



garden  clinic

SPRING 2014

RRP\$8.50

Metal Garden Edging Your Complete Edging Solution



Picture: Swinburn TAFE, NGIV, RossU Design, Silver Medal Winner MIFGS 2013. Featuring pre-made FormBoss circles.

FormBoss™ Metal Garden Edging has been turning heads for nine years now. Whether you're a garden enthusiast or a first timer you can appreciate the crisp clean lines that FormBoss™ edging provides your garden. FormBoss™ allows you to regain control over your garden design. Do you have grass growing where it shouldn't? Are you constantly replacing rotten timber edges? Are you sick of second rate products making your outdoor areas look cheap and tacky? It's time to jump on the FormBoss™ bandwagon: you'll be delighted with what you can achieve!



Picture: Sustainable Garden Designs Perth. Featuring premade Corten (rusty) garden beds.



Picture: Natural Design & Australian Quality Landscapes MIFGS 2013.



Picture: Aesthetic Landscapes



Chelsea Flower & Garden Show 2013.



Wes Fleming & Phillip Johnson take best in show at Chelsea. Here they are with Graham Ross. Images from 'Getty Images'



Picture: Paal Grant Designs MIFGS Gold Award Winner 2012

Multiple Award Winning Designs

FormBoss™ Metal garden edging continues to feature in high profile **gold winning displays**. Phillip Johnson and Ian Fleming's 'Best In Show' display at **Chelsea Flower & Garden Show** was absolutely stunning (above)! Paal Grant (top right) won the **Gold award** for his stunning rustic display at the Melbourne Flower and Garden Show in 2012. Additionally, Victorian Schools Awards hosted by Swinburn TAFE, RossU Design and NGIV won the **Silver Award** at the Melbourne Flower Show 2013 (left).



Picture: Jamie Durie's personal backyard.



Picture: Phillip Withers Design & Semken Landscaping MIFGS 2013 Bronze Award Winner.

Why Choose Steel Edging For Your Garden Design?

Elegant. A seamless line with virtually invisible joints, hidden connectors and stakes.

Shapeable. Create the shapes you want, from intricate curves to endless straight lines. Right angle bends without a cut and join.

Strong. Stronger than aluminum and traditional edging materials, it stays in shape where other edges fail.

Durable. Steel does not crack, split, rot or dent and it is covered by a 10 year replacement guarantee!

Safe. All edges have a rolled (rounded) top lip that also conceals all the stakes and connectors.

Applications. Suitable for footpaths, driveways, retaining walls, garden beds, steps and more...

Choice. Available in three finishes, eight different heights and four gauges.

Value. Cheaper than plate steel, aluminum or concrete edging, and works out cheaper than replacing second rate edges over and over.

Easy to install. Anyone can do it!

Have your order delivered direct, or pick up directly from our growing chain of distributors.

Check out our new ZAM edging. It's super durable and will be available soon. Check online for details!

Show your garden who's boss whilst improving the value of your house!

Our website has galleries, video tutorials and tips and tricks to get you started.

Pick up the phone or go online now!

1800 FormBoss™
1800 367 626
METAL GARDEN EDGING
www.FORMBOSS.com.au



Get growing, p.63

CLICK PLAY

Our new website features Garden Clinic TV. We've filmed experts, inspirational people and great ideas to share with you. Go to www.gardenclinic.com to see what's new.



Say hello!

We'll be back in our white lab-coats solving garden problems at the **Australian Garden Show Sydney**, Centennial Park, September 4-7. Come say hello and check out our new theme.

We're thrilled to introduce some changes to Garden Clinic. We've increased member benefits; expanded the hours of the Garden Clinic Club hotline to include Saturdays and Sundays; launched a new easy-to-use website, and – as you can see – refreshed our Journal! Yep, we've been busy! Congratulations to Linda Ross and her team for a great new look and terrific content.

The new website has weekly updates, videos and podcasts from the Garden Clinic radio show. Now you can catch up with your favourite segments and interviews any time that's convenient to you.

Don't forget to check the magazine each season for the dates of our free member garden classes and workshops or go online to our new 'What's On' page. There you'll be able plan a great garden-viewing weekend, with Open Gardens, shows, garden tours, daytrips and special events.

It's all very exciting. We'd love to know what you think. Contact us at members@gardenclinic.com

Go safely,

Graham Ross
VMM



oasis
create your own

Oasis has made creating your own tomato harvest easier than ever by gathering the pick of the best performing varieties into one easily recognisable range - **Oasis Thumbs Up**. We've selected more than 10 hybrid varieties and better performing heirlooms for the Thumbs Up collection so you can be confident of achieving higher yields from stronger, healthier plants.

Ready to make a start? Then give your Thumbs Up to our Top 5 below. Available at leading nurseries and garden centres.

Oasis 1800 019 165 • www.oasishorticulture.com.au



Performance may vary between States and local growing conditions.

Mighty Red

Black Russian

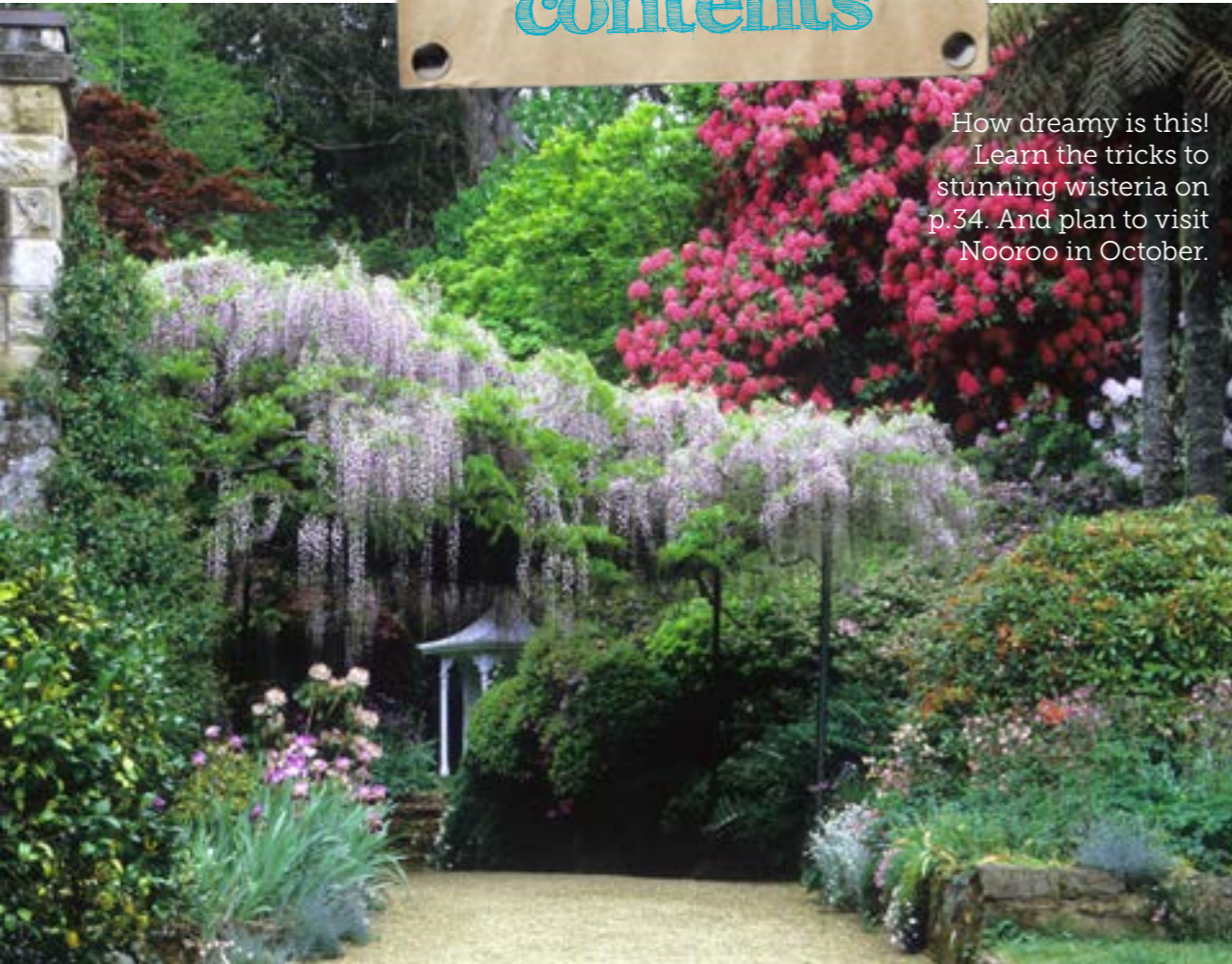
Grosse Lisse

Roma

Sweetbite



contents



How dreamy is this! Learn the tricks to stunning wisteria on p.34. And plan to visit Nooroo in October.

up front

- 10 Dear GC
Letters and garden news from our members
- 13 Nursery network
Save with our Garden Clinic partners
- 14 What's new
Irresistible new plants and products
- 16 Unearthed
News and events from the garden world
- 18 Garden road trip
Head to Mount Wilson in spring
- 20 Postcards
Travel notes and tips from our Ross Garden Tour leaders

Save the date

Linda Ross will be at Nutcote on Sunday October 26, talking about creating a May Gibbs-inspired garden. Details gardenclinic.com

