

**Media Release:**

**15.12.08**

## **Community Food Garden Ready to Grow**

Want to grow your own food but don't have space for a garden? The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (GBDBG) is inviting the local community to make use of the newly established Community Food Garden to plant their own garden filled delights of herbs, fruits and vegetables.

GBDBG Curator David Griffiths said the Community Food Garden was developed to address the increasing need and desire of the local community to adopt spaces for their own at a time when space can be hard to find.

"The Botanic Gardens area has a long history of various horticultural ventures and market gardens which date back to the early days of settlement," Mr Griffiths said.

"The newly established garden is about the size of an old Darwin house block and is perfect for people who reside in places where there is little or no space to grow their own food, whilst it also provides access to the expertise of the Botanic Gardens' staff.

"Our staff will be able to assist with advice on suitable edible species in our Top End climate, from the wet season to the dry season, as well as providing tools, plants and water."

Mr Griffiths said some plants that are sure to be popular include bird's eye chilli, lemon grass and coffee whilst exotic tropical fruits including purple mangosteen, black sapote and custard apple are also highly recommended.

"The Community Food Garden is about more than just plants, it's about connecting community, sharing stories and engaging people in the Gardens," Mr Griffiths said.

"Gardening has always been considered to have therapeutic benefits for a healthy mind and body, and here at the Garden's we believe everyone should have access to this relaxing and enjoyable pastime.

"Interested members of the community are already devising ways to develop and enjoy the space for themselves and reflect on the fruits of their labour."

A community reference group has been formed to guide the development of the food garden and we encourage other interested representatives to join with current representatives from Charles Darwin University, the Multicultural Council of NT and the Malak Community garden project.

The Botanic Gardens has developed a partnership with Bunnings who are supplying the necessary tools and equipment for the community food garden.

To register your interest in the Botanic Garden's Community Food Garden contact the Visitor Services Officer on 8981 1958.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact David Griffiths on 8981 1958**

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