



SNIPPETS

Spring 2004

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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.

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.

From the President - Peter Golledge

This year we have had a good attendance at every club meeting. I hope this continues for the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 28 th September. In previous years we have had the AGM at the Maleny Community Hall but this venue is unavailable on the date and we have arranged to use the Masonic Hall. The meeting will commence at 10 am and will be followed by a speaker and also a lunch. Although some persons may find the business of the AGM somewhat dull, we are required by the club constitution to hold one. Our Secretary and Librarian are resigning from these positions and we are seeking replacements.

We have also decided to dispense with holding a monthly meeting after the AGM, since experience shows that this is poorly attended. I hope, therefore, that you will support your Club's AGM, as you have supported monthly meetings.

A sub Committee of the Club is exploring the option of holding a Camellia Show in June of next year, to coincide with the Art Show organised by the Anglican Church. If this were to proceed as a club function, it would replace the Spring Fair and would require a considerable amount of organizing. You will be kept advised of progress.

I thank all of you who made suggestions for 2005 garden topics. These will be analysed, speakers sourced, members requested to provide gardens and included in the program.

Garden Tip



To make up 'Flower Food' for your cut flowers mix the following: A few drops of bleach, 1 teaspoon of sugar, 1 teaspoon white vinegar into a vase of water. This will keep water fresh longer.



Birds in Your Garden

To attract birds into your garden you only need to do a couple of simple things.

Have at least one birdbath but two are preferable as one is best hidden away for those shy little birds.

Plant some trees and shrubs that will attract birds. Native plants are good but camellias, cestrum and many other flowering exotic shrubs are attractive to some birds too.

Visit the website of the Gould League at www.gould.edu.au - use the flora & fauna section and you can find out how to design a wildlife garden.

What's In A Name?

The name Mistletoe comes from the anglo saxon 'mistel' -for dung and 'tan' for twig, put these together with some spelling change and you have 'dung on a twig' which is exactly how mistletoe comes into being.

Thoughts:

He who plants a garden plants happiness. If you want to be happy for a lifetime, plant a garden.

Chinese Proverb

and

A garden created with imagination, love and care is not a selfish endeavour, for, such a delight can be shared by all. Alex Gardinea

Spring Reading



A review of some of our library books on fruit and vegetable growing.

Gourmet Gardening by the editors of Organic Gardening Magazine.

This book is published in the US so allowances have to be made for different climate and seasons. The history, growing conditions and directions for sowing, planting and tending are given for a surprising mixture of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. They include asparagus, beans, celtuce, cardoons and daylily tubers. A recipe is included in each entry. Illustrations are in black and white only, but it is quite an interesting book.

--Future Events

- 26&27 Aug. Garden Club's **Springtime in Maleny** Flower Show, Community Hall
- 31 August **Club Meeting at home of Gary Crew. Meet at the Masonic Hall 8:45am for car pool as parking is difficult. BYO lunch.**
- 3 & 4 Sept. Red Cross (Sunnybank Branch) Chelsea Flower Show, 121 Mains Rd. Sunnybank.
- 3,4 & 5 Sept. Qld Orchid Soc. Spring Show *
- 9,10,11Sept. Laidley Spring Flower Festival & Red Cross Chelsea Flower Show.
- 11&12 Sept. Aust. Wildflower Spectacular *
- 11&12 Sept. Buderim Garden Festival & Garden Walk
- 11&12 Sept. Redlands Green 'n Grow, Cleveland Showgrounds
- 18 Sept. Twin Towns & District Flower Show, Tweed Heads Civic Centre
- 18&19 Sept. West Brisbane Orchid Soc. Spring Show*
- 18&19 Sept. Toowoomba Geranium Soc. Annual Show, Masonic Centre, Neil St. Toowoomba
- 18&19 Sept. Spring Flower Show, Peachester Hall
- 18-26 Sept. Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba
- 25&26 Sept. Geranium & Pelargonium Soc. Show *
- 28 Sept. **Club's AGM at Masonic Hall 10:00am bring a plate for lunch.**
- 1,2,3 Oct. Tamborine Mtn. 'Springtime on the Mountain', Eagle Heights Hotel Mountain Resort.
- 1,2,3 Oct. Qld Rose Society Spring Show *
- 8&9 Oct. Stanthorpe Garden Club Gardenfest & Trade Fair
- 9 October Monto Garden Club Expo
- 9&10 Oct. Darling Downs Rose Soc. Show, Holy Name Catholic Church Hall, Bridge St, Toowoomba
- 9&10 Oct. Royal Horticultural Society of Qld Show *
- 16&17 Oct. Bonsai Society of Qld Show *
- 23&24 Oct. African Violet Society of Qld show *
- 26 October **Club Meeting home of Peter & Margaret Owens, 15 Beechwood Rd, Maleny. BYO lunch.**
- 13 Nov. Gold Coast Rose Soc. & Gold Coast Floral Art Soc. Show, Robinia Community Centre, Robinia
- 14 Nov. Daylily Flower Show & Live Country Music, Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights.
- 21 Nov. Brisbane Daylily Society Show.
- 30 November **Christmas Lunch, place to be advised. Time 11:30am**

Those marked * are at the Mt Coot-tha auditorium.

