


TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

PO Box 63, North Tamborine, 4272 ABN 281 058 436 76 www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bernadette Stacey - bernadette1859@gmail.com 0409 759 838

July 2015

The Gentle Gardening Guide

The days are getting colder and as air temperatures at night reach 0 the chance of frost

increases. Predicting frost is complex, but a simple method has been devised by Ian Currie, a British meteorologist, to help gardeners take care of cold-sensitive plants.



Calculating temperature:

Mount an outdoor thermometer 1.2m high in full shade and protected from the wind. Frost forms on clear nights with no wind, so when the weather is clear and still, check the temp at 3pm and 8pm – double the 8pm temp then subtract the 3pm reading to give the possible temp at dawn. If 2 degrees or less, frost can be expected.

Air flow: Cold air flows like water, pooling in hollows and collecting behind hedges or walls located across a slope. As frost freezes the water in plant cells killing the affected parts, cold-sensitive plants should be planted in warm spots on a sunny slope, or near a wall that catches the winter sun and radiates warm air at night.

Protecting plants: Tender plants in pots are best moved indoors, to shelter, or covered by a cloche to create a mini-greenhouse. Clear plastic bottles cut off and placed upside down over a pot, or a clear plastic bag draped over a light frame will protect individual small plants.



Larger or rows of plants can be protected with sheets of clear plastic or shade cloth laid over arched bamboo or heavy wire frames. Because the sun can overheat air under a cloche it is advisable to remove the protection during the day and replace it in the late afternoon.

Soil warmth can be retained using mulch around the bases of larger plants, with an old sheet used as a cover over the foliage at night. Hessian, dead fern and palm fronds wrapped round tender plants trunks, or used as a cover over plants with ground level crowns will give good protection from cold damage. Pull the covering back from crowns during the day to make sure plants are getting enough sun.

Healthy plants:

Seaweed solutions and other soluble tonics applied fortnightly as the weather cools will build plant tissue over time, strengthening the plant and making it more resistant to damage. Anti-transpirant products used to protect foliage against harsh summer sun are also effective in winter as protection against the cold by forming a thin shield over the foliage.



Transplanting: In frost free areas, winter is the time to transplant shrubs and trees while they are in their dormant phase. Spring flowering plants should be left until after they have flowered before transplanting. Care needs to be taken to dig up as much as possible of the root ball of a tree or shrub to be transplanted to minimise shock to the plant during its non-growth period. Transplanting now, with regular applications of weak seaweed solution, will allow the plant to settle into its new location and be ready for new growth in the warmer weather.



Pruning: Prune all deciduous and dormant plants over the coming weeks to improve their overall health, encourage more flowers and fruit, and control their general size and shape. All dead and diseased growth, crossed branches and unwanted shoots should be removed, and the plant generally thinned out to allow for new, stronger growth and more even shape.—Janet Stone

GARDENING TALES:

Many old gardening tales are being proved true (more or less), so what can we rely on to help our gardens thrive? Here are some of the latest findings.

Ash from the fireplace encourages flowering and fruiting. Wood ash contains potash or potassium, which help plants to flower and fruit. It is alkaline, and is quickly taken up by plants. Tomatoes, agapanthus and some fruit trees respond well to the addition of woodash to the soil, but it is advisable to use woodash sparingly as it can cause a short-term alkaline imbalance in the soil.

Plant a passionfruit vine on top of a lamb's liver and it will thrive. Liver is a super food as it includes iron, calcium, phosphorus and potassium. Pelletised chicken manure works equally well, as both decompose over time releasing nutrients to the vine.



Bury a rusty nail in the ground near a hydrangea and it will turn blue. The colour of a hydrangea is influenced by the soil's pH and the amount of aluminum in the soil. A rusty nail changes the pH of soil so it is more acidic. Planting a hydrangea near a concrete walkway has the opposite effect, as the limestone leaching from the concrete will make the soil more alkaline and can turn a hydrangea pink.

Add lucerne to the bottom of the hole when planting trees. In poor quality soil a slice of lucerne hay added to the bottom of a planting hole will act as a slow-release organic fertilizer without burning the roots of the plant. The nutrients also attract worms which turn over the soil helping to improve root growth.

Plant garlic on the shortest day of the year. Rule of thumb has it that garlic and shallots take 26 weeks growing time before being ready to harvest – hence the adage "plant on the shortest day of the year, and harvest on the longest" ie 21 June to 22 December.

Plant sweet peas on St Patrick's Day. If you forget to plant sweet peas on 17 March, our Mountain environment is just as suitable for planting them on Anzac Day, 25 April.

