

Hints from Green Thumb Gurus

This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskates.com.au

Cuttings Turn into a Beautiful Friendship Garden

I can't even imagine how much money I have saved over the years in establishing (and expanding) my garden! We built a small house on a rural block just over 9 years ago. Obviously, it was just a barren paddock when we began. I now have a garden that I am extremely proud of and the entire garden has been grown without spending a cent!! That's my rule! Everything in my garden either grows from cuttings or bulbs given to me by friends and family. Sure, you have to wait longer for the plants to become established, but that's part of the joy of gardening - watching these tiny little 'sticks' turn into gorgeous rose bushes, daisies, lilies and lavender bushes (to name just a few!). I call my garden our "Friendship Garden" because everything in it comes from either my family or my friends. And of course, I LOVE having friends over to my place now to share a coffee before we wander into the garden with a shovel, secateurs and a plastic bag to fill with cuttings and bulbs for them to take home to flourish in their gardens too! (And of course, that means I have to call into their homes for coffee after my cuttings have flowered in their gardens!! Great excuse for a visit!!!) Gardening is a cathartic hobby (and if you do it like I do) its great for a girl's social life too!!! (You would be blown away by the amount of things that can be grown from a cutting!!) So, happy gardening everyone!!

Contributed by Loretto, Bushfield

Seedling Swap Group

Starting and keeping a veggie going can cost a bit so I have just joined a friends group that swap seedlings/plants. Everyone raises different seedlings that we then swap for other types. It is a great way to try growing different veggies or species while getting to know what grows best in your area by talking to other gardeners. It also means that you don't have to outlay on all different seedlings or seeds.

Contributed by Tracey, Gympie

One \$14 Ad Saves Hundreds of Dollars on Plants

We have nearly 4 acres and the house garden is nearly an acre alone. That means a lot of plants to find and you can't always strike or grow enough. I put an ad in the local paper



asking for people with overcrowded agapanthus to contact me. I would help them thin them if I could take the thinnings. Four people contacted me and they even offered extra types of plants when they knew I wasn't a landscaper looking for stock. The ad cost me \$14 and the first load alone would have cost hundreds to buy.

Contributed by Louise, Willaston

The Veggie Exchange

In my family we have a lot of green thumbs. Every summer in particular, there's a competition going on to see who will grow the biggest tomatoes, best cucumbers, large watermelons etc., all of them organic. I seem to grow the best tasting pumpkins and lots of potatoes, my sister the most delicious tomatoes. Last year I came up with a solution. One person grows four things only. My sister grew tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and watermelon, my father grew herbs, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower and I grew pumpkin, corn, potatoes and beans. Then we exchanged. So the whole summer (and winter) we all ate free veggies. Now our veggie exchange has grown with other family members and neighbours joining in. We also have a 'saucing day' where we all get together (byo jars) and make sauce for the upcoming months. Everyone helps, including all the children and not only do we have fun, but we all save a bundle!

Contributed by Maria, Kinglake West

Everything's Rosy with Buckets as Budget Pots

I bought 20 bare rooted roses when on special for \$5.50 each. I looked at pots and it was going to cost a minimum of \$4.80 for each pot to pot them out until we move house. Rather expensive until my husband came up with the idea of buckets. We bought them at 79 cents each drilled 5 holes in the bottom of each one and hey presto they have turned into brilliant pots and saving us at least \$80.00

Contributed by Maureen Newman

*The Cheapskates Club
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