp pink flesh. Wonderful flavour, highly prized variety from a small village close to Nazareth called Jenin. Local Palestinian people know this as the most famous tastiest heirloom melon in the West bank.

## ZUCCHINI

*Cucurbita pepo*

### Cocozelle

Sow after frosts (Geraldton - early Autumn or early Spring) Prolific variety maturing in 53 to 63 days. Heirloom variety brought into Australia in the 1920's producing dark green fruit with light green stripes 20cm in length. Susceptible to powdery mildew that can be controlled used a foliar spray solution of half milk and half water.

## Herbs

## BASIL

*Ocimum gratissimum*

### East Indian Clove

Sow spring (In Geraldton, autumn to spring). This 1.5m perennial plant's leaves are used as a clove substitute. It is particularly good in Indian curries. Extremely drought and wind tolerant. This plant is extremely useful in gardens. Its strong aroma confuses insects and they have trouble finding plants to eat.

*Ocimum basilicum*

### Sweet Giant-leaved

Sow spring, Always sow after the shortest day to prolong flowering and encourage leafy growth. Never has picking basil leaves to make pesto been quicker. This hardy variety has slightly wavy green leaves several times larger than common sweet basil. Constant tipping of flowers from plants will promote more leaves. This annual is well-suited for growing in balcony pots.

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## BORAGE

*Borago officinalis*

Sow spring (autumn in Geraldton)

A large annual herb to 1.5m tall often called the 'herb of gladness'. Blue star flowers are sweet and eaten raw in a salad. Leaves concentrate Calcium and make great compost or mulch for curcurbits.

## CALENDULA

*Calendula officinalis*

**Orange flowered**

Sow end of winter - autumn

A brilliant orange flowered medicinal plant. Petals can be harvested and dried and made into an antiseptic salve. Petals can be eaten and look stunning when varnished with salad oil and sprinkled over salads.

## CATNIP

*Nepeta cataria*

Plant Spring, (In Geraldton - autumn)

Catnip is drought tolerant and often perennial.

The mint-like scent of the bruised leaves of this herb is said to attract cats and deter rats. It stands 1/2 m high and its white flowers are a good bee attractant for pollination when grown around in orchards and vegetable gardens. Young shoots can be used in salads.

## CHAMOMILE

*Chamaemelum nobile*

**German**

Sow autumn.

This annual Chamomile grows to 600mm and flowers prolifically. Dried flowers are used to make a calmativie herbal tea. Leaves if infused in water (one cup of leaves to one litre of water) are a preventative for the 'damping off' fungus in young seedlings. Drench seedlings with this preventative when first planted.

## CORIANDER

*Coriandrum sativum*

**Chinese**

Sow autumn.

This small seeded variety is preferred in Thai cooking. The ground roots are also used. Coriander powder is made from the dried seeds. Leaves are used extensively in Indian cooking.

*Eryngium foetidum*

**Thai**

Sow spring (In Geraldton, anytime).

Once you have cooked with this herb, you will make the effort to grow it. A small perennial thistle like plant whose young leaves can be eaten raw or cooked. Ususally both leaves and root are used as a herb. Has a strong coriander aroma and agreeable flavour. It is an important ingredient in 'sofrito', a West Indian seasoning made of Parley, Chilli and Thai Coriander.

## DANDELION

*Taraxacum officinale*

**English**

Sow autumn.

Young leaves are eaten in salads and are an important ingredient in mesclun. The roots are eaten raw, or roasted and dried then ground into a coffee substitute. They are sometimes cooked and served like scorzonera. The unopened flower-buds can be eaten in pancakes or omelettes. Sprouted seeds are also eaten.

## DILL

*Anethum graveolens*

Sow autumn. (In Geraldton, spring)

Seed commonly used a flavouring for pickles and fish.

Grow to 1.5m, has huge parachute shaped flower which attract many garden pest predators. Delightful green soft fern-like foliage often picked, dried and sold as 'Dill Tips'. A good orchard plant.

## FENUGREEK

*Trigonella foenum-graecum*

Sow direct into the ground after the shortest day.

A legume which grows and looks similar to a bush bean.

Dried seeds are used ground in Indian curries or sprouted in salads. Young leafy shoots are also used in curries.

Boiled seed yields a yellow dye.

