

Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

10 September 2015: Edition No 286

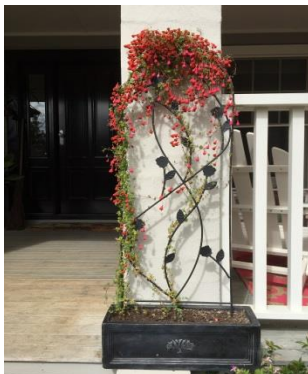
From the President ...

Hi everyone! I raced up to our local 'barn' for plants that were on special this morning and the sun was warm and the garden was inviting me in. By the time I had eaten my brekkie and sat down to write this, the clouds had rolled over and it was cold again, so whilst Spring is here according to the calendar, we might have to wait a few more weeks to feel it finally has arrived.

Our two new committee members have happily taken on roles that will contribute enormously to the smooth running of our club. Vic will set up all of the equipment that we use for our general meetings, which is a task that I certainly don't feel comfortable with. Karen will take over the guest speaker co-ordinator role from next year but will start to search out an interesting roster as soon as possible. This is where we would like some input please. If you know of someone who is an expert in their field or have an idea of a potential subject that would interest all of us, then please see Karen with your suggestions. Karen will also take up a meet-and-greet role at the front desk.

Finally, a friendly reminder to see Barry to renew your membership today, as this month is the last before we need to transfer you to our 'inactive members' list.

Celeste



Spring colour: This is my *Tropaelum tricolor*. It's a climbing nasturtium and this is the best it's looked for me!

Robyn Bible

Geraniums and Pelargoniums.

Robyn has been specialising in the growing of geraniums and pelargoniums for 42 years, and has a collection dating back many years. Her collection includes miniatures, coloured leaf, zonals, stellars, scented varieties, variegated ivies, mini ivies, hybrid ivies, cranesbills, erodium species, regal pelargoniums and many more. Robyn would like to talk to our club members about the different varieties and demonstrate how to cut back and propagate plants.

Janine's Rose Feeding Mix

I prefer to grow older style roses, species, English or European bred roses to better suit our climate – and I love their form, fragrance and appearance! As a result, I prune my roses earlier than many recommendations because those roses perform well in much colder climates than we experience. Also, I just can't stand the look of the things by June, and just want them tidied up.

When all the pruning is complete, I hand scratch around the bases, or use very gentle forking, to loosen the soil. Most suckering from roses occurs when tools are used to dig around the bases, so I use heavily gloved hands and imagine I'm making pastry.



Then, I layer the feeding mix onto the soil around the bases. The following amounts are minimum amounts per rose, and more can be added for larger roses, or if you have more space. Don't let the mix cover other nearby plants as they may rot with the moisture retention, and generous food mix. All my roses get all the manure, then all the potash etc at the same time. That way I don't forget where I'm up to, and I don't have to do all the feeding at once, just an individual component.

- ❖ Cow Manure – half a bucket. I get mine in bulk from Tunks. A cubic metre is about \$95 delivered, nicely milled and easier to spread. Much less expensive than buying by bags.
- ❖ Potash – 1 tablespoon. I get mine from the Produce Store in North Katoomba. Definitely cheaper.
- ❖ Blood and Bone – 1 big handful.
- ❖ Organic Xtra or Dynafert – 2 good handfuls or similar products, based on Dynamic Lifter with added seaweed. Organic Xtra is cheapest at Longview in 32kg bags or Dynafert from North Katoomba Produce.
- ❖ Lucerne – as much as will fit on top. Aim for minimum 3 cm coverage. I like the chopped lucerne, by the big bag, again from the Produce store.
- ❖ Water – about a bucket.

I leave this mix around the plant for about a week to mature, then add about another bucket of water, if there has been no good rain. A few days after that, with sturdy gloves on, I 'fluff' the mix up and blend through. This prevents a hard lucerne crust forming on top and stopping water penetrating to the roots, and also allows all the soil microbes to get to work and incorporate the blended mix into a balanced plant food.

This mix usually lasts till mid-summer, and then I add Sudden Impact and maybe more lucerne if the weather has been unkind. I like to have the different feeding regimes – I don't like to eat the same things all year, so why should my roses?

Janine Shoemark



September Gardening Tips

September is the month of feeding, pruning and watering. Plants in bloom need extra food and water to prolong displays.

