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## A clean slate in the vegetable garden

Mon, 09/27/2010 - 15:54 -- Africanaussie

I am slowly realising that the wet season in the tropics is a totally different season to anywhere else. I joined the Yates challenge and planted some bean seeds, but not one came up. Regular vegetable just do not do well here. I got my free packet of carrot seeds in the mail this week and will give them a try. I haven't tried them before but who knows, they might like all the rain.

My gem squash was doing quite well, and then it seemed to take on a new lease of life and start running rampant in the vegetable garden - oh no! wait a minute! this is a different vine and the gem squash has totally died off again. Succumbed to powdery mildew yet again! I think this is a jap pumpkin vine.

Instead of the beans against the fence I have planted long tropical snake beans, jicama (yam bean) and ginger. Right in the corner my sweet potatoes are starting up again. So in a little while this fence will be covered in greenery, and I have learnt a lesson - in the wet season only plant vegetables that enjoy this weather. . The pigeon pea has been trimmed right back - that adds nitrogen to the soil every time it is cut back.

One of the wet season vegetables I really love to grow are asparagus, not only because I love them, but they are such a cool plant to watch growing! I never realised that the ones you don't harvest turn into ferns, and you need to stop harvesting for the dry season so that the crowns can build up to give you a good crop in the wet season! They are perennial plants so will produce for the next twenty years. I have a tomato plant plant growing nearby as that deters asparagus beetle.

I am going to put in three more plants later in the year- they are still tiny in pots, and only start producing in their third year. To the left in the pot is comfrey which I use in my compost as an accelerator, and also to make a comfrey tea foliar feed. .

The lemongrass has been cut back and well mulched  
all the peppers are now taking off as well

I do realise that this has probably taken me out of the Yates drawing since they don't really supply many seeds for our wet season, but thought others might be interested to see how some of these tropical vegetables are grown! I will continue to post the progress of my Yates carrot seeds, and who knows they might just take off!

I dont seem to be able to post more than one photo so to see more photos please go to [www.africanaussie.blogspot.com](http://www.africanaussie.blogspot.com) [1]

I used to just be able to copy and paste the entire post

If you have some advice on posting photos to a blog here please let me know in the comments, thanks!

Image (optional):

