## My Healthy Soils Project NEWSLETTER



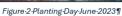
November 21, 2024

## The Year in Review

Transition Town Vincent's (TTV) My Healthy Soils Project was initiated in early 2024 with the vision to 'empower residents with the knowledge, skills and tools to transform their urban yards and courtyards from carbon sources to carbon sinks while creating cooler, healthier and more sustainable living environments.'

The project was initiated partly because of the success of using biochar and FOGO compost and worm tea in the <u>community food forest</u> plantings. This resulted in not only very good growth rates (see graphic below) but also spongy soils with good water holding capacity. Consequently we did not lose any of the 30 plants through the torrid summer and autumn of 23/24.





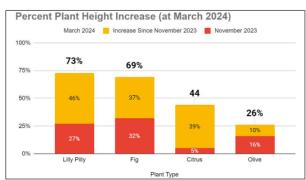


Figure-2-Growth-Rates-of-Plants-March-2024¶

We have achieved quite a bit in a short space of time providing us with a good foundation to deliver a range of events and activities next year and beyond. Key achievements include:

- Developing tools to enable residents to make biochar in their own yards and courtyards e.g. "Burny" the biochar maker and stainless steel canisters.
- Running a training workshop in conjunction with our friends at the North Perth Community Garden titled 'Biochar for Community Gardens'.
- Receiving a very generous donation of biochar from <u>Fasera</u> for <u>trialing</u> by residents and other partners.
- Established the <u>Potting Shed</u> in the wire cage next to our friends the **Tools n Things Library** (who also donated the space) which will provide a hub for various activities and outreach events
- Hosted Dr Grey Coupland to talk to us on the idea of **Pocket Forests** for the Inner City. For those not able to attend this event then check out this ABC news article.

- Holding three **Swap and Grow** events where we provided biochar for trialing and an opportunity to chat and swap seeds, seedlings, worm juice and cuttings and food.
- Raising awareness of the project with residents, politicians, councilors and other potential partners.

Finally but not least we would like to thank the growing number of people including existing TTV volunteers who have donated their time to provide input via our steering group or the events that we've had. A big shout out also goes to our friends and neighbours at the <u>Tools n Things Library</u> who are constantly allowing us to use various tools n things but have also donated space in their wire storage cage for us to establish the Potting Shed.

Early in the new year we will provide a more detailed plan and schedule of events and call for additional volunteers. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the project. <u>Click here</u> for a more detailed report of the Year in Review.

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## Event: Open Day at the Potting Shed and Food Forest

Join us this Sunday 24th November as we celebrate National Community Gardens Day with a range of activities at the Potting Shed and Food Forest. <u>Click here</u> for more information... (NB come along and grab some free biochar for trialing).



## Event: Biochar Shorts - Cities as Carbon Sinks

The My Healthy Soils Project aims to empower residents to transform their yards and court yards from carbon sources to carbon sinks using organics such as biochar. Through a series of short documentaries find out how cities such as Stockholm are using biochar to transform their urban areas into carbon sinks. Then learn about some net zero urban design scenarios being investigated for Perth and join in a discussion on future possibilities. Click here to find out more.



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