

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE No. 582 JULY 2020

WELCOME BACK

****** WE'RE ON THE GO AGAIN ******

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 23 July 2020 at 7.00 pm in the
Uniting Church Lounge.

Please submit your display table entries before 6.50 pm to allow
for the casting of voting tokens before 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
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DISPLAY TABLE

Display Table Competition Categories – July

1	Flowering narcissus – (1 cut)	6	Flowering non-native tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)
2	Camellia – (1 cut)	7	Brassica (cabbage, cauliflower, etc) – (1 cut)
3	Container grown plant – foliage effect	8	3 culinary herbs – labelled – one of each
4	Flowering annual or perennial – (1 cut)	9	3 leaves of a non-brassica leafed vegetable – (eg spinach)
5	Flowering native tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)	10	Any other fruit or vegetable

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

NOTEWORTHY –

Armidale Garden Club Meetings Resume

Well, it certainly must be noteworthy that having been in an enforced recess since March 2020 because of coronavirus control measures, the easing of those restrictions means that meetings of the Armidale Garden Club can now resume. And that will happen with a meeting this month on Thursday 23rd July 2020. As we are now once more on Eastern Standard Time, the meeting will commence at 7.00 PM.

Please note that as required by government regulations, appropriate social distancing practices will be maintained, including having no more than two people at any one table when viewing the plants that are on display. The categories for this month's display table competition have been listed above.

We hope to see you all once again at the meeting next Thursday.

A VISIT TO DAVID TRENERRY'S GARDEN

Only a small group of members turned up at the visit to David Trenerry's garden on 27th June 2020 on a quite chilly winter's morning but an enjoyable socially distanced get-together was had by all.



Social Distancing – Photo 1

Social Distancing – Photo 2

Social Distancing – Photo 3

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Galanthus nivalis ‘Sam Arnott’ (Snowdrops)

July’s plant of the month is the quintessential winter flower – the true Snowdrop. Often thought of as being an English native, it was actually introduced there from Europe in the 16th century. Grown *en masse* in English woodlands, it makes a real impact. However the cost of doing this in Australia would be prohibitive. Nevertheless a few groups of these bulbs under some deciduous trees does make a real winter statement. There are not many places in Australia which are suitable climatically for them but we are fortunate to live in one, Armidale being frosty enough and frosty for *long enough*, to induce flowering from year to year and also to encourage bulb reproduction. In warmer climates these bulbs simply rot in the ground.

In England there are scores, if not hundreds, of named varieties of snowdrops available, some of the rarer ones worth hundreds of pounds per bulb! I have found the best snowdrop for gardens in Australia is *Galanthus nivalis* ‘Sam Arnott’. It is a more robust grower and increaser than other varieties and its 2.5cm-wide flowers are larger with a stronger honey scent than other varieties.

It naturalises and increases well and is in flower in July which is a little later than most other varieties. It reaches about 20cm in height. I have some in a raised bed, enabling me to ‘look into’ the flowers more easily. These ‘close up’ at night and open wide in sunlight, trembling in the slightest breeze. They are pure white except for green markings on the inner corona. This, and the fact that they only produce one flower per stem, sets them apart from the taller ‘Snowflakes’ (*Leucojum aestivum* – June’s plant-of-the-month) which have several flowers per stem, are bell shaped and have a green dot *on each* of the six petaloids.



An English Woodland



Galanthus nivalis ‘Sam Arnott’
Snowdrop



Leucojum aestivum
Snowflake



Galanthus need good drainage but also respond to plentiful soil moisture in the growing period and so prefer a heavier soil – they seem to love our black clay. After a few years, clumps can be lifted and broken up to increase your numbers. This must be done after the leaves have died down completely in summer. If it is done this way, next-year’s flowering will not be affected adversely. Plant 7cm deep and 10cm apart.