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORNA ROSE, LUIS BRIMBLE, ROBIN POWELL AND SHUTTERSTOCK.



discover

- 26 Feature garden
Clever design solutions from Sydney's Hidden festival
- 32 Meet: Anne Ruston
South Australian senator and owner of Ruston Roses
- 34 Great Plants
Everything you need to know about wisteria
- 40 Meet: Sharon Drinkwater
Iris grower and owner of Rainbow Ridge nursery
- 42 Stars of the season
Ajuga and clivia are spring treasures
- 46 Meet: Melanie Boudar
Chocolatier and fine flavour cacao farmer
- 50 In the garden
Tips, plans and inspirations from Sandra Ross' garden
- 52 Know your: iris
Meet the influential members of this huge family
- 54 How to: Cloud prune
Master an ancient topiary technique
- 56 How to: care for azaleas
Get the most from these spring beauties
- 58 How to: make moss art
Fun project with the kids
- 63 Kitchen garden
Pick, sow, feed
- 66 Fennel
Grow it, cook it
- 68 Salad leaves
Mix it up
- 70 Garden clinic
Send us your questions
- 77 It's time to
Your month-by-month guide to the garden
- 82 Journal
Your garden notes

Our team

Meet us

Director
Graham Ross

Managing Editor
Linda Ross
linda@gardenclinic.com

Editor
Robin Powell

Designer
Pete Bunce

Find us

Radio
2GB 873
Saturday and Sunday
mornings, 6-9am
listen online www.2gb.com

Web
www.gardenclinic.com

Facebook
The Garden Clinic

Instagram
@gardenclinicclub
@linda_kirin_ross
@grahamross_betterhomes

Podcasts
www.gardenclinic.com

Video
www.gardenclinic.com

Ask us

Hotline
1300 133 100

2GB open line
131 873

2GB prize line
1300 722 873

Contact us

Phone
1300 133 100

Email
members@gardenclinic.com

Address
83 Beecroft Road, Beecroft
NSW 2119

Subscribe
1300 133 100

Advertise
Kent Ross
kent@gardenclinic.com

On the cover
Graham and Sandra Ross
celebrated 34 years of the
Garden Clinic Club this year -
must have been child
prodigies, right!

Cover Photo by Luisa Brimble.
Printed by BPA Print Group on 100%
recycled paper. Issue 34: Volume 27/3
© 2014 All rights reserved



Sandra Ross

Sandra is one of four horticultural consultants on the Garden Clinic Hotline. Garden Clinic Club members can call 1300 133 100 for free advice any day between 10am-2pm.



Robin Powell

Our inimitable editor also finds time to write a weekly garden column and a food column for the Sydney Morning Herald, and an inspirational blog on gardens food and travel at www.robinpowell.com.au.

garden clinic

What's new from Yates?

BuffaloPro Weed 'n' Feed

- Specialist lawn weed 'n' feed hose-on
- Kills bindii & broadleaf weeds
- Contains nitrogen & iron to feed lawn
- 2.4L covers 120m²
- Can be used on all grass lawns

Thrive Easy Pods

- Easy to use pre-measured pods – no measuring, no handling & no mess
- Concentrated – each pod makes up to 9L of fertiliser. Simply add one pod into a watering can.
- Feeds your plants with fast acting NPK fertiliser plus trace elements for plant health & vitality.
- Celebrates Thrive's 50 years of growing great gardens – based on the original Thrive formulation developed by Allan Seale

Thrive Health Packs

Funny leaf colours? Odd patches in leaves? Lack of flowers or fruit? These are some of the plant problems that plague gardeners.

Diagnosing garden deficiencies and problems can be challenging but the range of nine Yates Garden Health Packs makes it much easier to identify and fix many of the most common problems. And an exciting feature of this new range is that they all come in liquid forms, so they get into the plant and go to work straight away.

There are 9 products in the range.

Boosting products

Yates Hydrangea Blueing Liquid,
Yates Hydrangea Pinking Liquid,
Yates Liquid Potash Fruit & Flower Booster

Correction products

Yates Garden Nutrients Trace Elements,
Yates Iron Chelate Leaf Greener,
Yates Magnesium Chelate Foliage Greener,
Yates Copper Chelate Leaf Greener,
Yates Zinc & Magnesium Chelate Citrus Cure,
Yates Soil Acidifier



Visit yates.com.au for more information and if you join our free online Garden Club we'll send you a free packet of seeds.

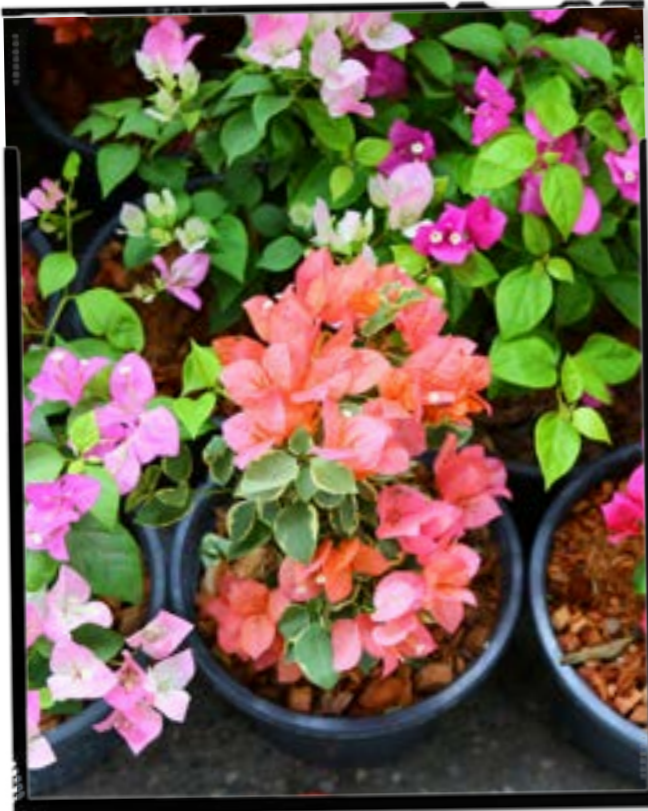
www.yates.com.au



Great gardens are Yates gardens

Dear Garden Clinic

We love to hear from you. Share your thoughts with us and the rest of the club.



Letter of the month

I just had to share with you the world's best pot feet, which I discovered quite by accident when our builders left some behind. They are called window packers and make incredibly practical pot feet: they're strong; made from plastic so don't scratch surfaces - or rot; are high enough (10mm) to be effective, but low enough to be discrete; and cheap at a box of 70 for \$17. I know it's a bit weird getting excited about pot feet but I've had no end of trouble in the past!

Gabrielle Thomson, Hawthorn

Thanks for the tip Gabrielle. You win a Strayban, to keep the possums off your potted plants. www.strayban.com.au

Write to us
at members@gardenclinic.com.au or Garden Clinic, PO Box 500 Beecroft, NSW 2119.
Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.



**P.S. Don't miss
the iris!**

We didn't have room in our iris story (p. 60) to tell you about a little-known gem in Paris – the Jardin de Bagatelle iris garden. Bagatelle is famous for its roses but there's also a secret formal garden filled with thousands of iris. It's so little known we often have the whole thing to ourselves! Find it past the potager and the green garden. **The Parc de Bagatelle is open daily. If you'd like to join us we'll be there next May. Call 1300 233 200.**



Want a greener lawn this Spring?

- Suitable for all lawn varieties including Buffalo, Couch & Kikuyu & instant turf after 1 month of laying
- This bag is enough to cover a tennis court or a large front and back lawn

Also available in

1.5kg covers 60m²

2.5kg covers 100m²

(both in the shake bag with a built-in spreader)

Munns fertilisers are produced in Australia for Aussie lawns

For more tips on lawn care visit www.munns.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

and all good garden centres

Not all pack sizes are available at all stores

like us on 

'The only thing greener than a lawn fertilised with Munns is the look on your neighbours face.'

Facebook hits



The Opera House comes up roses

Our favourite image from the wonderful Vivid festival, put together by the same crack team that operate the Australian Garden Show Sydney. Hope to see you there!



Passion flowers inspire, well, yes passion!

Our tip for a great season next year, prune back by one-third in late winter, as fruit forms on new stems. Feed with potassium sulphate, or potash, during flowering.



The Queen is given flowers – and the market where they're sold

Queen Elizabeth visited France for D-Day tributes and the flower market near Notre Dame was renamed March aux Fleurs Reine Elizabeth II in her honour.

Coming clean

About three weeks ago I was one of the lucky Garden Clinic members to have their name read out. This week I received a fantastic Seasol pack. It even included Seasol soap so I have no excuse for not having a shower now! Thanks to you, and to Seasol for a wonderful prize.

Bruce Webster,
Picnic Point

Discovered

I can't imagine how I didn't find out about you till the last few years! But I am making sure all my family and friends know about you now. We have a very challenging garden, which I have worked in for 50 years and it's just great to be able to ring your hotline and get answers to all my problems.

