

TOPIC: "CLEVER GARDENING IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND"

GUEST SPEAKER : IAN AND JUDY WINTLE

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 31 JULY 2018 UNDER THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

The Giving Garden – 6 most important things to have a successful garden :

- 1. Soils. It's rare to get really good soil from a landscape yard as most have a high pH. To improve soil add plenty of rich compost. Add liquid kelp soil conditioner 'Natrakelp' made from Tasmanian bull kelp in a factory near Maroochydore and mainly sold to farmers
- 2. Compost. Returns nutrients to soil, is water holding, encourages living organisms, reduces waste, helps the environment. It also needs air to mature and organic matter. Drill several large holes in plastic pipes, place vertically in compost, tops visible for air flow
- 3. Manures. Horse, mushroom etc. Ian and Judy use Rocky Point Active 8 on their veggie garden and also in their potting mix
- 4. Composting Worms. Use coarse mulch – sugar cane mulch is very good
- 5. Urea. It accelerates composting process. Use also on pine bark to age it
- 6. Water and Water Features. Regular watering is essential for a successful garden. I and J paid \$2,500 to have a bore drilled on their property but unfortunately it was a failure as only salt water was produced. They then installed 7 rain water tanks with a total capacity of 110,000 litres. To make a simple water feature coat the inside of a large clay pot with Crommelin waterproof sealer. Vinyl liners will not last in ponds. Rubber liners last 30 years. Sikka marine varnish will stick liners to rocks etc. Do not use ordinary white plastic as liner
- Ian uses Crown 22 as a systemic insecticide. He uses Sempra for nutgrass and Mullumbimby couch - \$45 for 25g. He uses a squirt of Morning Fresh washing up detergent as a wetting agent when mixing weed killers
- Raw sugar dissolved makes a good fungicide – molasses is also good
- Use moisturising lotion before applying insect repellent for longer lasting results
- Use oven cleaner foam to thoroughly clean secateurs
- Organic fertiliser is best – 'Organic Link'. 'Crop King 88' for lawns. Searles 'Flourish' for broms. Native bees are great for any garden. Tiger grass stalks make great stakes
- Save mango crop with string of lights in tree to deter flying foxes – won't stop possums
- Use a limb sheath to protect arms when working with broms or roses
- Use whiteout pen to label black pots - \$110 for Brother label maker
- Ian recommends - Fiskars tools made in Finland; Howse mowers; Husqvarna ride on; Japanese blowers and whipper snippers; Silky saws; Gardena watering tools; Hozelock sprayers and hose reels; 9kg gas bottles being more economical than renting larger ones
- For broms use a mixture of 10-15ml bark, perlite, coir and potting mix
- I and J have 70 varieties of 'amorphophallus' – flowers last 4-5 days. Smell like road kill. Also have 52 varieties of 'costus' - easy to propagate from stem cuttings after flowering
- For Spring colour plant Blue Mist, Hippeastrums, Clivias, Crinum, Cooktown Orchid
- For Winter colour plant Ruellia, Giant Shrimp Plant, Poinsettia, Cardinal Creeper, Hoya

The Giving Garden, 5 Carlton Court, Birkdale will be open on 17-18 November, 2018 for a plant sale and open garden. Admission \$5. \$60,000 raised for charity over 16 years from this garden

CONTACT web sites – www.ianjudy.blogspot.com www.gardenproductreviews.com
www.facebook.com/birkdalegarden

END