## FEVERFEW

*Tanacetum parthenium*

Sow autumn or after frosts.

A stunning 500mm high daisy-like flowering plant with dainty fern like leaves. This is an excellent general companion plant due to it's pest predator attracting flowers and strong smelling leaves. Three to five fresh leaves between slices of bread is reported to reduce migraines.

## GARLIC CHIVES

*Allium tuberosum*

**White Flowering**

Sow spring (In Geraldton, all year round).

Sow in trays. Cover with 5mm soil, keep moist and transplant at 4-6 weeks into garden or large pot.

Attractive drought hardy white flowering variety.

Excellent garlic flavoured leaves are used raw and in cooking. They can be harvested continuously by breaking off the leaves as they are needed. Plants can be easy divided once established.

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## LAVENDER

*Lavendula stoechas*

### French

Sow after Frosts

This is a extremely heat hardy grey leaved variety of lavender. This plant is grown for it's unusual long purple flowers and strong scented leaves. This is one of the varieties from which essential oils are extracted. The leaves rubbed the forehead often relieve stress headaches. This is a attractive border plant is larger landscapes, grows to one metre.

## MARJORUM

*Origanum marjorana hortensis*

Sow after frosts,

This perennial plant needs shelter from the hot desert sun. Can grown as an annual. The aromatic leaves are used to flavour tomato based foods, meat dishes and vinegars.

Grows well throughout orchards as the flowers attract bees for fruit pollination. Makes a good addition into fragrant border hedges.

## MEXICAN MARIGOLD

*Tagetes minuta*

Sow end of winter - autumn.

Tall growing marigold used to fumigate soil to reduce the nematode population. If grown for a full season, it can prove effective for up to 3 years. The mulched leaves are a useful pest deterrent. An essential companion to tomatoes and capsicums. N.B. The foliage can cause skin irritations.

## MOTHERWORT

*Leonurus cardiaca*

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn)

Hardy perennial to 1.5m in cooler climates. Grows as an annual in Geraldton. Self seeds easily and strong young seedlings appear during winter. Green fingered leaves and whorls of pink flowers in early summer. Likes well-drained soil and limestone. The entire plant yields a dark green woolen dye. A tea from the plant is used as a relaxing tonic for menopausal changes.

## NASTURTIUM

*Tropaeolum majus*

Sow autumn or after frosts.

These hardy colourful flowers are annual sprawling plants. The poorer the soils they grow in the more prolific the flowers. The orange flowers have a peppery flavour and are often used in salads. The scent from the orange flowers repel aphids. The green seeds are often harvested and pickled then used as a caper substitute. These plants will self sow every year.

## PALESTINIAN MARJORUM

*Origanum syriacum*

### Za'atar

Plant after frosts.

The leaves and flowering tops of this im perennial herb are used as a seasoning. In the Middle East, Za'atar is made from the dried herb which is mixed with sumac and sesame; this is eaten with flat bread and olive oil. This variety has a zingy savoury flavour reminiscent of a blend of thyme, oregano and marjorum.

## PARSLEY

*Petroselinum crispum*

### Egyptian

Plant early winter.

One of the sweetest large leaved varieties of parsley. Used extensively in the mediterranean salad tabouleh. It is extremely heat and quite drought tolerant.

## QUILQUINA

*Porophyllum ruderale*

### Coriander/Rue Herb

Plant autumn.

This is a rapid growing annual herb similar in flowering habits to english dandelion. It has a pungent strong smell and flavour which seems like a mixture of coriander and rue. Leaves can be used in tiny amounts through salads or to flavour red meats.

## ROCKET

*Eruca sativa*

Sow spring (In Geraldton, autumn to winter).

Also called Argula, Roquette and Rucola. Young leaves have a distinct, spicy-oak flavour and are eaten raw in salads or sauteed in garlic and olive oil. Popular ingredient of mesclun.

Flowers make a good garnish & the seeds contain a mustard oil substitute.

## ROSEMARY

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

This perennial herb develops up to a 1 m high fragrant bush displaying its flowers for many months of the year. Its said, that the strong fragrance repulses snakes in the garden but on the other side it has an energising effect on human body and mind.

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## TANSY

*Tanacetum parthenium*

Sow Spring.

Perennial herb that grows up to 1m. It has attractive dark green, fern like foliage and has clusters of flowers that are like small yellow buttons and make wonderful long lasting cut flowers. Both the flowers and leaves are very aromatic.

