

TOPIC : UNUSUAL PLANTS, GARDEN TIPS & TECHNIQUES & BULBS

GUEST SPEAKER : RUSSELL YOUNG – Theo's Nursery and Garden
Centre, Kallangur

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 28 APRIL 2015

- Dwarf Chrysanthemums love cool weather in sunny spot. Prune just below spent flower heads for a second flush
- African Violets need 8 hours of darkness to bloom well – similarly Poinsettia and Zygocactus. Yellow or green electric light will not interrupt blooming cycle as plants regard them as blackness
- Under a street light affects flowering cycles of plants that need 8 hours darkness eg Poinsettia will only bloom well on the side not exposed to the street light
- Debud Marguerite or Federation Daisy before planting. They will double or triple in size within weeks
- French Lavender likes a cooler mediterranean climate – well drained soil so not too wet – similarly with Hydrangeas (don't over tend)
- Garlic Vine (Pseudocalymma) blooms in autumn – purple/lavender flowers. Leaves have garlic odour when crushed
- Cardinal Creeper has aggressive root system and heavy foliage which needs a strong support structure, well drained position and sun. Do not over water
- Bandino Bougainvilleas are all singles, hundreds of colours – full sun shrub version ideal for pots and hanging baskets. Thorny as all bougs, small root system so handle carefully when repotting. Prunes well
- Loropetalum 'Plum Gorgeous' has dark burgundy leaves and deep pink tassled flowers – will grow to 2 metres – great informal hedge or container plant
- Variegated Dwarf Umbrella Tree – evergreen, attractive and hardy
- Cooler weather good for vibrant colour of Crotons
- Mix plants in large pots for effect eg Cordyline, Croton, Impatiens and Oregano
- Cape Angel Wings related to sage, coleus
- Balinese Resort Iris aka Fairy Iris has lemon flowers and stays in clumps unlike Walking Iris
- Poinsettia Compact Form for pots also in white – sales support Breast Cancer Research
- Cassia Javanica (Java Cassia – Apple Blossom Shower) has pink flowers and grows to massive size like Poinciana
- Crossed Cassia Fistula with Cassia Javanica produces pink clusters on top of tree and yellow cascades below – called Rainbow Shower
- Robinia is thorny and produces fragrant wisteria-like flowers – grows to 12m

- Native Finger Lime grafted onto Flying Dragon rootstock – very thorny – grows to 2m. Fruit like citrus caviar. Exported to France - \$100 per kg
- Indian Mast Tree 6 – 8m high – good for avenue planting with a symmetrical pyramidal growth
- Russell grows all pot plants in coco peat plus some sand, potting mix and fertiliser –especially good for Anthuriums. Can plant more than one in a larger pot for varied colour effect
- Ctenanthe – green and gold – good for pots and back drop screen
- Calathea is easy to grow and divide
- Bromeliads don't flower each year. Pups take 18months to 2 years to flower. Soft leaves like shade while silver and rough edged leaves will take sun
- White Bat Plant needs a sheltered, shady area in pot and likes humidity
- Cordyline leaves spiral. Cuttings very easy to strike and grow
- Potatoes will grow in pots. Also on a bench or on top of ground in a mix of straw, paper, potting mix, blood and bone. Plant during cooler months – April, May, June, July – for best tuber production. Not too much lime or dolomite
- Oxalis with plum coloured leaves and lavender flowers likes half sun – don't overwater
- Lipstick Plant likes small pot or basket and dry conditions
- Impatiens like winter sun and summer shade – ideal for pots and garden
- Recharge Fertiliser (Searles). Sprinkle on top of pots. Use every 4 months for hanging baskets which lose nutrients quicker and dry out
- Companion plant radish and carrot seeds. Radish grows faster than carrot and can be harvested first

Russell is branching out into garden design.

For further information view his Web Page – <www.russellyounggardendesigns.com>