Barbara Fitzlherbert, Roseville

Thank you

Thank you for all the information! Whether it's gardening, recipes or family news, it all gives me enjoyment. *Joan Adams*



FPBA-AMG13149



Contact Information
Phone: 1800 682 221 Fax: 1800 687 979 www.amgrow.com.au





Sky Planters by Boskke offer opportunities for plants everywhere, and in every direction. Stockists: www.boske.com



No room for a garden? You only need one wall for Wally. Wallys are made from recycled plastic bottles and attach to masonry, drywall, sheetrock, wood and metal. www.woollypocket.com



Wisteria 'Amethyst Falls' is a less aggressive and slightly smaller wisteria: wisteria without the hysteria? Try it trained up a tepee or in a pot.



Urbio wall planters greenify boring walls. The planters are modular and magnetic, and look great on any wall! Available TOP3 by Design.



Fill this planter with water and the terracotta membrane allows the plant to self-water, with each 'watering' lasting up to a month. Perfect for work. CUBE is available TOP3 by Design.

Father's Day
Gifts

Our ideas for a green-thumbed dad:



Copper gives slugs and snails an electric charge which stops them in their tracks. This is a natural way to protect potted plants. Ensure the tape encircles the plant and overlaps. www.heaveninearth.com.au Greenpatch seeds are our go-to shop for interesting vegetable seeds to plant out this spring.



Buy a ticket on Graham Ross' Jacaranda Cruise and spend a lovely day enjoying the world's best harbour and the mauve mantle that descends over Sydney come November. Bookings essential on 1300 233 200

what's new
Grow it; show it off



'Sweet Intoxication' from Swane's has magenta buds opening to amethyst blooms with a strong perfume. This rose won Most Fragrant and Best Floribunda in the 2009 Australian Rose Trials. We've been trialling it ourselves in our coastal garden and give it a double thumbs up!



Display a prized plant collection on this handsome plant stand from Glenmore House. Available in Rolling Fog, Green Room and Sea Salt, email mickey@glenmorehouse.com.au

In the shed

Amgrow has answered our pleas for a bigger 'Harvest!' Fans can now get this powerful liquid feed in a 20L tub. Ask your local Bunnings to order it in for you. Zaleton sprayed over azalea buds before burst will stop the dreaded petal blight from ruining your show. Stock up. Half-wine barrels have a rustic look and their size

allows citrus to grow successfully on a balcony or terrace. Find French oak barrels, sourced from South Africa at Ecogardens Bondi. Store seed packets in order, and safe from rodents in a metal box with a tight-fitting lid. Available in two sizes and in slate, clay, flint and shutter blue. www.heaveninearth.com.au

free classes

Learn more

{garden clinic on the road}

A free Garden Clinic Class every year is one of the benefits of Garden Clinic membership. So choose your day and come along to meet fellow gardeners, pick up some great tips, and taste some Ross family home-baked goods!

Edibles

Saturday October 4

Get the low-down on planting up the vegetable patch for spring and summer at GC HQ. We'll cover tomatoes, eggplant, beans, herbs and companion plants, as well as how to attract bees for maximum pollination and harvest.

10am-noon
83 Beecroft Rd, Beecroft

Gorgeous gardens

Friday October 17

This general garden class for our Central Coast members will cover topics such as flowers, vegetables and jobs of the season, all in the stunning grounds of Nola Parry's The Wildflower Place.

11am - 1pm
453 The Entrance Road, Erina

Design tips

Friday October 31

Need some new ideas to redesign your garden? Starting from scratch or thinking about a change of direction? Landscape architect and garden lover Linda Ross will help you find the perfect style in this creative class.

10am-noon
83 Beecroft Rd, Beecroft

Let's propagate!

Saturday November 1

Learn how to make new plants from old ones and when to do it. We'll talk hard, semi-hard, soft-wood, leaf-cutting, seed-sowing and layering.

10am-noon
83 Beecroft Rd, Beecroft

Geraniums

Friday December 5

Learn about the steadfast and colourful world of geraniums with Geranium Cottage dynamo Riva Dale. Find out the best choices for pots, hanging baskets, window ledges and garden beds.

10am-noon
828 Old Northern Rd, Middle Dural



Special member event

Learn the secrets of a garden that flowers all through a long hot summer when Glenmore House in Camden opens its doors for a very special Garden Clinic member-only event. Linda and Sandra Ross (pictured here at Glenmore House last year) will run this perennial and flower-growing workshop. Learn how to design and grow a garden that ebbs and flows through the seasons, but always includes flowers. The day includes morning tea, lunch, workshop and take-home flower pack.

Friday 3 October. Cost \$60. Bookings essential 1300 133 100. Glenmore House, Moores Way, Glenmore (near Camden).

Bring a friend Garden Clinic members are invited to a free garden class each year. Costs for non-member guests and for extra classes are \$65 per class.

SYZYGIUM

Big Red[®]

An outstanding **fast growing** Lillypilly with large **dark crimson** leaves. White flowers are borne over summer followed by edible berries which attract native birds. Hardy, **frost and dry tolerant**. Responds well to shaping – perfect for **hedging, screening and topiary** applications.



SPRING 2014 OPEN DAYS

THIS SPRING THERE ARE EVEN MORE REASONS TO VISIT



NURSERY | KITCHEN CAFÉ | WATER GARDEN

For dates, ticket prices and further details visit

mayfieldgarden.com.au

530 Mayfield Rd Oberon NSW
02 6336 3131



Visit www.pma.com.au
or scan the barcode for more
tips, info and planting ideas.



Garden road trip



Mount Wilson

Fill the thermos, grab a camera and head to the pretty village of Mount Wilson in the Blue Mountains for peonies, lilac and a world-famous wisteria collection.

TEXT: ROBIN POWELL

Windyridge

This lovely garden, pictured above, can be enjoyed from its series of terraces, on a bench by the lake, on the sloping lawns, or by walking its many interesting paths. There's plenty to admire, from beautifully constructed vistas to intricate close

ups of rare, cool climate plants. We love the spring treats of white waratahs and peonies in tones from pure white through pink to deep red. The owners, Rodger and Wai Davidson, offer free tea and coffee on the top terrace, so pack a picnic and spend some time. windyridge-mtwilson.com

Merry Garth

Libby and Keith Raines have been making this garden for 35 years. It's a serene mixture of indigenous flora, local stone and exotics, many of them rare. In spring we love the big-belled fragrant rhodos. There's a small rare plant nursery on the property, and Libby also sells her botanical illustrations and cards. 02 4756 2121

Nooroo

Famous around the world for its wisterias, collected by Peter Valder, the garden also features hostas, lily of the valley and Japanese iris chosen to complement the showers of spring wisteria bloom. And as if that wasn't enough spring swoon, there's a gorgeous lilac collection! 02 4756 2018

Eating:

Stop off at Bilpin, on the way up to Mount Wilson, or on the way back, for morning or afternoon tea, or an early/late lunch. Our favourites:

TUTTI FRUTTI apple pie in the rose garden is hard to pass up. **APPLE BAR** wood-fired pizzas and local cider, something more substantial, or simply something sweet **PIE IN THE SKY** Graham Ross' favourite stop in Bilpin! 🍷

For more details go to gardenclinic.com



WHEN IT COMES TO GARDENING
MULCH IS KING
& WHEN IT COMES TO MULCH
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN
BRUNNING'S
RICE STRAW
MULCH



BRUNNINGS RICE STRAW MULCH PROVIDES GARDENERS WITH A SAFE AND ECONOMICAL WAY TO ENSURE THEIR GARDENS THRIVE THROUGH THE YEARS. OFFERING GREAT ATTRIBUTES SUCH AS:

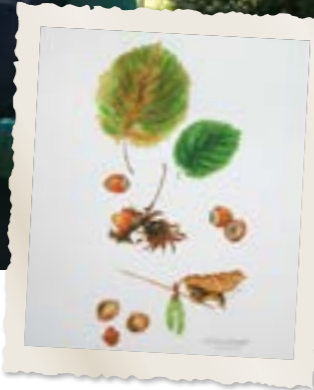
- KEEPS SOIL COOL DURING HOT MONTHS
- WEED SUPPRESSION
- EXCELLENT WATER RETENTION
- MINIMAL DUST
- EASE OF USE
- COVERS APPROX. 10 SQUARE METRES

BRUNNINGS RICE STRAW IS IDEAL FOR MOST GARDEN SITUATIONS SUCH AS VEGETABLE PLOTS, ROSES AND GENERAL GARDEN BEDS AND WILL PROVIDE HOME GARDENERS WITH AN ATTRACTIVE MULCH THAT LASTS TWICE AS LONG AS OTHER TRADITIONAL STRAW MULCHES.

Available at Leading Garden Centres & Nurseries

Postcards

Views, reports and travel tips from the world of Ross Garden Tours



Feedback

Our Tastings:Orange tour took in gorgeous autumn foliage and delicious meals as well as a few fascinating visits to producers such as Jean and Basil Baldwin, who grow hazelnuts. One of our group, Judith Moore, is a botanical artist and had Basil help her collect hazelnut bits and pieces from the orchard. This is the artwork she produced after our visit: impressive! It will hang in an exhibition at Lavender Bay Art Gallery later in the year (check our Facebook page for details). "It will remain a special painting, says Judith, "instead of 'paddock to plate' is it 'paddock to paper'. What a lovely memory."