Garden Tips



Colin Campbell

- An application of sulphate of potash to gerberas will help strengthen the cell walls and prevent stems from drooping.

- An organically based fertilizer is best for roses. Make sure it's high in potash and that the potash is in the form of sulphate of potash.
- Turn indoor plants every few weeks so the whole plant receives an equal amount of light.
- Generally speaking, yellow roses are harder to grow in our climate than other coloured roses.
- Don't tip milk that's past its use by date down the sink, add water and pour it over plants. It helps with disease control.
- Avoid planting wind-pollinated plants if anyone in the household suffers from hay-fever.
- To conserve moisture in terracotta pots, paint the inside with an acrylic paint.
- Place fly-wire over the drainage holes of pots to stop the potting mix from 'escaping'.
- A raised garden bed is easier for planting, weeding and harvesting vegetables as well as providing good drainage.
- Aerate the lawn by piercing it with a fork at regular intervals. Get the fork down as far as you can.



Lunch & Tea Roster

The President will bring milk for tea & coffee. Pick up necessary teapots, etc from previous month's meeting and take home in readiness for your turn. If unable to attend on your rostered day, **please arrange to have someone replace you.** Our helpers are:

September 28th - AGM in the Masonic Hall - Norma McLeod and Ivy Cox

October 26th - Joan Swift, Terry Rowan & Jodie Rowen-Robbins

November 30th - Christmas Lunch

Tea Time!

Your herb garden can provide new taste sensations with uplifting herbal teas. Tisanes are teas made from herb leaves. Try using rosemary, lemon grass or mint. Just steep 3 teaspoons of chopped herb of your choice in boiling water for about 5 minutes.

You will have a refreshing and healthy cuppa.

Social Snippets - Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc.

Happy Birthday to Alan Webster, our Patron who recently turned 85.

Rosemary Simmons is away for 10 days in Melbourne and Victoria and is looking forward to some cool weather.

Anne Siemon is currently overseas enjoying a visit to family and Di Engler is in N.Z. for a couple of weeks.

New Members.

A big welcome to our new members.

Di Begbie, Pat Weaver, Kay Eastmuir

We look forward to your participation in the club's activities.

Nasturtium (nass-stir-shum) - *Tropaeolum majus*

Just because they are easy to grow, don't overlook these colourful annuals for your garden.

Why are they so good? They now come in many colours: these include red, orange, mahogany, brown, bright yellow, lemon and cream; they will climb, trail or clump; they are easy care and add old fashioned charm and colour to the garden; they are also good as cut flowers. What's more you can eat the flowers, leaves and seeds and they look particularly good growing in the vegie patch.

Grow them from seed in spring, sowing straight into the ground. They like sun or part shade and moderate soil moisture. They will find the place that they like to grow best. There is no need to fertilize. Just leave them alone and they will cross-pollinate and you will soon have a lovely mix of jewel colours.

Grow them near blue/purple flowering plants like *Nepeta* (catmint) and *salvias* for great colour contrasts. Mounding ones look good in pots too. Alaska has variegated leaves.

So go ahead and beg or buy some seeds this spring.

One for the men.

The bridge.

A man walking along a Californian beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden, he said out loud, "Lord, grant me one wish."

Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me always, I will grant you one wish".

The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want to." The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the logistics of that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish you think would honour and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing', and how I can make a woman truly happy."

After a few minutes God said, "Your want two lanes on the bridge or four?" *Thanks to Leonie Loch for this contribution.*



Seasonal Tasks –

September –

- Rejuvenate pots and hanging baskets using good potting mix. Trim roots and foliage before returning to the container. Add water crystals if mix is very free draining.
- Avoid losing young plants to snails and other pests, which are active as the weather warms up.
- Lightly prune shrubs and trees after flowering.
- Make sure roses, which were planted during winter, are kept watered.
- Plant some veggies in pots to maximize the growing period ahead.

October –

- Watch out for aphids and thrip.
- Keep water up to flowering plants and lawns.
- Control weeds before they take over, then mulch.
- Fertilize Irises after flowering every second year. Remove spent rhizomes.
- Plant out tomato seedlings.
- Keep planting summer crops.

