

Last month of autumn and rain at last! What a difference it makes – self-sown seedlings of herbs, lettuce, rocket and mizuna popping up, rhubarb lifting tired stalks, lemons ripened... I managed to scrounge some cow manure from a neighbour's paddock and get it spread before the rain but otherwise am way behind the 8-ball with pruning, cutting back and planting. Garlic and shallots should be in by now, and peas and broad beans - which can be staggered. Time to get in Brassicas for winter crops, and a green manure crop in overworked or spare spaces: a cheap way is to select a handful of different seeds from a produce store – eg broad (fava) beans, lupins, vetch, field pea, oats, wheat.

Having our annual week away in the beautiful Kosciuszko National Park was still worth the delays though.



I wonder what bounty will arrive on Saturday? I'll bring some pomegranates – fewer than usual this year, but bigger and heavier, full of red jewels. Also parsley seedlings and whatever else is feral.



Look forward to seeing you on Saturday for swapping at 10 – I hope the chooks are laying this month!

Cheers – Helen

PS if anyone likes little furry critters you may be interested in a Newham Landcare talk on gliders - see attached flier. Kylie's delightful blog is at <https://lifeontheverge.net/about/>

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