Take care not to position this plant under peach trees as it is reported to have caused their deaths.

## WORMWOOD

*Artemisia absinthium*

### Silver Leaved

Sow Summer (In Geraldton, autumn or early spring). Trad. used in the preparation of the liqueur 'absinthe' (now banned in many countries). Valuable plant to rid internal parasites by planting in poultry runs. Stunning silver leaves are great to reflect heat when grown against a hot area. A fast growing perennial that tends only to like company of the blue/green cabbages.

## ZARTMANNII

*Origanum sp.*

### Palestinian Mint

Sow all year.

This groundcovering herb has a strong sweet pungent smell. It is perennial and self seeds readily. In Palestine, sprigs are often put into black tea as a flavouring. It has a pretty pink mauve flower. This extremely hardy plant is native to the limestone hills in the West Bank in the occupied Territories but grows well in most soils.

## Miscellaneous

## BARLEY

*Hordeum vulgare*

### Popping

Sow autumn.

Seeds used as a delicious popcorn. Grows up to 1m tall producing 100mm heads. To date no signs of disease problems.

## CAPE GOOSEBERRY

*Physalis peruviana*

Sow spring (In Geraldton, sow anytime).

A hardy sprawling bush, 1.5m wide and 1m high. Sweet yellow berry fruit enclosed in a jacket wrapping that can be harvested when wrapping is papery dry. Fruit can be eaten fresh or made into jellies and jams. If left on the plant, the fruit will dry and make delicious sultanas. The plant lives for 3 years, can be trained as a vine & responds well to pruning.

## CHIA

*Salvia hispanica*

### Mexican

Sow after frosts (In Geraldton, autumn).

A blue flowered herb/grain grown for its seeds which are said to be used as a brain stimulant. They can be used to make sprouts or ground into a flour. Seeds, when soaked, cover themselves with a jelly making a delicious dessert. Traditionally the soaked seeds were used to remove foreign objects from the eye which stuck to the jelly.

## DESMANTHUS

*Desmanthus virgatus*

### Legume Shrub

Sow spring summer. Bushy windhardy heavy nitrogen fixer growing up to 2m. It has small soft leaflets which have a protein content of 22%. As a browse fodder shrub it is very palatable and recovers after heavy grazing. Because of its vigorous self seeding it could become troublesome if not used in conjunction with grazed areas. Poultry love eating young self sown seedlings. This subtropical plant has no known trials south of Geraldton.

## DRUMSTICK TREE

*Moringa oleifera*

Plant Spring-Summer.

5m deciduous tree producing long pods traditionally used in asian cooking for soups, curries and pickling. The roots are used as a horseradish substitute while the leaves, twigs and flowers are consumed raw in salads. Immature pods can be fried or roasted and as young seedlings consumed as a cooked green vegetable. Also known as the Horseradish tree.

## HENNA

*Lawsonia alba*

Sow Spring

Wind and heat tolerant deciduous bush growing to 2m with massive perfume white flower umbels similar to an elderberry. The leaves are dried and ground to a powder which is then mixed to a muddy paste to dye and condition hair. This is a highly prized plant in the middle east.

## HYACINTH BEAN

*Dolichos lablab*

### Rongai

Sow spring-summer.

A cover crop variety of Lablab. Heat loving and drought tolerant summer growing legume it is used extensively as a green manure cover crop. The leaves make an excellent fodder. In heavier soils it can be grown without summer rainfall providing there is adequate dew.

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## INDIGO

*Indigo tinctoria*

Sow after frosts,  
This is a perennial semi-tropical plant up to one metre high, famed for its rich blue dye since ancient times. Indigo is a legume and has small purplish flowers in summer. When grown in cooler climates it prefers a warm north facing position.

## LEUCEANA

*Leucaena leucocephala var. cunninghamii*

### Tree Legume

Sow spring/summer.  
A 2m tree legume usually grown in the tropics as cattle fodder. Doesn't like frosts and will survive in rainfall areas down to 450mm but prefers more. This low mimosine strain allows animals to access leaf protein with a similar % value to lucerne. Poultry love seeds. Good nurse trees in orchards. To germinate, pour boiling water over seed and leave to soak 24 hrs. Plant swollen seeds.

