

# A Gardener's [Blog](#)



You can actually see two shoots growing away from separate leaf axils in this pic.



Just rub small shoots off with your thumb.

Kerry has about a dozen Tomatoes growing in pots outside the laundry. These are all strays I brought home, no label, overgrown, falling over, last pots out of a tray. A bit of a lucky dip.

Anyway the boss is very proud of her Tomatoes. She does all the things I warn against; recycles potting mix with some soil and chook manure, grows vegies in the narrow, shady strip on the East side of the house, loves growing stuff in cardboard fruit boxes. Best of all she loves showing me how well they're doing and of course that's exactly what they are doing right now. Not all straggly as I feared growing in such a shady environment, flowers developing nicely but I did notice one thing...

These are going to be big plants and they are growing in relatively small pots. Actually 12" (300mm) Pots. Now keep in mind, Kerry has put trellis along the fence to support her Tomatoes. Where does all the nutrient and water come from to support this such big plants? Especially once fruit starts to set in high summer we will be watering every day (yes we have tanks) but I'm sure you can see the drawback to growing tomatoes in pots.

So what to do? Prune the plant. Tomatoes grow in a wonderfully rampant fashion. At the axil (the angle where each leaf grows away from the stem) a new shoot develops. Very quickly it's difficult to tell which is the main stem because each shoot continues to do the same thing and produce more shoots. Very sorcerer's apprentice! In no time the plant becomes a matted, tangled, dark mess with a massive appetite.

I spent a lazy half hour last weekend just rubbing the



emerging shoots out of the Tomatoes and I cut out a few larger ones with a sharp knife. I have left 4-5 stems per plant and will need to go back again this week to give them a quick check. 4-5 stems is manageable and focuses the plant's energy. While I was pruning I tidied up their "skirts", the old leaves dragging in the dirt around the soil level. These leaves were turning yellow and scrappy and a couple of plants looked like they had been dusted with flour (powdery mildew). I am hoping that removing these old leaves will control the mildew by allowing light and air in. That will save using any chemicals. If you have any other suggestions for controlling powdery mildew without chemicals please let me know.



Click on the image for a list of participating retailers.

Looking for something to fill tough garden spaces and provide stunning colour? We have just this week delivered our first Craze Petunias to [selected garden centres](#). I have to be honest, Spreading Petunias have been available for about 10 years now and I avoided them for the first eight; "Too expensive, why bother?" Well, I believe that the drought tolerance of seedling Petunias is under valued but I have to admit Spreading Petunias take hardiness to a new level and gardeners are beginning to recognize this.

Craze was the first of the Spreading Petunias and is still widely regarded as the **best** in the class mostly due to its ability to keep a good cover of flower and foliage at the centre of the plant and not get too 'stringy' at the edges.



## Diary notes!

### Rosemont Garden"

Just a note to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH for listing our garden opening on your newsletter. Several people who came said that they had seen it.

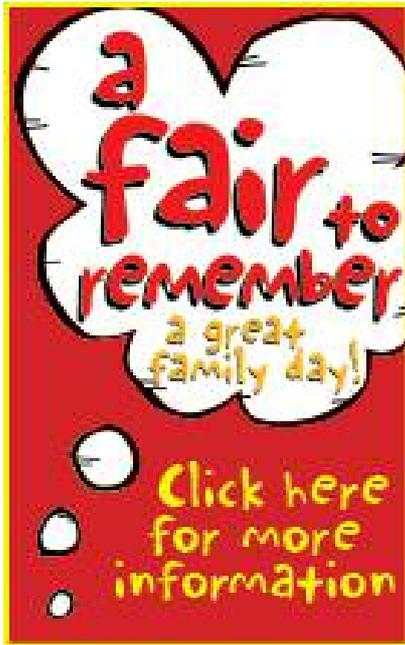
I must admit that the garden did look lovely. We had at least 3,000 rose flowers blooming and lots of Pelargoniums, poppies and also the Epiphyllum cactus. People wrote words such as inspirational, fantastic, fabulous, etc. in our visitors book. It was all quite exciting. Some people came twice they enjoyed it so much.

Timing and luck, as in many areas of life, are everything. After all of the awful heat this week many of the rose flowers are burnt so we were fortunate indeed that last weekend was the opening and not this one. No one could really have predicted

Thanks Maureen.

that we would get this much heat so early in the season. We hope that it does not presage a terrible summer.

Maureen & Paul Lucas



### [Very Special Kids](#)

A Fair to Remember

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> November 9.00am-4.00pm

I've had a soft spot for VSK since Kerry & I helped run camps for them down at Somers before Emma & Ben came along.

This is a terrific organization and they stage a fabulous fair. Try to get along.

Gardening questions and [answers](#).

Genuine questions from real gardeners, much better than FAQ's. I just hope my responses are up to scratch.

This newsletter has been posted to my [blog](#). Please have a look and leave any comments you may have. We now have enough questions and answers for the blog to make quite a handy reference.

I am regularly asked if people can reproduce some of my articles in various newsletters. I couldn't be happier all I ask is that you give me a credit and print our web address [www.scotsburn.biz](http://www.scotsburn.biz) with the item.

Privacy

I am very keen to ensure that this newsletter is of value to you. If however it is just cluttering your mail box and you do not want to receive it, please let me know immediately, [peter@scotsburn.biz](mailto:peter@scotsburn.biz)

An apology

My apologies to Edna Walling for appropriating her iconic book title. It all seems so obvious but to date I haven't noticed anyone else using this name for a blog.



Who are we?

Scotsburn is proudly Victoria's first EcoHort certified seedling nursery. For more information please follow this [link](#) to our web page or check out [EcoHort](#) on the NGIA web site.



Community

Scotsburn Nurseries is a wholesale supplier of flower and vegetable seedlings to independent garden centres and florists throughout Victoria. To learn a little more about us please follow this [link](#) to see our mission and values. You can support us by purchasing your garden needs from [retail garden centres](#) that carry our products.

I am a great believer in actively participating in our community. [How can we best do this?](#) Well we regularly have surplus plants that I am happy to donate to schools, churches, garden



Contact us

clubs and the like. I am especially keen on getting kids involved in horticulture. Please don't hesitate to call us, all I ask in return is that you help us get in contact with your community.

Any problems, concerns or even perhaps praise please don't hesitate to call me directly on 03 9798 7066, or my mobile 04 1935 0470 or email [peter@scotsburn.biz](mailto:peter@scotsburn.biz)  
Thanks for your support

*Peter.*

One last thing

If you know of any gardener's who might appreciate this Newsletter, please forward it on.

[www.scotsburn.biz](http://www.scotsburn.biz)  
'Victoria's first EcoHort™ certified seedling nursery'

