



Growing vegetables urgently

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Growing vegetables urgently

As you know there has been flooding further south of us, and that seems to be where most of our vegetables come from. The supermarket shelves are either bare or filled with very expensive vegetables, so it was with some urgency that I began planting out some seeds this weekend.

This was the jungle that I started with....

During the wet season only certain plants will grow and so I had let them run rather wild. The loofah had started heading over towards the fence. Normally we don't start planting regular vegetables until about March, but with the prices in the store I want to get an early start. It does seem a little cooler lately - definitely less humid, which is a good sign. I cut the loofah away from the fence and threw it up onto the shade cloth. It can grow there and then back in a line on top of the pigeon peas towards the back fence. These vegetables are going to listen this time - lots of straight lines anticipated - haha. No mucking about creating too much shade - this is serious business!

To the left of this path I planted a salad mix - heirloom seeds, so I will have to save some seeds if I have a good crop. Supposed to be good for the tropics, then behind them I planted a few tomato seeds, called tropic red. Right at the back on the right are sweet potatoes, I will harvest them in about a month and then plant butternut squash in the same place. Along the fence I have some long Chinese snake beans and cucumbers with daikon radish in front. Then the rest of the bed is taken up with my ginger which has done well this year. I don't want to have to store it - does anyone else leave it in the ground year round and just harvest as needed?

The pawpaw tree that I lopped the top off is growing quite a few nice new branches well within reach and there is lots of fruit, but for now they are all green. Can't wait to start eating pawpaws again, we get four or five passionfruit every day. I put in some parsley seeds to the left of this path - I miss my parsley but it just doesn't grow in the heat of the summer. In fact all the herbs in the herb spiral have expired, despite the shade of the vine protecting them from the heat. The mint and tropical oregano are the only ones that survived.

There is another pawpaw tree next to the pigeon peas and I am anxious to see if it is a female - I have kept a bunch of little pawpaw trees at the back of this bed just in case. To the left of this bed is my shallots which seem to be doing well - I am not really sure how or when to harvest them - I think I can just sub-divide them and keep them going year round which will be nice. Further along I have an eggplant that I let go rotten and then just smooshed it into the ground - hope it grows :) Behind the trimmed lemongrass I have the bed against the fence where I have planted lots of cherry tomatoes, which do well here....

This is one of the many loofahs I have hanging around in my food forest! Oh and I also harvested lots of chili peppers so will have another go at making some chili sauce.

So let those prices go up all they want - we should be self sufficient soon!

Note: Sorry I cannot upload more than one photo - to see more please go to my blog

www.africanaussie.blogspot.com

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