## LUFFA

*Luffa cylindrica*

### Smooth

Sow after frosts.  
A vigorous vine producing large oblong fruit. These can be eaten young when 100 mm in length or left to dry on the vine. The skeleton of the fruit which looks like a seaweed, is used as a body shrub.

## PASSIONFRUIT

*Passiflora edulis*

### Hawaiian Yellow

Sow spring or autumn  
Seeds germinates quickly within 2 weeks when soil is warm.  
Fast growing climber with bright yellow oval-shaped fruits that drop off the plant when ripe. The fruits approx. 60 mm in diameter are sweet with a nice acid balance. Keep soil moist and fertilised. Doesn't need to be grafted as this variety is nematode tolerant.  
Makes a great fruit leather or a superb passionfruit-pumpkin chutney.

*Passiflora foetida*

### Love-in-a-mist

Plant Spring  
This is a vigorous, fast growing climber during the warmer months. Where cold winters prevail, grow this plant as an annual. It produces a small yellow, soft-skinned fruit (15-20mm) with a pleasant flavour. Both the green fruit and leaves contain hydrocyanic acid which shouldn't be eaten. This is an extremely wind-tolerant climber and poultry love the fruit.

## PASSIONFRUIT

*Passiflora sp.*

### Pawpawadilla

Plant spring.  
A perennial climbing variety of green passionfruit from Zimbabwe. It has a delicate three fingered leaf, hardy to wind and extreme heat. The fruit are sweet and non-acidic with a soft skin that peels off the fruit easily. Fruit approx. 50mm in diameter. Would make a good nematode rootstock for *Passiflora edulis*.

*Passiflora edulis*

### Purple Football

Plant in spring.  
A perennial climber with fragrant white and purple flowers.  
Seeds germinates quickly within 2 weeks when soil is warm.  
The fruit is approx. 70 mm long, football-shaped with a dark purple-black skin. Fruits fall from the vine when ripe. Their pulp is bright orange and has a nice flavour. Makes a great fruit leather or a superb passionfruit-pumpkin chutney.

*Passiflora edulis*

### Tennis ball Pink

Sow spring/summer.  
Seed will take 2-4 weeks to germinate @ 25 degrees. Large round pink/purple skinned fruit on a vigorous productive vine producing through winter in Geraldton. Excellent flavoured pulp. Allow skin to wrinkle slightly to attain full sweetness. Will grow better if protected from strong winds.  
Makes a great fruit leather or a superb passionfruit-pumpkin chutney.

## POPPY

*Papaver rhoeas*

### Flanders

Sow autumn.  
A brilliant red flowering poppy. The center of each petal has an exquisite black pattern reminiscent of a Japanese painting. These beautiful winter/spring flowers self-seed every year, they glorify everywhere they grow.

## ROSELLA

*Hibiscus sabdariffa*

Sow spring/summer (In Geraldton, spring)  
A summer annual with leaves that can be harvested and cooked as a spinach substitute. The bright red flower sepals can be harvested and dried, and used as a delicious tea with high Vitamin C content when infused in boiling water.

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### SESBANIA

*Sesbania cannabina*

#### **Yellow Pea Shrub**

Sow spring/summer (Geraldton anytime)

A fast growing legume up to 3m in one year. This short lived shrub provides an excellent short term windbreak/screen if planted as a hedge. Seeds should be scarified or have boiling water poured over them and left to soak for 24 hours before planting. Chickens adore feasting on the abundant self sown seedlings beneath older trees. Sesbania is also reknown as a fodder shrub.

### SORGHUM

*Sorghum bicolor*

#### **Broom Corn**

Sow spring.

Tassel spikes are used to make brooms. Perennial plant in frost free area. Seeds, leaves and stalks can be cut regularly and used as a fodder. Provides a natural trellis for climbers and good shade when planted amongst other summer crops.

### SUNFLOWER

*Helianthus annuus*

#### **Geraldton Giant**

Sow spring (In Geraldton, anytime)

Drought tolerant oil variety, naturalised throughout Geraldton. Masses of small headed flowers. They grow best on poor soils and can achieve a height of 2.5m. During hot summers they cast a wonderful shade in vegetable gardens and serve as good decoys for pink and grey galahs. Chickens love eating the oily seeds, leaves and flowers. Sunflowers will cross between varieties.