



SNIPPETS

SPRING 2006

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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

It's hard to believe that Gardening on the Edge was two months ago. Again, a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped. You are too numerous to name and I'll only get myself into trouble by trying so I'll just mention Susan Myring and the garden owners without whom there would be no event. That brings me to the next point, we still need more gardens for next year. We have some suggestions but we still need more so give it some serious thought and keep your eyes and ears open.

The Club seems to be running along reasonably well and we now have only one more meeting before the AGM so we must get our nominations for the Management Committee at the next meeting. Happily, some members have already indicated their willingness to come on board but we do need more as some of the longer standing members are standing down. I would like to thank them for their friendship.

Sadly, Rosemary Simmons has formally resigned from the Club as she will be spending more time down south and less time in Maleny. Hopefully, we will still see her from time to time. I will sorely miss her and her no nonsense approach to things – not forgetting her expertise with the computer- and, most importantly, her friendship.

Cheers, Sandy.

HANDY HINTS



Growing plants soon absorb nutrients from potting mix. Add a slow release plant food to the potting mix when repotting or feed frequently in the growing season. Many plant fertilizers are formulated for foliage plants and encourage the production of leaves at the expense of flowers. If flowers are disappointing, you could try feeding plants with a tomato fertilizer.

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TRAVEL REPORT

For those who missed the bus trip and those whose memories are short, here is a summary of our trip to Brisbane in August.

45 intrepid members left on the bus at 8 o'clock for our big day out. We were particularly fortunate as the pace of the bus enabled us to look closely at the roadside vegetation which, at our usually more hurried pace, we tend to miss. It took us a mere 2 ½ hours to reach the Gateway Bridge with the tedium being relieved by the microphone being handed round so we could hear everyone's life story – and we still had time to hear some jokes.

By the time we eventually reached Gladlands Nursery at Thornslands, the vexing question was what to do first – loo or cuppa? After we were all refreshed in one way or another, the owner took us around his nursery crammed with pot plants – lusted after by one and all – and showed us acres of flowers for the cut flower market. This was quite an eye opener. At the end of the tour, we were allowed to purchase

from a very limited display with the Maleny gardeners descending like a plague of locusts stripping the tables bare. Sandra collected fistfuls of money from us.

Next stop was Ormiston House where we wandered up and down outside seeking a way past the "no entry" signs. After storming the gates, the Maleny locusts fell on the delicious Devonshire tea which the innocent ladies provided. This was followed by a very interesting and informative guided tour of this beautiful colonial home.

After travelling what seemed like half way across Brisbane, we finally arrived at Nielson's Native Nursery where the Maleny locusts stripped the vegetation. On returning to the bus, we found that the weight of the plants was counterbalanced by the lightness of our wallets.

We had visions of another 3 hours to get home when a fire engine flashed past as we sat in the heavy traffic. However, rumour had it they were rushing home for dinner, as inexplicably, the fire engine simply vanished and the traffic stared moving again. We didn't, however, arrive back in Maleny until late which meant locating our plants from the depths of the bus luggage compartment in the dark and identifying everything by feel.

On behalf of everyone who went "thank you" to the organizers for a great day out.
Pam Linnet

THOUGHT

What we gardeners already knew has now been confirmed. A study, conducted by British researchers published in the "British Medical Journal", has concluded that contact with nature, whether it be volunteering for a tree planting, gardening or just patting the dog, is conducive to health.

The study suggested that these benefits could be promoted by what is known as "ecotherapy" - the interaction of health care organizations and nature groups. Jodie.

God gave man and woman the ability to overcome frustration and disappointment. It is not easy but we generally manage one way or another. In S E Qld

Frustration = lack of water.

Book Review

LAWNS into LUNCH - Growing food in the City

by Jill Finnane

If you have ever thought about growing your food, then "Lawns into Lunch" is for you. Basically the book follows the story of 22 people, taking a stroll through their desires and interests. The gardeners range in age from young children to a wheelchair bound aboriginal elder and the gardens vary from community affairs to collections of small pots.

The book also serves as an introduction to permaculture and organics as throughout the book are permaculture techniques that relate to the particular garden being discussed.

The gardeners share their mistakes, triumphs, recipes and tips. The book's informal style makes it a very easy read and, as such, it is highly recommended.

Future Events

- 1 - 3 Sept Qld Orchid Society's Winter Show*
- 9 & 10 Sept Orchid Species Society Show. *
- 9 & 10 Sept Buderim Garden Festival Show
- 9 & 10 Sept Bayside Bonsai Club Annual Show, Taoist Temple, Depot Road, Deagon.
- 15 -16 Sept Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba
- 16 & 17 Sept West Brisbane Orchid Society Show*
- 16Sept-15Oct Floriade, Canberra
- 23 & 24 Sept Geranium & Pelargonium Society of Brisbane Show *
- 26 Sept Maleny Garden Club A.G.M**
- Maleny Show Pavilion 10a.m.**
- 29Sept -1 Oct Qld Rose Society Show*
- 29 Sept -1 Oct Springtime on the Mountain Festival, Tamborine Mtn.
- 6,7 & 8 Oct Gardening Australia Festival, Melbourne.
- 7 & 8 Oct Royal horticultural Society of Qld Show*
- 14 & 15 Oct African Violets Society of Qld. Show*
- 21 & 22 Oct. Bonsai Society of Qld. Show*
- 28 & 29 Oct. North Moreton Qld. Orchid Council Show*

31st Oct Maleny Garden Club Meeting

4 – 5 Nov Hut Environmental Forum*
 11 & 12 Nov Bromeliad Society of Qld. Show*
 15 -19 Nov Ellerslie Flower Show, Auckland, NZ
 18 & 19 Nov Brisbane Daylily Society Show*
28th Nov Maleny Garden Club Meeting.