- Most plants trees and shrubs respond to warmer weather conditions and longer sunlight periods by seeking regular supply of plant foods, so start fertilising with blood and bone and potash. This can be done at a rate of 9 parts of blood and bone to 1 part potash. Sprinkle on all parts of garden, between shrubs, fruit and ornamental trees. Rate of application is a fistful or 40grams per square metre. Reapply every month until the end of March for best results.
- If you have been working on your compost heap, hopefully it is ready to use now or in the next couple of months. Compost should be forked into beds with a good dressing of animal manure.
- Compost is not mulch. Once the garden is fertilised and dressed with compost and animal manure, spread a good layer of mulch such as lucerne, straw, saw dust or sugar cane.
- Grass is a ravenous competitor for garden plants. Clear away grass from under trees and around plants, especially over root areas. The quick and greedy growth of grass (and weeds, to a lesser degree) begins ahead of the trees and plants awakening in spring. So the grass gains a huge foothold from the start by robbing plants, shrubs and trees of their moisture and food. If you do not want the labour of pulling out the grass, lay thick sheets of newspaper over grass roots to smother it so it becomes part of the mulch. Over-vigorous trees can be controlled by allowing plenty of grass to grow at the base of the trunk, as well as some judicious pruning.
- Cuttings taken in autumn should be ready to plant on into bigger pots or into the garden.
- Spray stone fruit trees for brown-rot control with Mancozeb at full bloom, petal fall and as the withered remains of blossoms are detaching from immature fruit (shuckfall).
- Indoor plants can be enriched with weak liquid fertilisers and seaweed concentrate. Pests include scale (white oil spray) aphids (pyrethrum) mealy bugs (dab with cottonwool soaked in methylated spirit) and caterpillars (Dipel spray).
- Crop rotation is very important. All plant groups have their same special circle of pests and diseases. They gradually build up during the growing season and if the same plants are mistakenly planted in the same place the following year these pests have a foothold as they lie in wait for more of the same. Soil diseases once established can take years to eradicate. Rotation constantly shatters the growth cycle of harmful organisms and pests.
- Divide chrysanthemums and other perennials.
- Plant gladioli corms.
- Be careful not to scalp your lawn by cutting too close. Spring is a crucial time for lawns, the longer grass is allowed to grow, the deeper the roots. If cut too short, roots are exposed to the effects of drying winds and sun.
- Fertilise lawns with Blood and Bone with about 10% Potash at the rate of 40 grams (a fistful) for each square metre. Do not put on dry lawns. Water before and after application.
- Never use soil from the garden for pot plants. Although it may contain plant foods, it is not very porous and becomes a hard lump after a few weeks.
- Although spring has arrived and winter is officially over the nights are still very cold and it is not safe to plant out tender plants. However, you can plant out those that are in flower now such as rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, ericas and a large number of native plants.

Sources

The Year Round Gardener by Stirling Macoboy

The Practical Gardener by Peter Cundall

Club Tours and Functions

Friday 25 September	<p>“Hidden Valleys” Nola’s Garden and the historic St Paul’s Anglican Church (in Cobbitty). Camden Valley Inn for lunch. Cost \$50. <i>Waiting list.</i></p>	Departure 8.30 am
Thursday 8 October	<p>Garden Ramble at “Cherrydell” plus a near neighbour’s garden. Viewing is directly after the meeting until 1.30pm. Addresses to be advised on the day.</p>	12 noon – 1.30 pm
Friday 16 October	<p>“Up the Country” This tour includes visiting the beautiful Mayfield Gardens and the Gairloch Garden. Lunch and morning tea included. Cost \$45. <i>Waiting list.</i></p>	Departure 8.45 am
Friday 13 November	<p>Glenmore House 1840s sandstone cottage and garden at Camden. Lunch provided (morning tea not included). Cost \$36. <i>Waiting list.</i></p>	Departure 10 am
Thursday 3 December	<p>Christmas Lunch at Wentworth Falls Country Club (Note: not our usual Thursday meeting date.) Cost \$35 per member. Members are welcome to bring along a guest: Cost \$40.</p>	12 noon

Next Meeting

8 October

Guest speaker

Kat Szuminska from the **Blue Mountains’ Fruit and Nut Tree Network**

Hall set-up

Kevin Craze (to be confirmed)

Morning tea duty

Janice Light and Barbara Wakefield

Bring-a-plate

Janice Light

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 Website: www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com

Club Information

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival.

Members are asked to wear their club name badges to all club meetings, tours and functions. To take part in club functions and tours you must be a bona-fide club member.

General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, from January to November, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Adele Ave (cnr Great Western Hwy), Wentworth Falls. Meetings commence at 9.45 am and finish around noon. \$5 entry fee. The Library and Plant Stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea.

Joining fee is \$30. Thereafter annual subscription is \$20.

For Club Welfare matters, contact Lea Nelson:
 Ph 4784 1101.