Do all old gardening tales work? Trial and error are integral to successful gardening, and as Liberty Hyde Bailey says: "A garden requires patient labour and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfil good intentions. They thrive because someone expended energy on them." - Janet Stone



CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | Vice President - Di Howard 5545 2628

Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | Treasurer— Di Fenton - 5545 026 | Springtime Convener - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | Patron - Mary Wallace

August 2015 Meeting

Tuesday August 12th at 10:30 AM

**Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens,
Forsythia Drive**

This year we will again have our August meeting in the Botanic Gardens, enjoy a sausage sizzle and a walk through the gardens with the Volunteers. We'll commence at 10.30am with a quick meeting before we enjoy the tour and opportunity to buy plants from the Bobby White Pavilion followed by lunch.

Please sign in before the meeting begins and get your lucky lunch voucher for a chance to win a plant. There's lots to enjoy and great progress in the Sooty Owl Walk to appreciate. Do come along and support our Volunteers. If it's a wet day we'll be under cover and walk in our rain gear.

Please bring your own mugs for tea/coffee (and your own sausages if you have any food allergies) and we'll do the rest.

No competition table in August

August morning tea

Yvonne Relf & Emma Frazer

Upcoming Events

Qld Council of Gardens Club Fashion Parade, Mt Cot-tha Botanic Gardens 26/8/15

Ipswich Home Gardeners Expo 29/8/15
Toowoomba Geranium Society Inc. Show and Sale 19-20/9/15

The Language of Flowers, Floral Art Society, Mt Cot-tha Botanic Gardens 10-11/10/15

From the President

Remembering **Ann Edie**

It was a long, long struggle for this amazing lady but she certainly was never going to give in easily. Ann was a very much loved and admired member of this club and a tireless worker in our Botanic Gardens. Her friendship and sense of humour reached far and wide and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



Ann was not afraid of hard work and was always available to help wherever she was needed. She was a stalwart at Springtime too, she and her late husband Len opened their garden twice, they ran a sausage sizzle in the Botanic Gardens with Len sleeping there at night as security. Ann also convened garden cafes and baked scones by the hundreds; nothing fazed her except praise and recognition! She did what she did for others, not the kudos.

I can't remember for sure how many years Ann volunteered in the Gardens, but it would have to be close to 12. I remember in the early days, she would leave the Botanic Gardens at noon each Thursday, after a full morning of work, to voluntarily work in the garden of an elderly lady on the mountain.

Ann was also a Committee Member and very worthy recipient of the 2014 Ron Miller Award. Vale Ann, we'll miss you heaps.

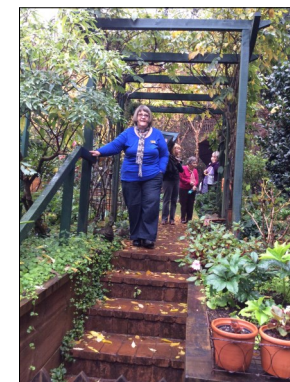
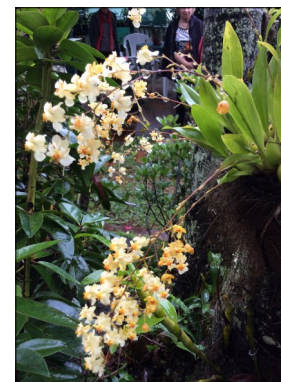
I have written to Ann's much loved family on behalf of the Club.

Margaret

June garden visit

As you can see it was raining but nevertheless we had a good turn up. Of course their garden was certainly well worth getting a little wet!!" Sue Austin

My thanks to Sue Austin for the photos taken and also for being there on my behalf. Thank you Lorraine & Roy. Glenda Sullivan



What's on today

Guest speaker: Neil Bell—Looking after your health in the garden
Library, Raffles, Plant sales

July Garden Visit

Tuesday 21st July 10 am
Bernadette Stacey & Peter McDonnell
68 Bateke Rd
Mount Tamborine 55450605

Afternoon Delights Concert

Sunday 5th July was a perfect winter afternoon for the wonderful concert held in the beautiful grounds of Jarnac at Eagle Heights. The vocalists Dominique Fegan, Louise Dorsman and accompanist Brendan Murtagh kept the audience well entertained with a lively program of opera, light opera, show tunes and popular songs. Thanks go to all those involved in the production and to Roger and Don Henry for generously hosting this event. It certainly was a delightful way to spend an afternoon on our wonderful mountain. Around \$4000 was raised for the club.

