

TOPIC : **“BAPTISING YOUR PLANTS FOR SUMMER”**.

GUEST SPEAKER : **PHIL RYAN – PHIL’S ORGANICS**

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 28 MAY 2019 AT THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

- Liquid amber leaves are loaded with minerals – great for composting. Mix liquid amber leaves with potting mix also
- To save water, hose once a week. Place comfrey leaves in hole then plant
- Squeeze plastic pot and if soft, plant’s roots have not filled pot so OK. If firm, repot plant
- Mix 1 capful of liquid kelp and ½ cup Epsom salts in a litre or so of water, soak pot plant until it stops gurgling – about 2 minutes – to ensure dry centre benefits
- Put a couple of pieces of polystyrene in bottom of pots before potting up
- Use vermiculite in potting mix and in garden when planting out. Also put a layer of vermiculite gravel on top. Place small pot in slightly larger pot to create an air barrier to keep plant cool. Outer pot gets very hot while inner pot stays cool
- There are 10 – 12 ingredients in Phil’s potting mix including vermiculite gravel; perlite; dry seaweed; cow manure; mushroom compost; palagonite; blended vermiculite
- Dip cuttings in honey and plant in Phil’s seed raising mix. His orchid feeder bags are also good for bromeliads. Good drainage is essential
- Orchids should be repotted every two years. They love being sprayed with molasses and liquid seaweed. Wind dries out all plants
- Using liquid seaweed produces 11 hands of bananas instead of eight
- Seasol is not much better than lolly water as 50% of good nutrients are sucked out and replaced with chemicals and is black in colour. Light brown colour indicates quality
- Good reading – ‘A Spanner in the Works’ by Alice Anderson
- There are 60,000 species of earth worms. They have no lungs so breathe through their skin. They open soil and let air and water in. They eat their own body weight per day and can regenerate a new head if it is chopped off by garden spade etc
- To stop big pots from drying out, use garden fork to create holes, then water with liquid seaweed which will heal any damage to roots. Once moist, insert fork again and wriggle back and forth. Then poke vermiculite into holes to hold moisture
- Orchid mix is very fibrous so spray leaves with liquid seaweed
- Crusher dust is good drainage material but does not hold moisture
- Perlite does not stay embedded in potting mix and will float to the top but Vermiculite will stay throughout soil and is better than Perlite
- Phil celebrated his 79th Birthday in April 2019

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