November –

- Keep roses well mulched. Never allow plants to dry out.
- Use liquid fertilizer on vegies and summer annuals. Remember high nitrogen promotes leaf and plant growth; potash promotes flower and fruit.
- If you have space, Jap pumpkins do well.
- Raise the mower blade to allow photosynthesis in higher temperatures.
- Summer flowering climbers flower for a long period. Not all are invasive.
- Find a lovely garden book and sow the idea of a lovely Christmas gift to you from the family.

Pat Powell

Quote: God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done. Anon



Useful Websites & Information

www.perennialresource.com This site gives lots of information about perennial plants.

www.greenbook.com.au If you love gardening books and are looking for that one that is a bit special visit this site where you can buy online.

www.plant.id.au The best place to buy pre-loved plants; sell pre-loved plants; search for plants; find a professional horticulturist or landscaper. Also lists garden clubs etc.

www.qcgc.net This is the site for the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs. It gives info on what is happening in the various clubs and also its own events. Maleny Garden Club website can also be reached through the links button on this site.

Dos and Don'ts in the Garden

Do take a little time to get the feel of your new garden before making any drastic changes.

Do consider the various aspects in your garden when planting trees, as they are costly mistakes to remove.

Don't over-plant for a quick look, you will regret it.

Do provide clean water for the birds in your garden.

Do plant some things that are bird attracting.

Don't overlook common plants that grow without fuss.

Save your energy for some of those 'special' plants that need attention.

Do consider the 'look' of your garden. Try to keep to one style eg cottage, native etc or at least make garden rooms.

Don't create a garden where many or all of the plants need cutting back regularly. Check the size of the plant when buying and then add some for our soil & climate.

Don't be afraid of moving a plant if it isn't doing well or is in the wrong place. Exceptions are most natives and Michelias. For deciduous & roses wait until they are dormant.

Do try to colour coordinate your garden beds.

Don't put your oranges and yellows next to your pinks.

Break up colours that might clash, with grey or silver foliage or cream and white flowering plants. Blue also calms down a border.

Do mix your natives and exotics. (many of our local species go very well with exotic plants and you are more likely to attract native birds)

Don't plant things that are likely to become pests in the local environment. (many berry fruiting plants are spread by Currawongs etc)

Do try to garden organically. Only go for the 'big guns' if all else fails. We are only minders of this environment for the next generation.

Do visit or join Barung Landcare as they have so many good plants for the garden.

Don't despair, remember that a garden is never finished; it is a work in progress.

Do sit back and enjoy your garden. Why else would you do all that work?

From hard learned experience – Rosemary Simmons

Bright Remarks!!

From a TV commentator at the Olympic Games as the equestrian medals were being awarded:

"They couldn't have done it without their horses."

Quiz - Can you match the names

Poppy	Hemerocallis
Grape	Lathyrus
Nasturtium	papavar
Daylily	kniphofia
Pawpaw	vitis
Hollyhocks	tropaeolum
Red Hot Poker	Alcea
Sweet Pea	papaya

Outcome of the Voting – counted at July Meeting Option 1, 39; Option 2, 19; Option 3, 3

As you can see from the numbers, only about half of our members voted, however, option one was preferred and so the meeting will continue as it is currently, with a 9:00am cuppa, meeting from 9:30am and garden visits after the meeting. The only difference will be that members are invited to **BYO LUNCH** to have at the meeting venue or at the garden visited after the meeting.

Recipe

To Make Bouquet Garni

Fresh: Place sprigs of rosemary, sage, parsley, marjoram, a bay leaf and several whole black peppercorns in a piece of muslin. Tie with white kitchen twine and place in soups, stews etc.

Dried: use the above ingredients and place all but the peppercorns on a tray in a very slow oven until dry, add the peppercorns and tie as for the fresh. Store in an air-tight container.

HELP!!

We are currently completing our entry for the 2004 Country Mastermind Competition and I am stuck on a couple of questions. If you know the answers let someone on the committee know.

Here are some acronyms, letters that represent words that are the titles of garden clubs.

B.O.G.G. _____? Organic Growers?

N.M.O.S _____? Orchid Society?

Quote: When flowers bloom so does hope. *Lady Bird Johnson*

Contributions

A reminder that contributions to Snippets are always welcome. A big **thank you** to those who have contributed articles in the past. Snippets in currently prepared by Margaret Owens, Sandra Slack and Rosemary Simmons. We are looking for **one more** person to help us, so that each of us only does one copy per year. If you have some computer skills and would like to be involved please let us know.

All contributions to: Rosemary Simmons 72 Murer Dve. Maleny 4552
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Disclaimer

Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the club.

Please Note – 2004/05 \$10 membership fee is now overdue. This will be the last Snippets posted if you have not renewed your membership by the September A.G.M.