

**THE ARMIDALE GARDENER**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB**  
**ISSUE NO. 576    NOVEMBER 2019**

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on  
Thursday 28 November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the  
Uniting Church Lounge.

Please submit your display table entries before 7.15 pm to allow  
for the casting of voting tokens before the meeting.

Note also that the November meeting will be preceded by the  
Christmas BBQ social gathering starting at 6.30 pm.  
The Garden Club will then be in recess until February.



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

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**DISPLAY TABLE****Display Table Competition Categories – November**

1	Geranium or Pelargonium – (1 cut)	6	Flowering tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)
2	Hybrid Tea Rose – (1 cut)	7	3 edible berries of one type with stalk attached (eg 3 strawberries)
3	Any Other Rose – (1 cut)	8	3 stalks of rhubarb – leaves and stalk untrimmed
4	Flowering annual – (1 cut)	9	3 different culinary herbs, labelled – one of each
5	Flowering perennial – (1 cut)	10	Any other fruit or vegetable

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

**Results of the October Competition**

No	Plant	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	No. of Entries
1	Rose – Any Type	Briony Freeman	Ray Cantrell “Princess Anne”	Suzanne Hanson “Peace Rose”	5
2	Flowering Iris	Ray Cantrell Iris Germanica			1
3	Flowering Bulbous (Not Iris)				NIL
4	Flowering Annual	Suzanne Hanson Sweet Pea			1
5	Flowering Perennial (Not Bulbous)	Ray Cantrell Paeony “Bartzella”	Ray Cantrell Paeony “Coral Charm”	Ray Cantrell Glematis “Gypsy Queen”	4
6	Flowering Tree/Shrub/Climber	Ray Cantrell Weigela Florida	Ray Cantrell Horse Chestnut	Ray Cantrell Jasmine Polyanthum	4
7	Silver Beet, Chard or Spinach	David Trenerry Warrigal Greens			1
8	Three of One Variety of Onions	David Trenerry Brown Onions	Briony Freeman Walking Onions		2
9	Rhubarb				NIL
10	Any Other Fruit or Vegetable	Nick Hanson Green Peas	Nick Hanson Broad Beans	David Trenerry Baby Carrots	3

**NOTEWORTHY –****BUSHFIRES RAVAGE NORTHERN NSW**

In the midst of the current drought, bushfires have become an issue of concern for people living in the dry Northern NSW to an extent not seen for many years now. Significant bushfires have occurred to the north, east and south of Armidale where billowing clouds of smoke are frequently observed rising high into the sky while at times, Armidale itself has been shrouded in smoke as a reminder to us all of the difficulties that our neighbours are currently facing.



## AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:



### PLANT OF THE MONTH – Rose “Eyes for You”

In this terrible drought one group of plants has very conspicuously stood out in Armidale for its wonderful late-springtime performance this year – and that’s the roses. Driving around town where one sees so many plants not coping, there are pictures of beauty to lift the spirits almost wherever you see roses.

One rose that has performed exceptionally in my garden is a relatively new-release called ‘Eyes for You’. It is very different from all other modern roses in that it was bred from the species rose *Rosa hulthemia persica*, found naturally growing in desert areas of Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Siberia. What the breeder (Peter James, UK 2004) went through to finally achieve this would fill an entire book (see website of South Australian Rose Society). Suffice to say ‘Eyes for You’ was worth it!

Introduced into Australia in 2012, my group of ‘Eyes for You’ were planted about 4 years ago, so are well-established. They have received no artificial watering at all this year and are still performing well – not to say they would be even better if they *were* watered!

‘Eyes for You’ is a cluster-flowered, bushy, shrub rose which in Armidale flowers continually right through from October to the first frosts – and beyond into June at times.

Each fascinating semi-double flower, about 10cm in diameter, is cream-fading-to-white with a dark purple blotch in the centre of each petal and a beautiful ring of golden stamens in the middle. They have a medium-strong old-rose fruity fragrance.

If left unpruned and grown as a shrub-rose the bushes reach about 1.4m however with a yearly winter pruning mine usually go to about 1m high and wide. They would look terrific used in many different ways in the garden - single specimens, a bed of them or even as a hedge. One of the outstanding features of this rose is its disease-resistance. Mine, planted in heavy black clay, have had NO blackspot or mildew AT ALL. This rose’s only drawback seems to be – it is no good for picking. The flowers close up when brought inside out of the sunlight. Apart from that, these plants seem perfect for Australian conditions. They are VERY heat-tolerant, so necessary in our climate, the flowers showing no signs of burning in the full sun.

Other roses have performed just as well this year – but I simply love “Eyes for You”!