Robin Powell

Insider:

Every morning on tour in Bright we breakfast here at Ginger Baker, and every morning a new dilemma – creamy scrambled eggs, homemade muesli, ricotta hotcakes, corn fritters... It's all so good many of us return throughout the day, often!

www.gingerbakerwinebarcafe.com.au



Chelsea: Graham and Marylyn catch up

Chelsea's small, so-called 'artisan' gardens are achievable spaces filled with great ideas. 'The Topiarist Garden at West Green' was the creation of Australian garden designer, author, (and our dear friend) Marylyn Abbott. She imagined a walled and hedged-in space where the manor horticulturist indulges a passion for eclectic topiary. White lupins, delphiniums, clematis and roses glowed, while the topiary gave the impression they were on holiday awaiting placement into the 'real' garden. It was a magical space, showcasing Marylyn's trademark humour and sophistication.

Graham Ross

Chelsea hang out

There is only one pub for Chelsea Flower Show workers and in-crowd - the Rose and Crown (90-92 Lower Sloane St.). *It's an unpretentious, traditional pub* which in May overflows with gardeners, horticulturists and designers.

{Listen}

Graham caught up with Marylyn in her garden at Chelsea. Members can listen to the conversation via podcast at the new Garden Clinic website, www.gardenclinic.com.

Love gardens?

{Join the club!}

The **Garden Clinic Club** is all about sharing. **Join up to share in our passion** for gardening. We're here to help.



Garden Clinic Club member benefits will help you become a better gardener:

- ⊕ Be inspired by our magazine four times a year
- ⊕ Get instant help on the Garden Clinic Hotline, any day, 10am -2pm
- ⊕ Learn more at a free Garden Class
- ⊕ Scoop a 10% discount on plants from our nursery partners
- ⊕ Win great prizes on Garden Clinic Radio, 2GB, Saturday and Sunday, 6-9am
- ⊕ Get access to the members-only areas of Garden Clinic online
- ⊕ Join us at special Garden Clinic members-only events

3 easy ways to join

Online: www.gardenclinic.com
Phone: 1300 133 100
Mail: The Garden Clinic Club, Reply Paid 65064, PO Box 500, Beecroft, 2119 NSW

My details

Mrs / Mr / Miss / Ms _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Daytime phone _____

Email _____

DOB _____

Gift membership

(Please also fill in your details when giving a gift)

Mrs / Mr / Miss / Ms _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Daytime phone _____

Email _____

DOB _____

Current members

- 1 year (4 issues + all benefits)** no gift **\$39.95** (Save \$5)
- 2 year (8 issues + all benefits)** + Gift Box, optional*, **\$74.95** (Save \$14.95)

New members

- 1 year (4 issues + all benefits)** no gift **\$44.95**
- 2 year (8 issues + all benefits)** + Gift Box, optional*, **\$89.95** (Save \$4.95)

Payment details

Charge my Visa Master Card _____

Card Number _____

Cardholders Name _____

Signature _____

Expiry _____

* check details of current gift packs by calling 1300 133 100 or going to www.gardenclinic.com

Join for **2 years** and receive a **\$50 FREE GIFT** to help your garden grow*

Just give it a GOGO!



You won't really know if you don't give it a go.

- Feed the soil
- Maximise nutrients available to plants
- Increase resistance to pests and disease
- Reduce heat and frost stress

Apply GOGO Juice year round to all pots, garden beds and lawn areas.

A concentrated pro-biotic liquid for your soil & plants

NEUTROG™
The Experts' Choice

Freecall 1800 65 66 44 www.neutrog.com.au

discover

People · Plants · Gardens



How's this for a fresh spring look! Pink roses dart in out and of white pickets over repeated groups of *Salvia nemorosa*, catmint and *Alchemilla mollis*. The rose growing here is David Austin's 'Gertrude Jekyll'. A better choice for most Australian gardens would be 'Climbing Pinkie' or 'Pierre de Ronsard'. And in warm climates use *Sedum 'Gold Mound'* for the frothy lime contrast.

IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK.

Get the look
The key here is the simplicity of the repeated plantings: two shades of purple and a contrasting lime.



inspired!

On a sodden April weekend some of Sydney's professionally designed gardens opened their gates to visitors for the Hidden Festival of Outdoor Design. There were 21 gardens, lots of rain, and plenty of take-home ideas for solving everyday design issues in our own gardens. Here are a few of my favourites.

TEXT AND PHOTOS: **ROBIN POWELL**



Great ideas
Need *privacy screening*,
inviting pathways, *clever*
levels, alluring features or
small space solutions? Read on.



CREATE PRIVACY We love a garden to be a private oasis of calm where next-door's Hills Hoist does not intrude on our vision of serenity. Creating that sense of nurturing enclosure, without making the garden feel closed-in, is one of the challenges of creating a satisfying space. The solution used in the Sydney garden shown on p. 26 and here on the left, by design team Art in Green is slender weaver bamboo. This plant is now the go-to screen for narrow spaces. It's so popular it has its own TLA (three-letter acronym) - BTG for *Bambusa textilis gracilis*.

BTG is a clumping bamboo, not a runner, though it will make enemies of your neighbours if you plant it too close to your fenceline and don't keep control of it. Left alone it will form a big clump and grow to a willowy 6m high. In this garden it's trimmed about every six weeks through the warm season to keep that forest of green uprights clean, and to keep the top of the hedge neat and even at a sky-revealing 3m.

Screening plantings and intriguing pathways

create a sense of private discovery in these gardens.



UP THE GARDEN PATH

Unlike a room whose walls, floors and furnishings are revealed as soon as you step through the door, a garden offers an opportunity to explore and discover along a pathway. Several of the gardens open for Hidden reminded us of the joy of going up the garden path. At the Jon Jensen garden shown left a simple brick-edged, beaten earth path winds through the garden and past a pond, and offers views back over a sunny lawn to a deep veranda at the back of the house. In the Barbara Vansberg-designed Vaucluse garden, pictured on p.28, concrete stepping stones take a path through native violet groundcover and past blue ginger, soft mounds of Malay pygmy grass and punctuation points of alcantera, to a treehouse. In Ken Lamb's semi-formal Japanese garden, shown at right, the white gravel path edged in stones references a dry riverbed. It leads past beautifully placed rocks to a teahouse at the highest point of the property.



Seasonal change

This garden is *designed* not for a single peak but for *year-round fascination*.

Tiers of green are created through the use of planter boxes and raised pots at different levels.

CHANGE UP THE LEVELS

The sunken courtyard pictured left is in a newly built aged care facility. It is seen from inside and outside at ground level, and from above. It needed to be easy to maintain and resistant to the difficult conditions of deep building shade in winter and full overhead sun in summer. Brendan Moar arranged different foliage textures and forms on different levels to create a green and lush look. White pots on stone slabs hold 'waterfalls' of rhipsalis or the bold forms of alcantera. A carpet of native violet is interrupted by bold cycads; variegated shell gingers bring light into the garden; silver lady ferns offer their lacy softness, and clumps of slender weaver bamboo link the lower level with the upper terrace.

SOLVE SMALL SPACE

The house pictured right has no front or back yard. Nicola Cameron, from Pepo Botanic Design linked the few odd-shaped spaces on the northern side of the house with irregularly shaped grey concrete pavers. The pavers lead from the carport past a triangular patch of garden to a deck that opens out from the lounge room. An iron sculpture by Mark McClelland is doubled in a cleverly placed mirror on the large blank wall behind it. The mirror captures light (or on the day I took these pictures – plenty of rain!) The only touches of colour are the red antherium and red New Guinea impatiens in a pot, echoing the red sofa in the sitting room and providing a visual link between the indoors and outdoors.

MAKE A FEATURE The owners of this garden wanted something to see from their bedroom window. Ken Lamb, from Imperial Gardens, complied with this lovely water feature, pictured right. Water trickles from the bamboo pipe into a shallow pool in a granite rock. The light catches the water as it runs down the rock into a pond planted with water plants. The sight and sound of the water moving have a meditative peace – perfect for a bedroom. Around the water feature are raphis palm, clivea, blue ginger, mondo, a background of lillypilly and a Japanese stone pine on its way to becoming a fascinating sculptural form in itself. 🌿

IMAGE OPPOSITE BY GARDEN AT PATHWAYS AT SAILORS BAY AGED CARE FACILITY.





Meet:
Anne Ruston
rose garden owner



ABOVE
'Claire', a David Austin rose is Anne's favourite for its fragrance, vigour and long life in a vase.

Anne Ruston is a South Australian senator, but for rose lovers the really important job she holds is as owner of Ruston Roses, a horticultural icon in South Australia, established by her uncle, David.

INTERVIEW: **ROBIN POWELL**

We're surrounded by some 4000 different varieties of rose. How did all this come about? My grandfather Cuthbert Sowersby Ruston was a soldier-settler who came here to the Riverland from England in 1919. He went into partnership with a friend so they had 30 acres of fruit trees, just enough to support two families.

When did the roses arrive? My father and David are twins, but quite different. David always had a passion for flowers, especially roses. In those days the irrigation channels were open, and David planted roses along the banks. In fact he planted a rose wherever there was a spare patch of ground.

Gradually people in the neighbourhood would ask for cuttings or ask him to do the roses for a daughter's wedding. The roses pushed out the vines and fruit trees and David Ruston became synonymous with roses. By the mid-'70s David had converted the whole orchard to roses.

When was the heyday of Ruston Roses? I would say the '90s. We specialised in cut flowers and sold grafting wood to nurseries.

