

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2018

GROW YOUR OWN



More and more people are growing their own vegetables at home – or in small plots of land called allotments –

in countries across the world. In England and America, places where the majority of families have a house with a garden, people are digging up the traditional lawn to feed their families – or trade surplus produce (a name for what you have grown and harvested) with friends, families and neighbours. With such areas of land, if your family is vegetarian it is quite possible to become self-sufficient in food terms, meaning you will not have to go grocery shopping for food at all.

Vegetables – especially organic ones – are relatively expensive these days too, so you will also be able to save a lot of money from the weekly shopping bill.

However, many of us in the city live in apartments, and so we may not have a large, sprawling garden to plough, till and sow, to reap bountiful rewards. Window boxes and pots are a great alternative, especially for herbs and spices, and salad vegetables such as tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, radishes and squashes.

Potatoes can also be grown in pots, but if you have a little more space on your balcony, used tires can provide an excellent method: Start by stacking two tires and fill them with soil and several seed potatoes. They will soon start to leaf and sprout potatoes. Once they reach about 10-15cm, you can add the next tire, packing soil around the stems, which will then continue growing up and producing more potatoes. This can be repeated several times, creating a tower of potatoes!



Fruit may be a bit more limited in choice if you can't plant an orchard, but strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants and small citrus and cherry trees are all possible within a confined space.

Growing your own fruit and vegetables is not only healthier – as you know exactly which pesticides, hormones, weed killers and fertilisers you have – or haven't – used, but it also makes you feel both proud and capable, and helps you save a decent amount of money from your grocery shopping too. It will take a bit of patience, but you will learn a great deal about growing conditions, and differences in what can be grown seasonally – and what can't. This also helps us see what fruit and vegetables have to be grown artificially, or flown in a long way to reach the supermarkets, meaning we can not only be healthier and better-off financially, but we can also live more ecologically, reducing our 'carbon footprint' and helping protect the environment.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Take a look at how to grow fruit and veggies in pots:
<https://www.diyncrafts.com/7137/food/35-easiest-container-pot-friendly-fruits-vegetables-herbs>

Article by Mark

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: There is an old Chinese proverb that goes, “*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.*” Perhaps the most important thing to understand from this wise saying is that, although it might have been preferable to have already achieved your goals, it is never too late to try. Time is no limit if you are determined and clear about what you want to achieve in life.

Junko Says: Apart from the homework your teacher sets you, we have various support materials for your English studies at home. We have books of short stories at four levels to help you develop your vocabulary; we have copies of the Japan News so you can read current Japanese news in English, and we have a series of the BBC’s Breaking News (audio) to practice listening with. We can give or lend you any of this material, just check with me in the office.



Mark Says: Serendipity is a considerably sunnier rainy season than I’d expected! I am, however, still adjusting to the concept of wearing more clothes in summer, as I’ve started wearing t-shirts under my work shirts – and protective arm sleeves while cycling. Some say they prefer to hibernate in summer, staying inside with the air-con, but I love finding a sea breeze by the coast or in the mountains... How about you?

Darrin Says: I can’t help thinking back over how much the weather seems to have changed here in Matsuyama over the ten years or more that I’ve been living here. It seems each year that the winter is shorter and the cherry blossoms come into bloom sooner and the rainy season starts just that little bit earlier. I believe it’s due to global warming but what do you think? Is it because of global warming or do you think that there is another reason for it?



Mandcy dit: Platon disait « La musique donne une âme à nos cœurs et des ailes à la pensée. » En effet, le mois de juin est synonyme de musique pour les français. On chante, on danse, on boit du vin et on joue de la musique dans le rue. Rendez-vous donc à Mitsukoshi le 16 et 17 juin pour la fête de la musique.

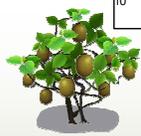
ACROSS

- 1 not by natural means
- 4 start to produce buds or branches
- 8 by comparison
- 9 more than what is needed
- 10 having ability
- 11 arranging in an orderly way
- 13 (hyphenated) in no need of help
- 14 produce in abundance
- 15 a cultivated field of grass

DOWN

- 2 gather, bring in
- 3 areas of ground used to grow vegetables
- 4 place seeds in or on the ground
- 5 work the land by ploughing
- 6 break and turn over earth
- 7 spreading out in different directions
- 12 not free to move or expand

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