Story: Susan Cantrell



**LOOKING GOOD NOW – EVEN WITH THE CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS!**

			
David Austin Rose "Princess Anne"	Rosa rugosa "Rugspin"	Rosa rugosa Frau Dagmar Hastrupp	Rosa gallica "Alain Blanchard"
			
Rosa ?	Rosa gallica 'Veilchenblau'	Rosa "The Portland Rose"	Philadelphus "Belle Etoile"
			
Clematis "Rooguchi"	Allium caeruleum	Salvia microphylla	Clematis "Arabella"
			
Verbena bonariensis	Iris pallida	Incarvillea arguta	Acanthus mollis
			
Salvia nemorosa "Sensation Blue"	Rosa "Sunny Rose"	Buddleja davidii BUZZ "Purple"	Callistemon viminalis "Little John"

			
Scabiosa caucasica fama "White"	Allium sphaerocephalum	"Chives" Allium schoenoprasum	Paeonia lactiflora "Minnie Shaylor"

*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 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.

## LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS

### DECEMBER

- 1 Plant gladioli if required for late blooms. Corms will need to have been kept in cool conditions (refrigerator crisper drawer) to prevent growth. Late gladioli need constant spraying against attack by thrips (a small insect which lays eggs inside the plant tissue where the pupae feed, including unopened buds).
- 2 Seedlings of late sown asters, marigolds, zinnias and bedding dahlias should be planted out early for first flowering in late February. If raising winter Stocks from seed, these should be sown in late December to get a good winter flowering.
- 3 Continue successive plantings of beans, sweet corn and seasonal lettuce.
- 4 Start successive plantings of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, sprouts.
- 5 Mulch all beds to conserve moisture; arrange deep-watering rotation for trees and shrubs.
- 6 Continue vigilance against snails, aphids, fruit fly, codling moth, mildew, black spot and all fungi such as shot hole, brown fruit rot, etc.
- 7 Callistemons and callitris – check for callistemon sawfly and remove by hand or use a spray. Prune as soon as flowers finish.
- 8 Watch out for red spider mite and thrips in hot, dry weather. Spray as necessary.
- 9 Prune once-flowering climbing roses such as Dorothy Perkins, Bloomfield's Courage, Paul's Scarlet, banksia rose, etc.
- 10 Combat cherry slug with an appropriate spray.
- 11 Remove strawberry runners.

### JANUARY

- 1 Remove overgrown shoots from cotoneasters, pyracantha, abelia, photinia, buddleia, etc.
- 2 Remove fruited canes from boysenberries, youngberries, etc up to the end of March and train new shoots.
- 3 Mulch camellias, rhododendrons, daphne, lilliums, etc and keep well watered. Well rotted compost makes a good mulch.
- 4 Continue deep-watering rotation for trees and shrubs started in October – several hours soaking once a month or fortnightly if the weather is hot and dry.
- 5 Order bulbs for autumn planting.
- 6 Stake and tie dahlias, tomatoes, climbing beans, etc.
- 7 Cut back dead heads of shasta daisies, achillea, perennial aster and gerbera, to get a second flush of flowers.
- 8 Sow carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts, silver beet, swede turnip and summer lettuce varieties until mid-February.
- 9 Watch out for fruit fly in peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, tomatoes.
- 10 Watch out for red spider mite on many vegetables such as beans, peas tomatoes, etc and also on roses, geraniums and all fruit trees. Spray should be applied under the leaves.
- 11 Hilling late-sown potatoes helps control potato moth.
- 12 Sow Stock seed from the last week in January to the first week in February for spring-flowering.
- 13 This is the last month for sowing peas – up until Australia Day.
- 14 Check for callistemon sawfly and spray as necessary.

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Prepare beds for spring-flowering bulbs to be planted from late March through to the end of April.
- 2 The last week of February and the first week of March is the time to plant seeds of frost-hardy annuals and perennials.
- 3 Divide iris towards the end of the month – when replanting do NOT cover rhizomes.
- 4 Lift gladioli corms from now on as foliage dies back.
- 5 Cut back carnations and summer annuals after flowering and prune dahlias to lengthen the flowering season.
- 6 Tie up new shoots of climbing roses and new canes of berry bushes to prevent wind damage.
- 7 Sow carrots not later than the middle of this month.
- 8 Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, etc.
- 9 Watch out for red spider mite and rust on geraniums, beans, vegetables and fruit trees. If found, apply a suitable spray.
- 10 Watch out also for potato moth on growing tips and spray with insecticide.
- 11 Onions should have been planted so they reach full maturity in mid-December; withhold water so they dry out for harvesting.
- 12 Continue fruit fly and codling moth sprays and fungus sprays; pick up and destroy all fallen and diseased fruit to prevent re-infestation.
- 13 Check for sawfly larvae on callistemon/callitris. If present, apply dust or spray.
- 14 Check for borers in trees and shrubs, especially wattles. Look for holes into the tree surrounded with dust and fine webbing. Use a piece of wire to poke into the hole to kill and/or remove the larvae, then squirt methylated spirits into the hole and plug with putty. It is also advisable to check regularly other susceptible trees such as albizia (silk tree).

**And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:**

*Best Wishes for a Safe and Enjoyable Festive Season*

**HAPPY GARDENING!**