12th Dec Maleny Garden Club Christmas Party "Key" Mountain View Rd., Maleny.
 16 – 17 Dec Singapore Flower Show.

TEA ROSTER

A G M – September

All members please bring a plate. The Club will be providing morning tea and lunch as there will be visitors.

Tea: Margaret Stevenson & Corinne Taylor

Lunch set up & clean up :- Maureen Preece

Terry Rowan

Linda Rea & Dianne Roper

October Monthly meeting is at Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens.

Members are reminded to bring their own morning tea and lunch. Bring a thermos as there are no tea making facilities available. It is also suggested that you car pool where ever possible.

November monthly meeting-

Tea:-Susan Pollock & Margaret Pow

Food :-Margaret Harper

Gwen Hutton

Pam Linnet

AllieLovett



Garden Tips

Colin Campbell

- When repotting indoor plants at the beginning of spring, changing the potting mix will enhance results.
Don't over water pot plants. Test soil with longest finger and if dry, water – if cool and moist, leave alone.
- Keep cut flower arrangements out of direct sunlight but where the situation is still light.
- Bees are great pollinators and they are particularly attracted to blue flowers.
- Sawdust spread around newly planted seedlings may help to deter slugs and

snails.

- If you don't have a compost heap, dig garden scraps into a garden bed.
- Best results will occur if you use a seed raising mix, not a potting mix to grow vegetable or flower seedlings.

Seasonal Garden Advice

SEPTEMBER

- Lift and divide Cannas, Day Lilies and Shasta Daisy. Plant in new situations, use excess plants to pot up for friends or establish in your garden. Remember mass planting gives impact
- Prune poinsettias back hard to promote growth for next year. Cuttings may be taken.
- If you are running out of room or need a quick screen, plant a climber. The choice is extensive. Choose according to the situation and the strength of the supports you are prepared to use.
- Water citrus if season is dry as lack of water encourages fruit fall.
- Repot and fertilize indoor plants, hanging baskets and patio containers..

OCTOBER

- Mulch around fruit trees, over ornamental and food gardens. Make the mulch 10 cms deep if possible.
- The vegetable garden can be planted with beans, lettuce cucumber and salad greens.
- Give lawns a dressing of dolomite weeks before fertilizing with lawn food.
- Spray roses for aphids if a hard spray from the hose is not successful.
- Fertilize plants with new growth or about to have new growth, they are hungry.
- Plant out a few tomatoes. The most successful are tiny tom thumbs or Roma.

NOVEMBER

- Grow herbs close to the back door, this way you are more inclined to use them.
- Spray azaleas for lacebug with confidor. Plants which have been heavily attacked require damaged foliage to be removed

- Pinch out first buds of annuals and remember to prune dead heads off roses.
- Callistemons and Grevillea look more attractive and produce more flowers if spent flowers are pruned away.
- Grow a tripod of climbing beans and a few small lettuce near where they will be shaded over the hot months.

Herb Recipes.

(Taken from a book compiled by Barb Wicks, President of Perennial Poppies.)

Libby's Preserved Lemons

1 cup sea salt 1 cup lemon juice
6 lemons

Wash and scrub the lemons. Cut each into quarters and rub with salt. Put them into a glass jar, pressing down so they are squashed together and cover with lemon juice. Seal and leave at room temperature for 2 weeks. Shake daily to ensure that there are no air bubbles in the jar and that all lemons are covered. Add more juice if necessary. Will keep in the fridge for up to 2 months. Use in dressings, chicken dishes and dips.

Pesto

1.5 cups fresh basil leaves 5 cloves garlic
¼ cup pine nuts squeeze lemon juice
¼ cup parmesan cheese, grated
½ cup olive oil Put the basil, pine nuts and parmesan cheese in a blender or processor. Turn the machine on and drizzle in the olive oil. Add lemon juice. Continue puree until a smooth paste is formed, adding more olive if necessary.

Options

Add more or less garlic to taste
Toast pine nuts first for a different flavour
Use parsley instead of basil
Substitute other nuts for pine nuts
Use a low fat dressing instead of olive oil

General Gardening Advice

If you wish to keep cane toads out of your ponds and/or water features, you have to build a parapet around the feature. To be effective, the parapet has to be at least 25 cm high and have no plants growing over it for the toads to climb on. This seems to work because cane toads cannot

jump very high. (Colin Campbell)

If your mango tree is suffering from the fungal disease, anthracnose, which affects both the leaves and the flowers, you need to take immediate action.

Remove and destroy the affected parts to prevent the spores infecting new growth. Also prune the tree to ensure good air flow and sun penetration in and around the canopy.

Regular applications of fungicide will assist control. Apply a fungicide containing **mancozeb** at the recommended rate. (Josh Byrne)

Pawpaws are prone to attack from insects, possums and fruit bats. One way of keeping pests at bay is to slip knee-high stockings over each developing pawpaw fruit (Colin Campbell)

As the weather starts to get warmer, fruit fly becomes more of a problem in gardens and orchards. A bait that has proven successful for some is 1L water, 1½ tps of ammonia, 1½ tps vanilla essence and 100 gms sugar. (C. Campbell)

1. Before rose flowers open, apply 1 tsp Epsom salts per bush and an organic rose fertilizer to promote strong disease-resistant growth. (Jerry Colby-Williams)
2. Sprinkle 1 tbsp Epsom salts around the roots of citrus trees to supplement magnesium (chlorophyll food) as they begin resprouting. (J C-W)
3. Use a liquid organic or seaweed fertilizer at half strength fortnightly. Spraying seaweed fertiliser over foliage feeds plants and helps reduce the risk of leaf diseases.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES, THEY ARE NOW OVERDUE.

Disclaimer

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