

Herbs and Vegetables for Chooks

There are a number of common herbs and vegetables that you can grow for your chicken's general health. Herbs can be used to treat chooks for infestations of worms, lice and mites.

Herbs and vegetables for the general health and laying stimulants of poultry include garlic, onion, chickweed, dandelion, fennel, wormwood, rue, cleavers, cress, marigold, mint, comfrey, thyme, marjoram, sage, nasturtium, gotu kola, Spinach, Silverbeet, Kale, rocket and parsley.

Parasitic worms, body lice and mites are the most common problem of chickens. A good preventative for worms in chooks is stinging nettle. Boil the nettle, and then add the liquid to mash when it is cold.

Garlic is also the best organic treatment for worms. Put several cloves of crushed garlic into half a cup of water and soak overnight. You can give this to the chooks by using an eyedropper or by putting the liquid formula into the chooks drinking water for a week.

A few other herbs besides the ones above can be used on a regular basis to treat worms. Once a month you can feed your chooks the leaves of horseradish, garlic, wormwood, tansy, elder, santolina, rue and hyssop. These herbs can be mixed with onions, grated carrots, mustard and pumpkin seeds which then are added to your chooks feed at a rate of about 20%. Another herb that you can use is Nasturtium leaves and seeds. They have antiseptic and medicinal properties which are also good for worms.

Lice and mites are yet another common problem for poultry. Southernwood, wormwood and mugwort, tansy and fennel are good insect repellents for your chooks. Grow these herbs near the chook pen and this will help to control these external parasites because the chooks will brush past them or they will nibble on them. Other good insecticidal herbs are rosemary, catnip, feverfew, lavender and pennyroyal.

The insect repelling herbs can be given fresh to your chooks, thrown on the ground in your chook pen or dried and added to their food. When the herbs are used as food the chooks will only eat what they need.

Below is more descriptive information on some of the beneficial herbs for your chooks.

Comfrey is rich in protein and is very nutritious for chooks. It has high levels of potassium and calcium and a good source of amino acids. Those chooks fed that are fed comfrey daily will have good health and produce golden yolks.

Chickweed is often called a weed during the cooler months of the year. It is a favourite green tonic for chooks.

Feverfew is related to pyrethrum but not as strong. It has lots of flowers and self-seeds easily. The flowers and leaves can be made onto a tea and sprayed on your chooks to control lice and mites.

Gotu Kola is a creeping plant that likes damp part shade and can also be grown in water. The leaves can be used as a tonic and fed to the chooks. It can also be used externally for skin conditions.

Nasturtiums have antiseptic and antibiotic properties and it is also a great wormer. It also helps to repel insects.

Nettles are high in a range of vitamins and minerals and are a great tonic herb. They are a preventative against worms and can be dried and added to comfrey to stimulate egg laying.

At "The Greenhouse" we have put together three varieties of "Chook Seed Packs".

Chook Vegie Mix

Kale – Scotch, Red Russian, Rocket, Silverbeet, Spinach

Chook Herb Mix

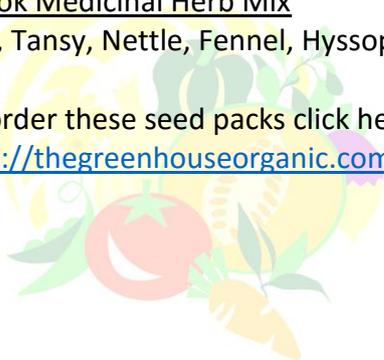
Parsley, Thyme, Marjoram, Nasturtium, Dandelion

Chook Medicinal Herb Mix

Rue, Tansy, Nettle, Fennel, Hyssop

To order these seed packs click here to download order form

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