

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE NO. 575 OCTOBER 2019

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 24 October 2019 at 7.30 pm in the
Uniting Church Lounge.
Please submit your display table entries before 7.15 pm to allow
time for members to vote before the start of the meeting.



| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| President: | David Trenerry | 6771 2919 | Treasurer: | Rod Atkin | 0487 147 673 |
| Vice President: | Ray Cantrell | 6772 2993 | Editors: | S & R Cantrell | 6772 2993 |
| Minutes Secy: | Kim Swan | 6775 3916 | Publicity: | Dar Brookes | 0412 589 414 |

Display Table: The Display Table judging will be via the token voting system.

Display Table Competition Categories – October

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Rose – any type (1 Cut) | 6 | Flowering tree/shrub/climber (1 cut – max length 60cm) |
| 2 | Flowering iris (1 cut) | 7 | 3 leaves of silver beet, spinach or chard |
| 3 | Flowering bulbous plant – not iris (1 cut) | 8 | 3 of any one variety of the onion family (with roots attached) |
| 4 | Flowering annual (1 cut) | 9 | 3 stalks of rhubarb – leaves and stalks untrimmed |
| 5 | Flowering perennial – not bulbous (1 cut) | 10 | Any other fruit or vegetable |

Results of the September Competition

| No | Plant | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | No. of Entries |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Camelia | Maria Hitchcock Red Camelia | Susan Cantrell Japonica – Light Pink | Susan Cantrell Japonica – Dark Pink | 4 |
| 2 | Flowering Narcissus | Susan Cantrell | Susan Cantrell | Ray Cantrell “Fragrant Rose” | 6 |
| | | “Blushing Lady” | “Blimey” | Susan Cantrell “Gold Convention” | |
| 3 | Flowering Bulbous (Not Narcissus) | Susan Cantrell Friesia | Maria Hitchcock Snowdrop | Maria Hitchcock Grape Hyacinth | 5 |
| 4 | Flowering Annual or Perennial | Ray Cantrell | Dar Brookes | Ray Cantrell Paeonia Leda | 15 |
| | | Paeonia Suffruticosa | Ajuga | Susan Cantrell Scabiosa Caucasia | |
| 5 | Flowering Non-Native Tree Shrub or Climber | Ray Cantrell | Dar Brookes Rosa Canary | Susan Cantrell Crab Apple | 12 |
| | | Jasmine | Ray Cantrell Erica Bridal Pink | Susan Cantrell Crab Apple “Royal Raindrops” | |
| 6 | Flowering Native Tree Shrub or Climber | Maria Hitchcock | Susan Cantrell | Susan Cantrell Grevillea | 6 |
| | | Boronia Lipstick | Hardenbergia Violacea “Regent” | Henry Raymond Un-named | |
| | | | | Maria Hitchcock Phebalium | |
| 7 | Three of One Variety of Onion | David Trenerry Chives | | | 1 |
| 8 | Three Leaves of Leafed Vegetable | Maria Hitchcock Rainbow Chard | Karen Szpitalak Silverbeet | David Trenerry NZ Spinach | 3 |
| 9 | 3 Culinary Herbs | Tricia Moore Rosemary Parsley Red Mustard | Tricia Moore Mint Shallot Bay Leaf | David Trenerry Mint Parsley Coriander | 3 |
| 10 | Any Other Fruit or Vegetable | Maria Hitchcock Asparagus | Maria Hitchcock Valencia Orange | David Trenerry Baby Carrots | 4 |

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Jasminum polyanthum* (Award of Garden Merit RHS 1993)

Native to China and Burma, this plant is commonly called 'Pink Jasmine'. It is an evergreen, twining climber which has clusters of deep-pink buds in spring. These open to 5-petaled, pure-white, 2 cm-wide, starry flowers over quite a long period – at least a month (October here in Armidale). But it is for their beautiful perfume which these flowers are most renowned. I can still remember it from my childhood days in Brisbane. My Mother grew it on a high fence and kept it clipped back to make a very effective narrow evergreen hedge.



In warmer climates, such as Brisbane, it is sometimes considered an invasive weed due to its ability to sprawl over the ground for many metres if left unchecked,

thus stifling growth of native seedlings if it escapes into bushland. However in the cooler climate of Armidale this is not a problem, in fact I have found the ONLY problem for this plant is very hard frost. I have had very slight damage of this kind (some browning of top foliage) once in six years. The good thing is that Jasmine polyanthum flowers late enough in the year for it not to incur any frost-damage to its floral display. The plant in my garden is growing on a fence just under the edge canopy of a large Pin Oak. The Pin Oak comes into leaf in spring so late as to still let sufficient light in onto the Jasmine to stimulate flowering, but seems to provide just enough overhead cover to prevent frost damage during the winter. (In Europe this Jasmine is used as an indoor house plant.)

In New England, *Jasminum polyanthum* will grow in any soil, in sun or light shade. It has no pests or diseases and is laughing at the current severe drought. All the little birds love it's thick, dark-green growth – Thornbills, Silvereyes and Scrub-wrens in particular. (The compound leaves, made up of 5 to 9 leaflets, are interesting in that the terminal leaflet is noticeably larger than the other leaflets.) Once established the only maintenance is pruning annually after flowering – and training of growth in the direction desired.