Story: Susan Cantrell

LOOKING GOOD NOW

			
Abutilon hybridum	Primula vulgaris	Ericaflora	Iris unguicularis
			
Ranunculus ficaria 'Copper Knob'	Helleborus niger 'Marbled leaf form'	Narcissus bulbicodium 'Spoirot'	Camellia hiemalis 'Shishigashira'
			
Geranium sanguineum striatum	Helleborus orientalis 'Double white'	Osteospermum ecklonis 'Zion Red'	Nigella damascena 'Love-in-a-mist'
			
Cabbage	Narcissus 'Erlicheer'	Crocus fuscotintus	Daphne odora
			
Osteospermum 'White Lightning'	Leucanthemum hosmariense	Muscari armeniacum 'Grape Hyacinth'	Paeony new growth
			
Dark Purple violets	Rosmarinus officinalis	Iceland Poppy	Hybrid Cyclamen

			
Viburnum tinus	Primula vulgaris	Camellia 'Crimson Belle'	Lonicera fragrantissima
			
Hardenbergia violacea 'Regent'	Corylopsis sinensis	White violets	Leucojum aestivum 'Snowflakes'
			
Citrus fruit	Mahonia japonica	Correa	Correa
			
Acacia floribunda Wattle	Eryngium planum 'Sea Holly'	Alstroemeria 'Indian Summer'	Euphorbia characias spp. wulfenii

And another contribution from Dar Brookes (*Many Thanks, Dar.*)

		
Broad Beans	C. cirrhosa "Freckles"	Cerinthe

And Dar has indicated that she will be bringing a couple of pots of yellow iris and some lengths of tree dahlias to the July meeting for the Trading Table – just to whet your appetite at our resumed gathering.

THIS MONTH – THE GARDEN IN JUNE AND JULY

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.

JUNE AND JULY

- 1 Spring-flowering bulbs should be watered, particularly if dry conditions are experienced. Once the foliage emerges a liquid fertiliser can be applied. (*Note: Watering bulbs might be difficult to attain in 2020 given the current drought conditions and water restrictions. Do your best.*)
- 2 Check shrubs and trees for scale (especially fruit trees) and apply an appropriate spray if necessary.
- 3 Remove old flower heads from roses and tidy up the bushes. Scale on the bushes can be treated at pruning time (in August-September).
- 4 Cut back chrysanthemums.
- 5 Dig over soil and leave beds in rough condition.
- 6 Do NOT prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees at this time.
- 7 Prune fruit trees – peaches, nectarines. Grapes can be pruned after leaf-fall in May.
- 8 Carry out a general garden clean-up, destroy hiding places for pests.
- 9 Plant out onion plants: "Plant on the shortest day and harvest on the longest". Select varieties for early maturing and good keeping qualities.
- 10 Start planting deciduous shrubs and trees.

LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN IN AUGUST

AUGUST

- 1 Prune roses from the first week of August up to the first week of September. Roses should be sprayed after pruning; take care if using a lime sulphur spray as it can damage new shoots.
- 2 Plant new roses and other shrubs and trees.
- 3 Top-dress garden beds with complete fertiliser and well-rotted manure, if available. Feed daffodils with a light dressing of complete fertiliser or liquid fertiliser.
- 4 Top-dress lawn when soil is moist and water in.
- 5 Remove dead heads from winter iris.
- 6 Spray for leaf curl on peaches and nectarines. It is important that the spray for leaf curl be applied at bud swell – once buds begin to open it is too late.
- 7 Apply complete fertiliser to established shrubs and trees and water well.
- 8 Prune summer-flowering shrubs – abelia, buddleia, crepe myrtle, veronica, etc.
- 9 Hardwood cuttings of japonica, pyracantha, abelia, forsythia, tamarix, etc may be struck in sand from May to August. Cuttings can be dipped in hormone powder or honey to improve chances of good root formation.
- 10 Do NOT prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees, such as prunus, spiraea, japonica, pearl bush; forsythia, ribes (currants), banksia rose, etc until after flowering.
- 11 Divide perennials such as delphiniums, perennial phlox, michaelmas daisies, shasta daisies, heuchera, erigeron, campanula, solomon's seal, red hot poker, winter iris, etc. Avoid extremely frosty weather and water well. Do NOT leave this too late as new shoots can be damaged.
- 12 Plant out peony roses and tuberose. Strike chrysanthemum cuttings in sandy loam from August to the end of October.

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:



HAPPY GARDENING!

