

TOPIC: "PELARGONIUMS AND GERANIUMS"

GUEST SPEAKER : HELEN RATTENBURY

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 31 OCTOBER, 2017 UNDER THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

- Pelargonium Laxham has thick, fleshy leaves and is regarded as a succulent
- P. Geranium is the Crane's Bills with flowers in sets of five. P's are the Stork's Bills
- Herb Robert is a G. Herbertium- a true G, world's 1st yellow flowering G - zonal flowers
- P's and G's need spraying – Helen uses Yates Zaleton, 11 drops to 9 litres water for rust and fungal infection. Take cutting underneath node – cut straight across (cut again if black rot spot is present) as cut will seal a lot quicker and roots will develop only around node
- For stem cuttings with no growing tip cut top at 45°angle so water runs off. Usually plant two nodes under soil. For tip cuttings a good length is length of thumb from tip to base. Remove all but two small top leaves. P's are usually Regals. Some have coloured leaves
- Verona is the toughest P known – gold with butterfly blotch in leaf centre zone
- P hybrids – Pretty Girl is a cross between ivy and zonal types and is a spreading plant
- Millfield Gem has huge heads of white flowers with pink centres. Rosebud Gem flowers look like the Cecil Brunner rose bloom
- Do not sit P or G pot in saucer of water as will rot
- Fairy Floss is a mauve flowered ivy G - needs tip pruning for lateral growth and bushiness in hanging basket. Fairy Road has gerbosium in its heritage like Mr Gouty. Old Gouty or Mr Gouty has swollen joints at nodes - deciduous.
- Plant ivy G/P in a large pot with a wire ring to support
- Anton Krosie is a hybrid and good hanging basket specimen
- Big Red strikes easily and is a good hanging basket specimen
- Rose Irene's flower is pink with white centre – shorter, stockier plant
- Rita's Daughter has long stemmed hot pink flowers and patterned leaves
- Apple Blossom Rose Bud doesn't flower well. Vera Dillon has better growth in the garden
- Bow Tie is a salmon pink single bloom with broad petals
- Dwarf Oak is brilliant in large pot - purple flowers with chocolate blot on leaves in winter
- P denticulatum is upright with pineapple scented leaves
- African Spice has very fine leaves with flowers on tips of plant
- Prince Rupert is lemon scented with small butterfly flowers
- Lemon Rose - upright sculptural plant.
- Chocolate Peppermint -upright growth, pink flowers, peppermint aroma, choc blotch leaf
- P Enslie is a sprawler and great ground cover covered in lavender balls
- P Scarborough looks like Mabel Grey- v strong upright growth. Mabel Grey not as strong
- Sweet Mimosa is a big, strong growing plant with small pink flowers
- Charmaine Cocky came out about 10 years ago- pale pink to white petals
- Both P and G prefer dry conditions
- Helen adds sand to all potting mixes. She uses Rocky Point and cheap Woolies mix. To the latter she adds cow manure, blood and bone and ½ coir peat and sand. This turns cheap mix into a good one
- Prune in March, fertilise June, July, August with high nitrogen fertiliser followed by a fruit and flower fertiliser in Spring
- Helen lives and cultivates P and G at Jimboomba

END