Story: Susan Cantrell

LOOKING GOOD NOW

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Clematis 'Rebecca' | Aloe species | Malus ioensis | Ixia hybrida |
|  |  |  |  |
| Weigelia florida 'Variegata' | Gypsophila cerastioides | Wahlenbergia stricta | Ixia odorata |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Species rose 'Golden Chersonese' | Viburnum opulus 'Sterile' | Clg Rose 'Reine Marie Henriette' | English Rose 'Pat Austin' |
|  |  |  |  |
| Geum coccineum 'Flames of Passion' | Paeonia lactiflora 'Coral Charm' | Callistemon viminalis 'Little John' | Wistaria floribunda 'Shiro Noda' |
|  |  |  |  |
| Narcissus poeticus recurves (Pheasants Eye) | Convallaria majalis 'Geant de Fortin' (Lily-of-the-Valley) | Nepeta cataria 'Citriodora' (Catmint) | Aesculus hippocastanum 'Carnea' (Horse Chestnut) |
|  |  |  |  |
| Aquilegia vulgaris (Columbine) | Phlomis fruticosa 'Lloyd's Variety' | Rhododendron mollis 'Narcissiflora' | Veronica porphyriana (Speedwell) |
|  |  |  |  |
| Camassia leichtlinii caerulea | Iris germanica (Bearded Iris) | Rugosa Rose 'Rosaie de l'Hay' | Clematis 'Gypsy Queen' |

AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

On Display



And Our Guest Speaker



Club member Michael Cherry presented an interesting talk on his recent trip to China, telling us about the types of plants that he saw there, together with his observations on how those plants were grown and maintained in both public parks and as streetscapes. Michael illustrated his talk with some of the many photographs that he took during his journey.

Please consider these gardening chores taking into account Armidale's current water restrictions. The suggested lists of tasks were compiled assuming more normal seasonal conditions.

THIS MONTH – THE GARDEN IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER

- 1 Divide and plant out dahlias when shoots appear at base of stems. Tubers themselves do not shoot as new growth comes from dormant eyes and the base of old stems. Divide tubers with part of stem attached. Dahlias other than the dwarf varieties need to be staked; it is easiest to put the stake in the hole with the tuber when planting otherwise, if staking is done later you run the risk of hammering home the stake through the tuber. Protect new growth from snails and slugs.
- 2 Plant out new chrysanthemum plants grown from cuttings taken earlier.
- 3 Plant out frost-tender annuals such as petunias, phlox and marigolds, protect against frost if forecast. In the last week of October or early November, plant out asters, zinnias, nasturtiums. Protect all of these plants against slugs and snails.

- 4 Stake tall-growing perennials before flower spikes lengthen.
- 5 Watch out for emerging Liliiums to avoid damage during cultivation of beds. Mulch well, keep well-watered and protect against snails and slugs.
- 6 Nip back shoots on carnations and geraniums to promote bushy growth. Cuttings can be taken from new wood before flowering in November.
- 7 Start a deep-watering programme for larger shrubs and trees – several hours soaking once a month in rotation or fortnightly if the weather is hot and dry.
- 8 Watch for cutworm activity. These are plump, smooth caterpillars (up to 40mm). They attack plants near the ground so that the plants fall over; young plants are particularly vulnerable. The caterpillars hide in litter or soil during the day and feed on plants at night. One method of prevention is to dig the soil thoroughly before planting to kill any hiding cutworms. They can also be controlled by digging around damaged plants. Continue war on snails and slugs, especially in the vegetable bed.
- 9 Chip and rake up young weeds as they appear.
- 10 Start plantings of sweet corn and carry out successive plantings until the end of December.
- 11 Transplant tomato seedlings and protect them well from frost.
- 12 Sow pumpkin, squash, marrow, cucumber, lettuce, celery, potatoes, beans – watch for late frosts.
- 13 Sow parsley, sage and other herbs.
- 14 Plant out seedlings of beetroot, celery, etc.
- 15 Finalise harvesting asparagus, leaving some shoots to sustain the crown.

LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 1 Take dahlia cuttings if desired.
- 2 Chrysanthemums: pinch out tops at 20cm (8") to give bushy growth and spray for aphids.
- 3 In the last week of November, plant out seedlings of summer annuals such as asters, zinnias, petunias, phlox, nasturtiums, marigolds, portulaca, verbena, coleus, mesembryanthemum, gaillardia, cockscomb, amaranthus, salvia, gazania, cosmos, etc.
- 4 Plant lettuce (seasonal varieties), beans, potatoes, tomatoes, parsnip, beetroot, silver beet, radish, pumpkin, squash, marrow, cucumber, sweet corn, etc, during early part of the month
- 5 Force lettuce with nitrogenous fertiliser and plenty of water. Protect from birds with strands of black cotton, if necessary.
- 6 Watch for aphids on peaches and nectarines and treat accordingly.
- 7 Onions may be planted out in every month but some varieties planted out too early (eg March/April) may run straight to seed in spring. Use only early varieties in March/April and later varieties can be started in spring.
- 8 Continue deep-watering programme rotation for trees and shrubs.
- 9 Set baits for snails and slugs and maintain vigilance throughout the warmer months, especially during wet or humid conditions.
- 10 Lawns: give regular, light applications of nitrogenous fertiliser and water well through summer. Spray with an appropriate weedicide, if necessary, for broadleaf weed control. **It is a good idea to keep a separate watering can for use when applying weedicides to avoid costly errors.**
- 11 Inspect wattles for woodmoth and other borers. (See February for treatment.)
- 12 By late November or into December the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, jonquils and tulips will have died down.. It is important NOT to remove the foliage until it has completely yellowed as nutrition has to be stored in the bulbs for next year's flowers. Dense clumps of daffodils, etc should be lifted and divided every two or three years or flower quality and quantity will deteriorate. Bulbs can be replanted straight away or cleaned off and stored in a cool, airy place till planting time. Discard all bulbs showing signs of disease.

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:



HAPPY GARDENING!

