

Marcus and Jen's Productive Garden

Welcome to 52 Dudley Street Footscray. We hope you enjoy the garden.

We moved into this house 12 months ago. At the time, the garden was low maintenance with large hedges. We both love cooking, so we decided to try our hand at growing produce. We are both full time healthcare workers, but enjoy the time spent in the garden. With help from friends and family, we were able to transform the garden into an edible one. Our plan is to create a lush edible food forest, while making the most out of the small space, existing landscape and decking. We hope others with similar yards can get inspiration on how to make the most out of their garden.

At the front of the house, there is a row of roses 'Iceberg' above and alyssum 'Carpet of Snow' poking through under the fence. We placed planter boxes on the left in a shaded spot, perfect for leafy greens such as lettuces and Swiss chard, as well as Asian vegetables such as Chinese broccoli 'Kailaan' and pak choy. On the right, we created an arch which will be supporting butternut squash. We are also growing cucumber 'Space Master', tomato 'Tommy Toe', capsicum 'Californian Wonder', grape vine, Italian basil and marigold.

Coming down the driveway by the side of the house, there are trees providing plenty of shade. This is a great spot for our new project: growing Shiitake and Lion's Mane mushroom. There are also low light evergreen plants to make the most of this space.

Coming to the back garden, there is a large deck with a pergola that has a bay tree, as well as wisteria 'Japanese' 'Amethyst Falls' and ornamental grape vine climbing up the poles.

Along the back fence, we installed REO to support two bountiful passionfruit vines which provide privacy and create a lush backdrop. In the long garden bed, we are growing zucchini 'Black Beauty' and 'Tromboncino', eggplant 'Slim Jim' and 'Listada de Gandia', along with citrus trees. We constructed two wicking beds from IBCs, with the help of Marcus's dad. In there we are growing tomatoes, 'Lemon Drop' 'San Marzano', 'Sunset Bumblebee', radishes, and a variety of bush and climbing beans. Under the ornamental pear tree, we are growing Swiss chard, sweet potato, and watermelon 'Moon and Stars'.

We are also growing raspberries and three varieties of blueberries in pots, as well as herbs in a wine barrel. In the future, we are planning to add additional planter boxes and an arch to make our garden more productive and lush.

Thank you for visiting our garden! We will be cooking some of our favourite recipes using produce from the garden for people to try. We hope to connect with others through our love of gardening and food (instagram @mmatear).

Marcus and Jen's Productive Garden is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:

www.opengardensvictoria.org.au