

TOPIC: "UNUSUAL FERNS + OLD & NEW RELEASES"

GUEST SPEAKER : RUSSELL YOUNG

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 30 MAY, 2017 UNDER THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

- Make the most of Autumn to plant vegetables and herbs, divide plants and refurbish the garden – best time of year by far as Spring gets hot too quickly
- Autumn is also the best time for tomatoes – terminate and interminate varieties. Tumbler cherry tomatoes are good for hanging baskets growing to about 1m and plants fill out
- Use Recharge Power Feed and Fish Emulsion - water in at ground level. Always water plants at ground level to prevent stem and leaf disease
- Four varieties of Zucchini seedlings in one punnet are good to plant but Carrots are not – seeds are better. Best to plant Carrots and Radish together – need very little fertilizer
- Don't thread creepers through fence or lattice – tie them like bougainvillea which will wreck both if threaded through
- Trim Alyssum with scissors to encourage regrowth
- Larkspur in mixed colours creates a colourful display – can save seed for next year
- Dwarf Sweet Peas 'Bijou' flower early and through Winter – good in plenty of sun and well drained soil but not too much fertilizer
- Tall Snapdragons need staking. Pansies are great in gardens and vases
- Ornamental, inedible Kale makes a good table decoration
- Ranunculi are Russell's favourite corm – beautiful massed colour
- Old fashioned Gerbera is a very hardy plant for good cut flowers. Ideal in built up bed with good drainage essential. Divide plants in Spring
- Roses in pots can be top and root pruned and re-potted – very tough
- Mexican Flowering Fern looks like holly leaves – good for planting in a sheltered spot under camellias or azaleas
- Halberd Fern is wonderful for massed understory planting
- Hand Fern has lime coloured new growth – don't plant in garden as will take over – best in baskets or pots
- Native Kangaroo Fern grows well in the fork of a tree
- Frog Foot Fern is best in a self watering pot
- Osaka good for tubs – similar to Crows Nest Fern
- Three in One Fern gets 3 different fronds on the same plant
- Hen & Chicken Fern originated in New Zealand but is claimed as Australian
- Plastic Hen & Chicken Fern is a slow grower (Asplenium Moran's Blue)
- King Fern has the biggest fronds in the world – up to 5m long. Grows naturally in Carnarvon Gorge and Fraser Island and has been found fossilised with dinosaurs
- Pot new and re-pot old ferns in Winter as they will suffer setbacks if weather too hot
- Now is the time to plant Daisies and prune existing to encourage growth. Three weeks before desired display stop de-heading and fertilize for strong flowering. Take cuttings if you think you are losing a plant
- 'Silver Dust' Cineraria is an underrated plant
- Liquorice Plant grows to ¾m H & ½m W with silver foliage – good hanging basket specimen
- French Lavender best for Brisbane conditions flowering 6 – 9 months. Sprinkle lime on the leaves to discourage disease

- Dichondra 'Silver Falls' is the easiest of all silver plants to grow in hanging baskets
- Casuarina 'Cousin It' is great for hanging baskets
- Grevillea 'Loopy Lou' is a fast grower to .5m H & 1.5m W. Excellent for smaller gardens, has large flowers that change from yellow pink and red
- Grevillea 'Peaches & Cream' (Russell's favourite) new release growing 1.5m to 2m H with yellow flowers which birds love
- Grevillea 'Soopa Doopa' has a tight natural habit - hardy shrub 1m x 1m with fernlike foliage and large peach to red, yellow and orange flowers. Keep roots intact when planting
- Grevillea 'Ivory Whip' grafted variety to 2m which loves sun. Has dense habit with ivory white flowers pale pink in the centre
- Orange Browallia is great for a cottage garden look
- Angelonia flowers for 9 months – keep cutting flowers so more bloom
- Golden Dollar Bush has bright yellow flowers, is very hardy, can sucker, needs pruning
- Callistemon 'Bronwen' – new release – dense small to medium bushy shrub 2 -3m H with brilliant pink /red flowers mid to late Spring
- Silver Platinum Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum) to 1m. Leaves and flowers will burn in sun
- Peperomia is underrated. Good in pots – shallow rooted
- Whitfieldia Elongata 'White Candles' flowers well in shade
- Osmanthus Fragrans to 2m. Good hedge or screen plant, prunes well, is very fragrant
- Callistemon 'All Aglow' to 2.5 – 3m new release very adaptable, great for hedges with luminous pink new growth and bright pink-red brushes
- Callistemon 'Red Alert' to 2.5 – 3m compact with vibrant deep red new growth in Autumn and Spring. Brushes are cerise-pink. Great native alternative to exotic hedges and is low maintenance
- Best time to use Recharge Fertilizer when re-potting plants is to sprinkle in when pot is half full
- Oxalis Triangularis the false shamrock plant known as purple shamrock or wood sorrel has lavender to deep burgundy leaves. Re-pot now
- Strobilanthes Carnelian has two colour cream and burgundy leaves and prunes well
- Variegated Mock Orange 'Summer Snow' not yet released. Developed by Parker's Nursery in NSW. Has cream and green leaves with very fragrant white flowers

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