



# Week One



## What veggies can I plant in April?

As the days are starting to get shorter, April is a perfect time to plant a large number of seedlings. The soil is still warm and, with a minimum of preparation and additional protection, many of the winter dinner staples can be planted now.

Here are just a few that are perfect to plant in April: Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Garlic, Kale, Leeks, Chinese Greens, Silverbeet, Swedes and Turnips.

All of these can be grown from seed directly into the ground (this is preferred for beetroot and carrots) or from seedlings.

For more great tips, I head to <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/vegie-guide/>

If you are worried about the frosts in your area, cover young seedlings with an old milk carton at night and remove this when the sun is moving into the veggie patch.

Don't forget to crush up your eggshells and place around each seedling to keep the nasty snails and slugs at bay.



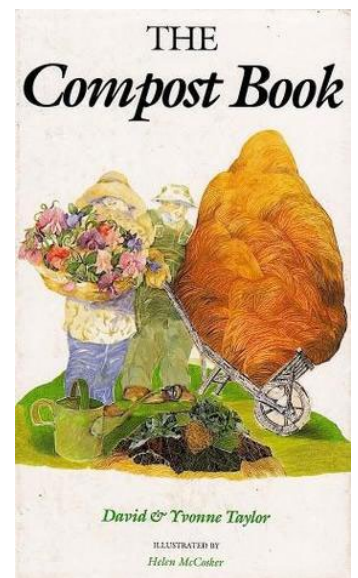
## The joys of compost!

I am lucky enough to have been given this book when I first moved out of home. It started my love of the black gold and has been a source of information for many years.

You don't need a fancy tumbler compost bin, but they certainly make life a lot easier. What is needed is an understanding of how to get the right ratios to make a nutritious, fine compost, rather than a smelly mess. Mixing up compost is more forgiving than baking a sponge, where you need to measure out the ingredients with some precision. Compost allows you to use what is at hand. The golden rule is to have a good mix of green (such as garden clippings, coffee grounds and kitchen waste) and brown (autumn leaves, egg cartons, pizza boxes, shredded paper, sugar cane mulch).

So, as we are all cooking more from home during this time of isolation, we are generating more kitchen scraps. To speed up the composting process, cut up scraps into small pieces, including banana peel, lemon skins and eggshells. This helps them break down faster.

If your compost heap is open to the air, don't add any meat or dairy scraps as these encourage unwanted visitors like mice, rats and possums. All compost bins/heaps should be aerated regularly. I am lucky enough to just need to turn the handle a few times each time I add in the kitchen waste. If not so lucky, use a fork to turn over the compost. This aeration assists the worms and micro creatures to thrive and do the hard work of breaking down the material into black gold.



Marie **Happy gardening everyone!**