Then what happened? In two words: globalisation and drought. West Africa, and then later South America, started to compete on cut flowers. They could grow them, gas them, pack them, ship them and land them cheaper than we could grow them. They might not smell and they might not last, but they were cheap.

At the same time we were hit by drought. David was thinking about retirement and there was no succession plan. I'd just had my son and didn't want to go back to my corporate life so the timing was

right, and we came back and took on the business. It's been tough, and we had to make some changes to survive, but now our focus is on tourism – though we still do some cut flowers. We host weddings, have a restaurant, café and shop and invite people to come and enjoy the gardens.

You've grown up surrounded by roses, do you have a favourite? I do really love 'Claire'. She's a David Austin, of the prettiest pink, vigorous, flowers really well and holds up to a month in a vase. Her only drawback is that she marks easily on the leaves if there is rain or even dew. She smells lovely too, and to my mind a rose must smell. A rose without a scent is like a guard dog without a bite, or a wedding without a bride!

If roses should smell, which ones smells the best? No question: 'Mister Lincoln' ! There is a great range of fragrances in roses, but I think that when people think of rose perfume the scent they imagine is what 'Mister Lincoln' smells like. 🍷



Perfectly perfumed
'Mister Lincoln'

Ruston Roses is open seven days a week, from 9am-5pm, at Moorna St Renmark. Go to www.rustonroses.com for more details.

Multicrop®
B-Green
Complete organic slow release fertiliser

VALUE Covers 100 SQ. Metres **2.5 KG NET**
Feeds for up to 3 months!

B-Green
Complete Organic Slow Release Fertiliser

- ✓ Ideal for vegetables, flowers, shrubs, seedlings
- ✓ Certified by NASAA 3264M
- ✓ A rich source of carbon

- ✓ Organic certified
- ✓ Suitable for all plants especially edible.
- ✓ Suitable for vegans - contains no animal products.
- ✓ Feeds for up to 3 months.

Available at all good garden supply outlets

www.multicrop.com.au



wisteria

Much of my love of gardening is the anticipation and repetition of ephemeral events. Wisteria's lacy curtain is one of them. To gaze through the veil of flowers, inhaling the scent, and listening to the bees is bliss- and you don't even need a garden to grow one.

TEXT: LINDA ROSS



IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

OPPOSITE
A wisteria line-up,
clockwise from top left:
Wisteria floribunda 'Shiro
Noda' syn. *W. longissima*
'Alba'; *W. floribunda*
'Violacea Plena'; *W.*
floribunda 'Rosea' syn
W. F. 'Honbeni'; and
Wisteria sinensis.

**WE LOVE:
WISTERIA**
This hardy, fast-growing, spring-
flowering deciduous climber needs
sturdy support. Vines can take five
years to flower so buy in flower to
guarantee bloom and colour choice.



Caution: overfeeding will produce leaves instead of flowers; pruning later than January will remove flowering shoots.

STYLES Wisterias are vigorous, quick-growing vines and Olympic-level training is sometimes required to contain their over-exuberant growth, encourage a good shape and show off the long curtain of flowers. Wisterias can be trained into any shape or style — as waterfall-shaped shrubs, lollipop standards, over sturdy pergolas and archways, along verandas or fences, framing windows, and as bonsai. The key is to grow them tall enough to allow their long flower sprays to hang freely without becoming entangled.

Limited space? Wisteria is a happy camper in a pot on a sunny balcony. We've had great success with wisteria trained to grow as a lollipop in a large container – the size of half a wine barrel seems perfect. Select a firm stake or wheel as support. Secure the stem with ties and remove all side shoots until the main stem reaches 1.5-3m (depending on the look you want), then allow the crown to develop. Once the plant starts flowering (after two or three years) it should be pruned immediately after flowering to keep the growth in check.

Wisteria can be grown as a **standard** to make a parasol of bloom or as **curtain** framing a window

MAKE A CHOICE There are Chinese, Japanese and silky wisteria to choose from. There are at least four varieties of the Chinese wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis*, available in Australia: the common mauve; a darker, reddish purple called 'Amethyst'; a white called 'Alba'; and another white, 'Jako', which is more strongly scented.

There are dozens of varieties of the Japanese wisteria, but most of them differ little from one another. By far the most famous is 'Macrobotrys' (also known as *W. floribunda longissima*), a name which means 'big cluster'. This name is appropriate

With the right pruning and training you can make a wisteria grow however you want. If grown as a standard like the one above, it will need a sturdy metal support. Ensure you allow it to get tall enough that its long hanging racemes of flowers sit well above anything else in the bed.





as this climber produces pale mauve flowers in clusters often a metre or more long. For this reason it is best grown on a high pergola so that the mass of flowers can be admired from below. Other varieties that are well worth growing are: 'Violacea Plena', a double mauve; 'Kuchibeni', palest lilac pink; 'Honbeni', a stronger pink; 'Royal Purple', a deep mauve; 'Lawrence', which is sky blue rather than mauve; and 'Shiro Noda', a truly magnificent pure white with long clusters. Look out for the deep indigo flowers of 'Black Dragon' (also known as *Wisteria floribunda* 'Royal Purple'), whose long scented racemes grow to around 40 cm. This variety will bloom in its third or fifth year.

The silky wisteria, *Wisteria venusta*, is less familiar but just as stunning. The white variety, 'Shiro Kapitan', has large, heavy-textured flowers that have a much sweeter scent than those of the Japanese and Chinese wisterias. There is also a mauve form, 'Murasaki Kapitan'; a really beautiful pink, 'Showa Beni'; and 'Okayama', which is a deeper mauve than 'Murasaki Kapitan' and is more strongly scented.

GROWING Wisterias aren't fussy about soil. Keep them well watered after planting until they become established. Apply fertiliser in spring and midsummer until the vine is the size you want. After that it is rarely necessary to do anything other than prune them, as they are free from diseases and pests. The exceptions are those grown under harsh conditions, or in containers. These will need regular applications of water and fertiliser: the plant leaves will let you know what is required.

LEFT The beautiful wisterias at Nooroo demonstrate the importance of good pruning. Once the vine has reached the size you need, keep trimming back the whippy new growth to three leaves to encourage the development of flowering spurs.

Nooroo is world-famous for its collection

of wisterias. Marvel at the show in late October.



PRUNING After planting, tie the new season's long shoots to the required positions and remove unwanted shoots as they appear. Removing the tips of the long shoots once they have reached the required length will encourage the development of side shoots. Trim them to size as well. Once the plant has reached the preferred size and shape, all new shoots should be cut back to two or three leaves. This encourages the development of the short spurs on which many of the flower buds appear. Suckers and unwanted shoots are best removed when they appear and are young and soft.

The general maintenance of a wisteria usually involves a major prune in late spring or early summer after the first new growth has appeared. This is the time to take any drastic pruning action, if required. Follow up with a less arduous trim about six weeks later, followed by a tidying up of the long shoots produced subsequently. You might also wish to remove the seedpods in winter. This schedule will leave plants in excellent shape to display their blooms in the spring. 🌱

Visit Wisteria

England

Sissinghurst's wisterias, pictured here, cascade over rosy brick walls, clamber over the pergola and drape themselves over the Priest's House. **Visit in May-early June.**

Japan

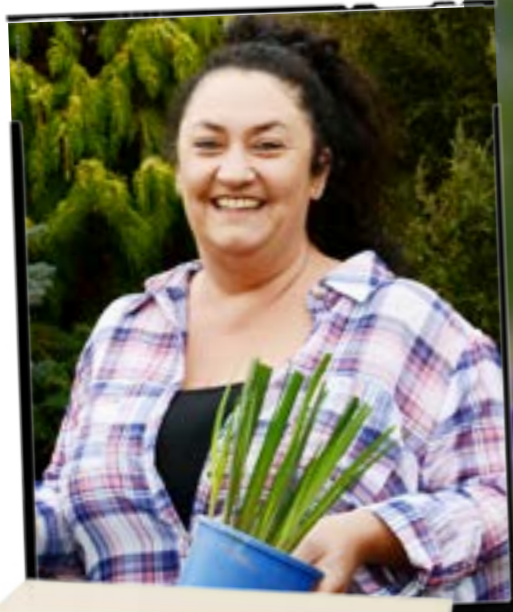
This tunnel, pictured above, made of 150 pink, lilac and purple wisterias is in the Kawachi Fuji or Wisteria Garden in Kitakyushu, six hours from Tokyo. **Visit in late-April to mid-May.**

Australia

Nooroo, pictured opposite, in the mountain village of Mount Wilson, is the former home of renowned wisteria-ophile Peter Valder (who wrote *the book* on the subject). The tennis court filled with majestic potted specimens is a **must-see event in October.**



IMAGES BY LORNA ROSE AND SHUTTERSTOCK.



Meet:
Sharon Drinkwater
iris specialist



ABOVE
Tall bearded iris need plenty of sun and good drainage to bloom beautifully.

Garden Clinic members often tell us they have problems with iris growing near camellias and azaleas. Is pH an issue? Bearded iris need neutral to alkaline soil, pH7 or slightly above so they are not so happy near acid-loving azaleas and camellias. But there are some beardless iris, such as the Pacific Coast native iris (also called Californian iris), Louisiana iris and Siberian iris that do like acid soil and would do well in association with camellias and azaleas. The Californian iris also do well in semi-shaded positions. The issue for gardeners really is selecting the right type of iris for the conditions they have.

