



New City

Sarah Davies

ORGANIC GARDENER

PATCH FROM SCRATCH has been going for just over a year. We work mainly with beginner gardeners who want to grow their own vegetables but don't know how. It's a skill that has been lost, unfortunately, as consumerism has taken over. It's quite topical at the moment. I have clients all over Auckland from all generations — the oldest is 84 and the youngest is 22. Some of them want to grow gourmet vegetables, like aubergines or heirloom varieties, some want to be completely sustainable, and others want to subsidise what they buy from the shops. We organise everything from start to finish and we provide a maintenance pack so they can look after it themselves. It's all organic and we use raised beds made from untreated macrocarpa. That way we don't have to deal with all the difficult soil in Auckland. I got into gardening when my first daughter was born. I used to work in PR in England, Ireland and Auckland before that. I was thinking about what to feed her and I became more aware of what pesticides are going into food. I didn't grow my own vegetables. I had herbs but nothing serious. My husband and I had decided to eat organic meat, and I thought it would be silly not to grow a couple of lettuces and it exploded from there. Nearly four years later most of our garden is edible. It's kind of like if you eat healthily then you naturally get all the right vitamins.

AS TOLD TO LAUREN MENTJOX