

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE NO. 584 SEPTEMBER 2020

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 24 September 2019 at 7.00 pm in the
Uniting Church Lounge.
Please submit your display table entries before 6.50 pm to allow
for the counting 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
Minutes Secy:	Kim Swan	6775 3916	Publicity:	Dar Brookes	0412 589 414

Display Table

Display Table Competition Categories – September

1	Camellia or other member of the camellia family (1 Cut)	6	Flowering native tree/shrub/climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)
2	Flowering narcissus (1 cut)	7	3 of any one type of onion family (with roots)
3	Flowering bulbous plant – not narcissus (1 cut)	8	3 leaves of a leafed non-brassica vegetable eg spinach
4	Flowering annual or perennial – not bulbous (1 cut)	9	3 Culinary herbs (one of each) – labelled
5	Flowering non-native tree/shrub/climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)	10	Any other fruit or vegetable

11	<i>New Category</i> – Massed display of a single species
----	---

This new Display Table category is intended to better display a single species that has limited impact as a single stem but greater impact as a multi-stem collation or otherwise to display a single species where multi-coloured forms could be displayed together

Please note that the Display Table judging will be via the token voting system. Voting is of course not compulsory. However if there are members who wish to vote but who feel uncomfortable about using the club's voting tokens given the current coronavirus situation, they may wish to provide their own disposable voting tokens, perhaps by printing this page of the newsletter, separately cutting out the various category indicators in the above table and using those pieces of paper as their voting tokens.

It's not meant to be a drama – just a bit of fun!

Results of the August Competition

No	Plant	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	No. of Entries
1	Camelia	David Trennery Unnamed	David Trennery Unnamed		2
2	Flowering Narcissus	Susan Cantrell Narcissus Exception	Susan Cantrell Narcissus Billy Graham	Suzanne Hanson Narcissus	7
3	Flowering Bulbous (Not Narcissus)	Susan Cantrell Tulipa Bakeri Lilac Wonder	Susan Cantrell Sparaxis		5
4	Flowering Annual or Perennial	Susan Cantrell Helleborus Orientales	Susan Cantrell Iceland Poppy	Susan Cantrell Primula Hybrid	10
5	Flowering Tree Shrub or Climber	Susan Cantrell Prunus Mume	Susan Cantrell Acacia Floribunda		8
6	Flowering Pot Plant				Nil
7	Brassica	Ray Cantrell Savoy Cabbage	Ray Cantrell Pak Choy		2
8	Three Leaves of Leafed Veg	David Trennery Warrigal Greens			1
9	3 of One Type of Other Fruit or Veg	Briony Freeman Cumquat			1
10	Bonsai				Nil
11	Massed Display				Nil

PLANT OF THE MONTH – Malus floribunda (Japanese flowering Crabapple)
(Royal Horticultural Society ‘Award of Garden Merit’)

This beautiful small tree is in full flower right now here in Armidale (September). Interestingly, I have noticed there appears to be one or more of them in practically every street in town – and with good reason. Apart from the impact the beauty of the massed pale-pink flowers makes for several weeks at this time of year, the medium-size, lovely broad shape of the tree and its hardiness all go to making it a great garden subject. Add to this the fact that the bees love it and it does not sucker or self-sow and it makes *Malus floribunda* just about the perfect large-shrub, small-tree in any garden!



At this time of year its red buds open to single, pale pink, fragrant flowers massing over the entire tree. It is very long-lived and revels in our cold winters – indeed it needs them to flower really well. Drought tolerant and growing in full sun and just about any decent soil barring the very limey or very rocky, it is not beset by any diseases - unlike some of the more modern varieties. The length of flowering-time and density of the flowers on the stem also compares well.

Best as a specimen tree/shrub, it’s broad, arching branches will reach 5m x 5m in 10 years. It is readily available at most nurseries.

Story: Susan Cantrell

LOOKING GOOD NOW

			
Muscari armeniacum Grape hyacinth	Pyrus nivalis ‘Snow pear’	Tulipa kaufmanniana ‘Hearts Delight’	Nigella damascena
			
Alstroemeria ‘Indian Summer’	Ranunculus ficaria ‘Double White’	Acer palmatum emerging growth	Ranunculus ficaria ‘Copper Knob’

			
Tulipa saxatilis	Sparaxis tricolour	Diascia barberae	Wistaria floribunda
			
Myosotis sylvatica	Viburnum carlesii	Primula vulgaris	Bellis perennis
			
Paeonia suffruticosa	Scilla siberica	Leucocoryne purpurea	Ajuga reptans
			
Primula vulgaris 'Gold Lace'	Geum 'Flames of Passion'	Tulipa clusiana 'Cynthia'	Veronica peduncularis 'Oxford Blue'
			
Iris germanica	Viola tricolor	Cyclamen repandum	Sparaxis elegans
			
Tulipa clusiana	Chaenomeles japonica	Jasmine polyanthum	Camellia japonica

			
Scabiosa columbaria 'Vivid Violet'	Myosotis sylvatica 'Forget-me-not'	Helleborus 'Anna's Red'	Hyacinthoides non-scripta

And a contribution from David Trennery



Camelia in flower



Pot of mixed pansies

AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

On Display



And Our Guest Speaker



Club member Briony Freeman gave an interesting talk on edible weeds, many of which we regard as “invaders” in our gardens. To exemplify her talk, Briony also provided us with some tasty examples of food items that can be prepared using some of these edible plants.

THIS MONTH – THE GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER

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.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Divide chrysanthemum clumps and discard old stems
- 2 Prune sweet peas if desired, leaving one or two basal shoots and tie plants to supports.
- 3 Start planting gladioli (120 days to flowering in a good season); dip or dust corms with fungicide.
- 4 Water stored dahlias lightly to promote shooting, but keep sheltered from frosts.
- 5 Plant out delphinium and lupin seedlings (from May seed planting) – this may be done in August also.
- 6 Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees (including wattles) immediately after flowering.
- 7 Inspect roses closely for aphids and treat if they are found. This can be done by simply hosing them off.
- 8 Plant out onion seedlings – this can be done most months for selected varieties (see November).
- 9 Sow seeds of beetroot, carrots, lettuce, peas and radish. When frosts ease, plant celery, parsley, potatoes, turnips and tomatoes. Use empty milk cartons around tomato plants and protect well from frost.
- 10 Harvest asparagus spears when they are young and tender – do not let them advance.
- 11 Mow lawns – not too low. Use grass clippings to start a new compost heap.

LOOKING AHEAD – 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.

THIS ITEM IS NOT MEANT TO BE A FREE ADVERTISEMENT – However

The following item has been included because this new product may be of interest given the water restrictions that are currently being experienced in Armidale. It should be stressed that the product is NOT being endorsed as a result of its inclusion in this newsletter. It has simply been inserted because some members may be interested in what it purports to do in relation to the use of greywater on plants.



Yates Greywater Fertiliser

Yates Greywater Fertiliser has been specially formulated to add missing nutrients to laundry, bath and shower greywater, so that it can be used to feed home garden plants and lawns.

Features

- Helps neutralise the effect of alkaline soaps and detergents on soil pH

- Contains a biocide to help kill unwanted microbes in greywater
- Added nitrogen and potassium to create a balanced fertiliser to feed plants and lawns and encourage healthy growth
- Contains chelated iron to promote deep green foliage and lawns
- Added calcium to help reduce potential negative effects of greywater on soil quality
- Concentrated formula – 1L of Yates Greywater Fertiliser can treat up to 500L of greywater

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:



HAPPY GARDENING!