Can you share any practical growing advice for newcomers to the wonderful world of the tall bearded iris? My best tips are plenty of sun and good drainage, so a raised bed helps. These are low-maintenance plants that don't require a lot of fuss, just a small amount of fertiliser before and after spring bloom. 🌱



Rainbow Ridge nursery in spring

Rainbow Ridge is open on the first three weekends of November. Details rainbowridgenursery.com.au. Meet Sharon on our NSW Spring Festivals tour, details at rosstours.com

Sharon's father, Graeme Grosvenor, started Rainbow Ridge Nursery in 1970. Now located outside Orange, Rainbow Ridge is Australia's largest specialist iris and daylily nursery and has won multiple awards for its world-class hybrids.

INTERVIEW: **LINDA ROSS**

You grew up in a nursery surrounded by colourful iris. What made you decide to get involved in the business? I first started working at the nursery back in early 2000. It was the perfect place to work with flowers and raise my two girls at the same time. When my father wanted to retire he was happy to pass the business over to my husband Scott and me.

Have you bred any of your own varieties of iris? I have not yet officially named any iris (call me an apprentice iris breeder!) but I help with the hybridising, collection of seed and

raising the seedlings. I then select the iris to be named, select their names and decide when they are to be released to the public.

You're a fan of the super-sized, spring-flowering, tall bearded iris. What about some of the repeat-flowering iris? Repeat blooming iris interest a lot of people but they're not for me. If you get repeat bloom, it will usually not be as strong as the spring flower, and it's something you can't really guarantee as the climate is dramatically different from area to area. I prefer to concentrate on an excellent flower display in the spring and not worry about what happens in autumn. Having said that, there are some very good re-blooming tall bearded iris. The best is probably the American award-winner 'Victoria Falls'. My father's award-winner 'June Brazier' is also an excellent re-bloomer when conditions are right. As well as looking at re-blooming iris, you can extend the season of iris bloom to cover most of the year simply by making a good selection of types and cultivars.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDA ROSS AND SHUTTERSTOCK.

If this little guy's your problem...



Pinch a saving straight out of his little claws with our limited time offer:
\$50 OFF RRP!
just enter code: GC500614 to redeem during online purchase.

then this little box is your solution!



Need to save your garden or vegetable patch from this destructive little bloke? Strayban is the only real solution! Utilising high-frequency ultrasonic technology that humans can't hear, but is hellish to a possum's ears, Strayban creates a permanent "NO-GO" zone to possums and other strays. Just set it up and switch it on. Problem solved!

- ✓ Works with possums, dogs and cats.
- ✓ No harm to any animals.
- ✓ No mess or clutter in your garden.
- ✓ Permanent ultrasonic barrier.
- ✓ 90 day money back guarantee.
- ✓ 12 month warranty.

VISIT US ONLINE, TODAY!

www.strayban.com.au

p) 1800 671 759 e) info@strayban.com.au

STRAYBAN
HIGH TECH ANIMAL DETERRANT

ajuga

This reliable blue spring carpet deserves its go-to reputation. Let's take a closer look.

TEXT: LINDA ROSS

Fact file

Name: Ajuga sp. commonly known as bugle flower. A genus of 40–50 species of annual and perennial herbaceous flowering plants.

Belongs: to the mint family Lamiaceae

Origins: Europe, Asia and Africa

Flowering: Spring-summer

NOW: Purple-blue flower spikes in spring and summer sit proudly above thick carpets of plum-purple foliage.

SUMMER: At summer's end large plantings can be mowed on a high mower setting to remove spent flower spikes and tidy up. This refreshes the carpet, especially if followed by a good soaking.

AUTUMN: Divide when clumps become overcrowded. Dig, lift and divide, removing old, tired foliage.

WINTER: The crisp, crinkled foliage hugs the ground in a quick-spreading, evergreen carpet.

WE LOVE THEM: Wandering through shady perennial beds; planted as a flowing river of blue between spring-flowering shrubs such as azaleas; or paired under trees with the softer, sky-blue Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*). Use ajuga en masse under a high tree canopy, or to soften the hard edges of walls, pathways and paving.

WARNINGS: No serious insect or disease problems. Crown rot can be a problem, particularly in humid conditions and wet, heavy soils. Powdery mildew can attack quickly but a squirt with Ecofungicide will control it.

WHAT ELSE: Ajuga is easily grown in well-drained soils in part-sun to part-shade. While it prefers moist soils with good drainage, it will tolerate moderately dry conditions. This is a fast-growing plant that will spread by stolons to form an attractive ground cover.

The darkest form of Ajuga, 'Black Scallop' has midnight-purple foliage. It provides a unique contrast when shouldering up to lime green, gold or white leaf variations. The leaf shape is scalloped, and smaller than other forms making this an ideal groundcover between pavers, in wide bowls or along the front of a mixed border.

Also try miniature 'Burgundy Glow', 10cm high and 30cm wide. It has mottled leaves of creamy-white, rose burgundy and dark green that turn a deep bronze in autumn.

WHERE TO BUY: Local nursery 🌱

IMAGES BY JIM FOGARTY AND SHUTTERSTOCK



For spires

Each spire is made up of hundreds of fat-lipped, individually lobed flowers like a supersized lobelia.

For cover

Ajuga will fill bare spots without being invasive; perfect for pathways or around stepping stones.



For colour

'Caitlins Giant' is twice the size of other ajuga cultivars. Its blue flowers are a great complement to lolly-pink bergenia.

For support

Spring tulips stand to attention with support from this ground-dwelling spring rug.

clivia

The trumpet flowers of this indestructible plant put them top of the list for dry areas, dry pots and under trees. Let's take a closer look.

TEXT: LINDA ROSS

Fact file

Name: Clivia sp.

Origins: Southern Africa

Flowering: Spring-summer

A genus of six species of herbaceous evergreen plants with strap leaves. Intense hybridisation by fanatical growers has resulted in colours varying from deep orange, through yellows, peach and a rare white.

NOW: Clivia flowers glow against lush deep-green straps of foliage in spring.

LATER: Fleshy berries follow the flower clusters. Clivia fans collect the berries and soak the flesh off overnight in water. They then sow the seed into trays of seed-raising mix, with fingers crossed for new and amazing colours. They have to be patient though. New

seedlings come up fairly quickly but may take up to seven years to flower, if at all.

Autumn is the time to divide plants. Uproot them and pull them apart into several chunks. Replant into improved soil where shade takes over after morning sun.

WE LOVE THEM:

In a tropical scheme alongside patches of bromeliad overhung by the similar tones of apricot angel trumpet trees (*Brugmansia*) or with tropical favourites like Philodendron, gingers and hot-toned canna lilies such as 'Bengal Tiger'. We also like choosing a single hybrid and planting swathes of it. In cottage or Sydney-style gardens where the main spring tone is the pink blooms of camellias and azaleas, the original orange clivia is much harder to use. The discord of pink azaleas with orange clivia gives us the wobbles. We advise gardeners to use care with this scheme, or try the cream hybrids.

WARNINGS: Clivia lily caterpillar can be devastating. The striped, 6cm-long caterpillars can easily munch through a clump of clivia overnight. Use a caterpillar control such as Success Ultra as soon as you spot them. Breakouts of scale or mealy bug insects can be solved with EcoOil.

WHAT ELSE: Clivia dislike wet soil and will rot if they are planted too low (with necks undercover) or get too much water when dormant in winter – either via nature or the tap. Avoid the potential for bogginess by mounding up the soil and planting them 'high', with their necks in the air. Keep them dry, they come from South Africa remember!

WHERE TO BUY: Local specialists are Victoria Clivia Nursery, 1007 Old Northern Rd, Dural. Also search online for seed or flowering-age plants. Pine Mountain Nursery has a great selection. 🌱

IMAGE BY SHUTTERSTOCK.



Lemon clivia clash less than their orange cousins with the traditional colours of the spring garden.

The Belgian hybrids have deeper colours and wider, glossier foliage than everyday clivias.



Matching tangerine clivia trumpets with purple geranium is a bold choice. We think it works, what do you think?

New colours are appearing all the time, including almost-white, green, peach and apricot.



Meet:
Melanie Boudar
cacao farmer



ABOVE
Cacao grows only up to 20° north or south of the equator.

Hawaii-based chocolatier Melanie Boudar is going one better than making bean-to-bar chocolate – she’s growing the beans! It’s one way to preserve fine flavour cacao, which is threatened by commercial hybridisation.

INTERVIEW: **ROBIN POWELL**

When did your love of chocolate begin?

I became addicted to chocolate when working as a diamond buyer in Belgium. Then, after 30 years in the jewellery business, I set up a bed and breakfast on Hawaii’s Big Island and started mucking around in the kitchen making chocolate as gifts for my guests. When I wanted to find out more I went to the New York Culinary Institute, the Ecole Chocolat in Canada, and the Callebaut Academy and then I travelled to Ecuador and Peru, Mexico and Venezuela to see how chocolate is grown.

You ended up with a shop in Maui and

a reputation as one Hawaii’s finest chocolatiers. So why a farm? I always had a dream of having a farm, so when the opportunity came up here in Maui... I have plans for a tasting room and a chocolate museum here, as well as a production facility.

Are there many cacao farms in Hawaii?

