

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Winter 2021

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The Maleny Garden Club extends a warm invitation to all members and visitors to attend the monthly general meetings held on the last Tuesday of each month, as per program for the year.

From the Editor.

Dear all.

Well winter is here at last. There are a few, not many mind you, benefits to winter:

The lawns no longer require mowing twice weekly, the white butterfly has expired for the season and a warm bed becomes most inviting. However, the weeds continue unabated.

I have a few items in Snippets that I hope you find interesting and informative interspersed with a bit of humour.

Thank you Emily Jeffery for your article -much appreciated.

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Yes This is Us!

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

HOWEVER, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was **NOT** the senior citizens who took;

- The melody out of music,*
- The pride out of appearance,*
- The courtesy out of driving,*
- The romance out of love,*
- The commitment out of marriage,*
- The responsibility out of parenthood,*

- The togetherness out of the family,*
- The learning out of education*
- The service out of patriotism,*
- The Golden Rule from rulers,*
- The nativity scene out of cities,*
- The civility out of behaviour,*
- The refinement out of language,*
- The dedication out of employment,*
- The prudence out of spending,*
- The ambition out of achievement or*
- God out of government and school.*

And we are certainly **NOT** the ones who eliminated **patience** and **tolerance** from personal relationships and interactions with others!!



There are only seven colours in the rainbow. Look what Nature has done with them.





I found the following article in one of our comprehensive camellia gardening books and as we have some fine camellias growing on the range, I thought this might be good advice for those of us who have them in our gardens.

Camellias

Mulching and Feeding:

The essential elements for a balanced fertiliser are blood, sulphate of ammonia, hoof and horn to supply nitrogen. Bone meal, superphosphate to supply phosphate, while sulphate of potash supplies potassium.

Some of the new artificial fertilisers are extremely concentrated. I know that 15g (1/2oz) to the sq m. seems insignificant but if that amount is recommended then do not exceed it.

A first class feed for your camellias is short cow manure which is a cow manure chopped up into small lengths –not a special kind from little cows! Spread a 5cm (2in) layer over the camellia area, keeping it away from the trunk of the camellia. Camellias are dainty feeders and if you mulch the ground with cow manure in springtime it should provide sufficient food for the year. Remove the spent manure the following springtime and replace it with well rotted cow manure.

Chicken guano is extremely concentrated manure. It is better mixed in the compost heap where combined with vegetable matter it makes an excellent compost. Do not use chicken guano or similar highly concentrated manures directly around camellias, You can suspend the chicken guano wrapped in

hessian(burlap) in a tub of water. Dilute the liquid manure to the colour of weak tea and apply it.

Important points to Remember

1. Dampen the ground around the tree before applying fertiliser. Copiously water in the fertiliser after applying it.
2. Camellia roots probe for yards just below the surface seeking out food and because the roots are close to the surface they are vulnerable to all sorts of abuse from spades, forks, hoes, fertilisers and weed killer. Spare a thought for your camellia roots when working in the area.
3. Young plants suffer most from excessive fertiliser dressing. Don't use lime around camellias, unless the ground is too acid for the plant. As that is unlikely, seek competent advice before applying lime to a camellia soil.
4. The diameter of the tree branch canopy will give you a rough idea of the camellia root area, which is a useful guide when applying fertilisers but it is not exact.
5. Any spent cow manure left over from last year should be raked up and composted. Renew with well rotted farmyard manure. Such work should be done in springtime.
6. There is no need, if you are using a complete camellia fertiliser bought from the nursery man, to remove the litter from around the camellia. Just rake the litter to one side, apply the fertiliser and replace litter.. The litter will act as a filter, mulch and protection for the roots.

Answers to some Common Problems.

In this section, in response to the many and varied enquiries I receive, are answers to common problems associated with cultivating camellias.

Q, *What causes bud drop?*

- a. Too wet soil.
- b. Too dry a soil.
- c. A deficiency in plant foods- it could be that you have fed your camellias but some greedy old tree has taken it all
- d. Insects can cause damage to camellia root..
- e. Late buds will drop off as spring approaches.
- f. Your tree could have a glut of buds and the tree says this is too much by shedding enough to lighten the load.
- g. Fungus in the bud scales
- h. Insects eating the outside of the stalk (girdling) will cause the bud to die and drop off.
- i. Good old fashioned gales will certainly cause bud drop.

j. Little boys with big sticks can be guaranteed to remove more than a few buds.

Q. I bought a camellia which was supposed to be a 'Moshio. When it came into flower the colour of the bloom was different from that of my friend's 'Moshio'. Have I been sold a dud?

Not necessarily. Flower colour variations occur from different soils and through use of different fertilisers. I have seen a dozen 'Moshios' on a show bench and all of them a different shade.

Nitrogen and potash fertilisers, or the lack of them, can effect colour production. Camellia blooms produced in sandy soils can be a different shade from those produced in clay soils.

Q. Why do my camellia blooms ball and hardly open?
There are various causes why buds ball.

a. It is a complaint of camellias growing close to the sea. The salt deposits carried in by the wind form solutions, causing the petals to stick together.

b. It could be early morning damage. I have seen camellias that faced directly into the early morning sunshine and the buds just would not open. They swelled, balled and dropped off.

c. Bud balling could be insect damage. Check for physical damage about the bud, particularly on the flower stalks. If there is such damage treat with insecticide.

d. If a tree has too many buds, it reaches a point where the flowers will not open unless you lighten the load.

e. Camellias are crossbred to produce new cultivars and the resulting cross is a combination of the genes from each parent. Perhaps the hybrid has inherited bad traits, such as bud failure from one of its parents.

Simpson A.G.W (1978) The colourful World of Camellias. Rigby Publishers.

(There are more questions and answers on camellia problems that I would like to place in September's issue if you would like?)

Making a Politician;

A man buys a horse from a farmer for \$500. The next day the farmer calls the man to tell the horse has died. "That's okay, just give me back my \$500.

The farmer explains that he can't because he has already spent the money.

"Well, deliver the dead horse then", the man requested.

"What are you going to do with a dead horse" asked the farmer. "Raffle it off" was the reply.

By this time the farmer is starting to think this fellow is a nut case and will end up in trouble.

Well after a month or two the farmer calls the man to ask what happened to the dead horse. "I sold 1000 tickets at \$5 each, that's \$5000.

The farmer asked "were the ticket holders upset when they found out the horse was dead"?

"Only the winner found out and I gladly gave him back his \$5. On the other hand I made a profit of \$4495".

I wish I had him in my family.

Contributed by Emily Jeffery



DID YOU KNOW.

The bird displayed as the icon on Twitter's logo is named Larry. Biz Strong, the co founder of Twitter names him after former NBA player Larry Bird.

A lobster's blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue

The Club's Objectives are: – To further knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture. – To raise awareness in the club and community of local environment and to encourage planting of local indigenous species. – To enjoy social interaction between members of this and similar clubs.

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