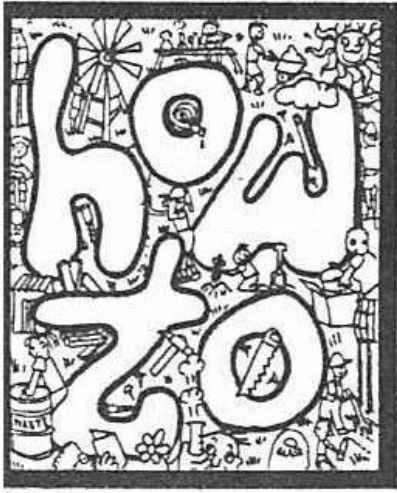




February 2012

MAKE A PYRAMID VEGETABLE GARDEN



BACKGROUND

More and more people across South Africa are turning small spaces in their gardens into productive food and flavour gardens. Many schools across the country, with feeding schemes in place or as a way to increase revenue for the school, are also turning to vegetable and herb gardening.

This 'How To' is for those of us who want to grow our own vegetables but do not have large areas of space in which to do so. The idea is to build a pyramid vegetable garden which would be made out of easily accessible resources (particularly the re-use of sacks) and utilise local manures (like kraal, chicken or goat manure). The garden is also easy to construct, maintain, uses minimal amounts of water and can be aesthetically pleasing.

Some of the advantages of growing our own vegetables are:

- producing edible crops for ourselves, our family, our school or to sell,
- producing healthy and nutritious crops,
- harvesting two, three, or more crops from the same area, every growing season,
- a high density of vegetables (300 vegetables in 9 m²)
- minimizing our gardening time and effort,
- conserving water and minimizing weeding time,
- lowering our food bills, and
- minimizing our food miles.



Acknowledgements: This 'How To' is an adaptation of the resource 'How to make a pyramid vegetable garden', developed by Louise Williamson for the WESSA Eskom Energy and Sustainability Programme.

Building a Pyramid Vegetable Garden

You will need:

- Soil, spade, water container, stapler and knife
- Vegetable seedlings
- 50kg mielie meal sack
- 25kg mielie meal sack
- 12.5kg mielie meal sack



1. Fill the largest bag with soil until it is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Do not forget to add compost to your soil. This can be cattle, chicken or goat manure. The proportions are one spade of compost to three spades of soil.



2. Roll the open ends of the bag twice and staple along the length until the bag is closed. Manipulate the bag so that the soil and bag are smooth and horizontal.



3. Starting with the largest bag on the bottom, place all the bags on top of each other, forming a pyramid.



4. Using a knife cut small openings in the bag. Space the cuts about a hand length apart. Take note of what seedlings you are planting and what their requirements may be.



5. Plant your seedlings and water well.



A WESSA Share-Net resource, funded through the USAID 'Stepping Up to Sustainability' project. WESSA Share-Net. People, places and publications for environmental education, PO Box 394, Howick, 3290. Tel (033) 330 3931 ext 2124, e-mail sharenet@wessa.co.za; website www.wessa.org.za