Hawaii is the only state in the US that can grow cacao. We are 20 degrees north of the equator and that’s the north pole of chocolate. The cold temperature makes for richer, fattier beans, with high cocoa butter content. It’s early days, but I believe there’s the potential for Hawaii to be the Napa Valley of chocolate.

Are there many different varieties of cacao?

There are, and because it doesn’t grow true to seed, there are increasing numbers of them. At the same time, commercial hybridisation programs have sought to maximise the yield of the beans, without worrying about the flavour.

Doesn’t that sound familiar! It’s a common story: flavour loses out to commercial pressures. Fine flavour cacao is threatened for this reason. The Fine Chocolate Association has set up the Heirloom Chocolate Project to identify and protect varieties of cacao that have great flavour as well as historic, cultural, botanical and geographic uniqueness. Last year was the first year that it awarded heirloom status and one of the four awards given was to a Hawaiian bean.

Jewellery and chocolates – all the good things! Yes and there lots of similarities between the two. In both you work with raw ingredients to make something beautiful; and both are businesses that are about making people happy. Though when it comes to making people happy, chocolate is in a class of its own! 🍫

Melanie holds tours and tastings at Manawai Estate on Maui. Details www.ManawaiEstateChocolate.com.



New cacao seedlings ready to be planted out.

To see how the cacao becomes chocolate go to www.robinpowell.com.au

look for the ladybeetle on the label!

Go with the eco-flo...

a new generation of liquid soil improvers that produce fast and superior results

Rapidly activated in the soil and enriched with seaweed to improve calcium uptake

Super Concentrated
2L equal to 80kg of traditional powdered gypsum, lime or dolomite!

GYP SUM **LIME** **DOLOMITE**

Available from Bunnings Warehouses and select nurseries. For more information visit www.ecoorganicgarden.com.au or call 1800 634 204. Also join us on facebook [ecoorganicgarden](https://www.facebook.com/ecoorganicgarden).

eco organic garden

BFA ALLOWED INPUT 222A
CERTIFIED PRODUCT FOR ORGANIC GARDENS

OCP
Organic Crop Protectors

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN POWELL

New

Bug-Free

Azaleas, Roses & Ornamentals

grow
Practical tips and great projects



Having a bug-free garden has never been so easy!

Richgro Bug Killa® is a new granulated systemic insecticide which treats the most common pests on Roses, Azaleas and ornamentals.

Just sprinkle on and water in for up to 6 weeks, bug free, protection.

It is highly effective and 250g treats up to 500 plants.



Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse** and leading garden retailers nationwide.



Scan with your Smartphone for more information

www.richgro.com.au



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUISA BRIMBLE.

Just-picked peas are so sweet not all the harvest makes it to the kitchen!

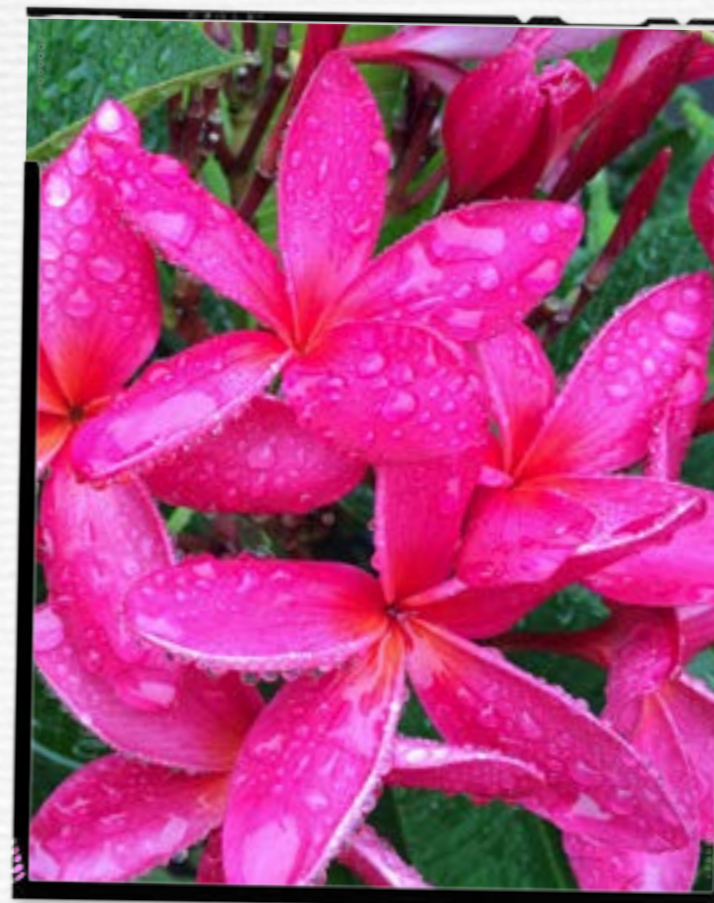
Sandra's Garden



When the bobcats moved in most of my garden went. The secret garden? Flattened. The wisteria arbour? Up-stumped. So when the bobcats finally moved out I needed a garden fast. When my daughter Linda got her hands on five handsome windmill palms, a subtropical garden was born. This is a new horticultural bandwidth for me; it's like finding a new genre of music. And I'm humming along!

I'm into... instant fillers

I think the beauty of the tropical-style garden is in the contrasting leaf shapes and textures, and the surprising intensity of greens. Those greens are a foil for eye-popping blasts of colour. Canna lilies pumped up the volume by quickly expanding and filling voids. I especially love the tall hummingbird cannas whose scarlet and orange flowers attract birds. Native cycads add texture and big clumps of the golden Brazilian plume flower (*Justicia aurea*) offer up golden candles of flower like subtropical lupins on steroids. Glossy green circles of *Ligularia reniformis* bubble up sprays of bright yellow daisy flowers in late summer. I added lashings of the cream and yellow variegated Mother-in-laws tongue and explosions of *Philodendron* 'Xanadu'.



I want... bolts of colour

No tropical garden should be without the colour and perfume of frangipani, so I was pleased when Linda donated four from her special collection: lipstick-pink 'Firedancer'; sunset-toned 'Orange Glow'; sunset-striped 'Willow's Sunset'; and a common white for the perfect summer fragrance. Single colours of large hibiscus were next. I trimmed hard at winter's end, so they'll remain contained. Although short-lived in vases, hibiscus blooms last for days in the garden and always make me smile. I chose *Heliconia* 'Christmas Cheer' to brighten up dense shade. This genus doesn't offer many choices for Sydney gardens, but this one, with red and white parrot-beaked flowers, should do well.

It's time to...

Burn! I've fallen in love Japanese-style burnt wood fences (shou-sugi-ban). Traditionally, cedar was burnt in Japan to increase the wood's resistance to insects and fire. I'm going to use the technique on the boring old paling fence that is the boundary to my tropical garden. This will help the fence recede and the tropical garden shine. Now where's my blowtorch!

Prune hibiscus just before new spring new growth to keep them compact and well-behaved.

Spray the bare frangi stems, which look like Rudolph's antlers! Eco-fungicide will help prevent rust next summer.

Take 15cm pieces of blue ginger and push them into the ground to plump up my cobalt splash.

Mulch mulch, mulch!

Plan Now I need to get to work on the front garden. I want the best of both worlds so I'm planning for roses, perennials and cottage plants, but more about that in another issue.



I have...fingers crossed!

No new garden is going to work perfectly the first time and I have experimented with a few plants that are not quite in their 'happy' zone. Take the beehive gingers for example. They'd prefer Port Douglas, but I am hoping they'll handle the relative shelter of the side passage and reward me with their phenomenal beehive-shaped flowers that emerge directly from the ground. Blue ginger (*Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*) doesn't like temperatures to drop below 10 degrees so it's fingers crossed for them too (but how I love those cobalt spires of flower). More successful may be the spiral and snake gingers and the fragrant-leaved cardamon. Linda and I have trained the lady slipper vine (*Thunbergia mysorensis*) along the tree house veranda and we look forward to seeing it sparkle with long sprays of red and golden parrot flowers as soon as the weather warms.



Spill it!

Changes in level required some fairly tall block walls to retain the beds. I selected a few different rhipsalis (this is an epiphytic cactus known as mistletoe cactus) and unlike Mexican cactus, it grows down and not up! I added a flowering fishbone cactus and another Queen of the Night cactus to add to my collection. This one's called *Epiphyllum guatemalensis* and it holds onto its huge white spidery flowers from dusk to 10am so I won't have get up in the middle of the night for a showing! These spillovers enjoy morning sun. They give a great jungle vibe and obscure some of that awful block wall.



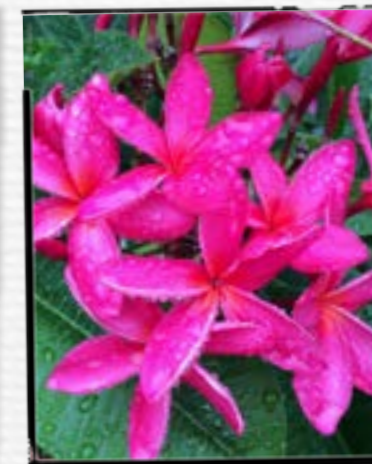
Vireya 'Wattlebird'

This tropical rhododendron with its glowing golden trumpets must grow in raised mounds of pine bark with a full blast of morning sun to get them flowering. They spot flower all year long.



Canna

Spikes of orange starbursts make this canna a showstopper. Its tall spires reached the eaves, so we could gaze over the flowers from the veranda.



Frangipani 'Firedancer'

This superior hybrid, with intense dark pink flowers over an extended flowering season, is my favourite frangipani of the year. I planted a matching pink shell ginger and a pink hibiscus.



Blue ginger

I have come late to the blue ginger appreciation party but love these spires of lapis lazuli. It grows easily from cuttings and is great for shady spots planted alongside the purple Persian shield (*Strobilanthes*).



Justicia aurea

Another one the Brazilian plume family, which is seen in pink, white, and now yellow too. The flower size and length was even better in autumn than in spring and summer. A great match with vireya and *Ligularia*.



Epiphyllum guatemalensis

I counted 12 flowers one morning – in its first year. The fine spidery flowers are just as lovable as the *E. oxypetalum* species we all know and love.



How to: prune a cloud topiary

TEXT: GRAHAM ROSS

After decades of admiring beautiful cloud-pruned trees in China and Japan, I finally decided to create my own. When our editors discovered my plan they asked me to write about it. Like a dutiful writer I thought I'd better research what others have said about the subject. I dived into our magnificent horticultural library and came up with this: "The artificial-looking pruning that is practiced by some, when pompons or cushions of foliage are placed

starkly at the ends of bare branches, is not in the best of tasteand not designed by a person of culture." OUCH! But one look at the beautiful clipped red and black pines in Ritsurin Park on the island of Shikoku in Japan, will convince you of the value of this special horticultural art. A successful cloud topiary considers the natural form of the tree, the impact of asymmetrical pruning; and the balance of light and shade that result from the layered pruning. The result is

highly stylized nature.

I started my cloud topiary with a 2.5m mature specimen of *Podocarpus elatus*, the Australian brown pine. My reasoning for the choice was that Japanese gardeners use a lot of the Japanese native *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, often called Buddhist pine, for the same purpose. Next:

- 1 Remove alternate whorls or layers of branches, left and right of the upright trunk, using a sharp pair of secateurs or bonsai pruners.
- 2 Remove the small sub-branches and leaves on the lower two-thirds of each remaining branch, leaving the third further from the trunk alone.
- 3 Remove any weeping or downward-pointing branchlets.
- 4 Assess the remaining, feather duster-like foliage tufts and carefully thin out leaves and branchlets and all foliage hanging below the main branch. Aim for a straight line across the base of the 'cloud'. The result will be an open framework with radiating tufts of foliage.
- 5 Feed with a controlled-release fertilizer, water, then practice patience to see how your tree recovers. Continue to trim growth that doesn't confirm to your clouds - and admire your work. 🌱

ABOVE The beautifully cloud pruned red and black pines in Japan's Ritsurin Park inspired Graham Ross to try his hand at cloud pruning.

IMAGE BY SHUTTERSTOCK

REAL PEOPLE... REAL GARDENS

"I love using Seasol for successful transplanting of my favourite seedlings, strikes and standards".

Daniel Martain
West Busselton, WA



Seasol makes good gardening easy!

Because Seasol 100% seaweed solution contains natural growth nutrients and almost every known trace element, it is perfect for promoting new growth...and because it is a highly refined liquid form, it can be diluted to the ideal consistency for nurturing healthy growth in all planting and transplanting situations.

Soaking plants, seedlings and cuttings in Seasol gives them a much higher chance to thrive and survive by reducing the effects of transplant shock.

Seasol is an easy to apply, organic health tonic that promotes health and vitality throughout the whole garden..

Every plant, every garden, all year round!

To find out all the ways you can use Seasol for better gardening, go to our website.



Don't forget the Seasol!



www.seasol.com.au

adworkscreative.com.au



How to: care for azaleas

TEXT: SHANE NEILL

Azaleas bring in spring with a blaze of glory. We love them in hot pinks and bold magentas, in pale pastels and in pure clean white. But in warm subtropical areas these are not set-and-forget plants. To get the most from them gardeners need to pay attention and provide some nurture. Here's how.

plant:

Start with the plant in a position it will love. Azaleas can be grown in the ground or in pots. Either way, offer protection from hot midday summer sun and choose a spot or pot with good drainage: azaleas hate wet feet. If grown in-ground, enrich the soil with plenty of compost;

if in pots, always use a good quality azalea/camellia potting mix. Azaleas are surface-rooted so don't plant too deep but do top the roots with a good layer of mulch.

feed:

Azaleas are light feeders, so take care not to apply too large a dose at any one time. That said, the plants respond brilliantly to a good feeding schedule. Apply a complete azalea/camellia fertiliser, such as Kahoonaa, in early spring. From September to March use a high-nitrogen liquid feed, such as Aquasol, once a month to promote growth.

mulch:

top up mulch over shallow roots to keep moisture in the soil.

watch for:

Petal blight is a fungus that causes flowers to become brown and soggy. Treat with Zaleton as soon as buds appear and throughout the flowering period. 🌿

For more on azalea care throughout the year, check out our new-look website, www.gardenclinic.com.

IMAGE BY ROBIN POWELL.

What a crop!

I've never seen plants so healthy

Your pots look great

Look at your tomatoes! They're amazing

Such lush foliage

Your flowers are glorious this year

Wow, what growth

Compliments come your way with Ferticote.

Create a garden that gets noticed with Ferticote. The controlled release plant food especially formulated for a wide range of flowers, fruits and vegetables to provide your plants with the nutrients when they need them most. So for improved flowering, lush growth and better yields, use Ferticote this season.



Ph: 1800 682 221
Fax: 1800 687 979
www.amgrow.com.au





How to: *make moss wall art*

Graffiti is so much more appealing when it's green! Toronto is the capital of moss graffiti but we think it's worth bringing home. In fact when we posted about moss wall art our Facebook friends were thrilled. In case you missed that, here's how to do it.

TEXT: **LINDA ROSS**

- 1 Spring is a good time to get a moss design established before the warmer weather kicks in. Once established it will even survive drought by becoming brown and dormant until the good times return.
- 2 Collect a good handful of moss.
- 3 Wash off most of the dirt and place in a blender.
- 4 Add 1/2 cup of buttermilk and a tablespoon of sugar.
- 5 Add a little lukewarm water and blend until you get a

- thick, creamy consistency.
- 6 Choose a position. A wall facing south is best, so that direct sunshine won't kill off the moss. Moss grows easily on a vertical surface, but it needs to be porous. Choose brick, wood or concrete. Draw your design onto the wall.
- 7 Paint the surface with your green 'paint'.
- 8 Mist the painted surface every day and if you have extra mixture, keep it in the fridge to reapply.

- 9 Continue misting and reapplying moss paint until it begins to establish in about a week. Continue misting to keep the moss and tiny ferns growing happily. To clean off, spray with lime juice to kill the moss and scrape away, ready for a new design. 🌱

ABOVE The designs you can make with moss are limited only by your imagination - and your drawing skill! Worried? Start with something simple.



Introducing our new specialised range of concentrated liquid plant foods. Thrive's fast, dual action formula feeds through the roots and the leaves, so it works quickly to deliver bigger, better results.



There are 300 species in the iris family; plenty of opportunity for mistaken identity! To clear up confusion, meet some of our favourite family members.

TEXT: SANDRA ROSS



Blue flag iris
Iris versicolor

ID: This semi-aquatic plant has deep green, sword-shaped leaves and 1m blue flowers from late spring. Many species of blue flags are found along the edges of swamps, wet meadows and stream banks or in forested wetlands.

GROW: This hardy plant is very easy to grow in moist, humus-rich, acid soil in full sun.



Japanese iris
Iris ensata and Iris kaempferi

ID: These iris line ponds and streams in Japan. Their leaves are taller and thinner than those of bearded iris, and feature a distinct rib. The flowers are white, blue or lilac.

GROW: Plant in sunshine on the edge of a pond or in containers. Feed with liquid manure in the lead-up to spring. Lift and divide every three years.



Californian iris
Iris chrysophylla

ID: Native to of the west coast of the US, this iris flowers in a huge range of colours from early to mid-spring.

GROW: Plant in semi-shade, and feed in late autumn and early spring. Don't let them dry out. Mass plant along paths and driveways, or grow in pots. Search www.rainbowridge.com.au



Bearded iris
Iris germanica

ID: Tall bearded (TB) are the most popular in this group. Many are bi-coloured with the central 'standard' petals and pendulous 'fall' petals in contrasting colours. Grey-green leaves are slender and sword-shaped. Most flower in spring; some repeat-flower.

GROW: Plant the rhizome in full sun. Don't bury it or it will rot. Secure with coat hanger wire until roots develop. Search www.rainbowridge.com.au.



Yellow flag iris
Iris pseudacorus

ID: This is the Fleur de Lys, symbol of the French kings since the 12th century. Clumps of tall, slender foliage produce spikes of golden, scented flowers in summer.

GROW: These iris are happiest in shallow water and full sun. In cold areas they will die down during winter but in warm temperate regions like Sydney they remain semi-evergreen. Search www.irishaven.com.au and www.honeysuckle-cottage.com.au



Louisiana Iris
Iris hexagonae

ID: From the Louisiana swamps these iris flower on tall stems in spring with beardless blooms that may be recurved or flat; single or double; ruffled, lacy or plain with varied patterns, colours and markings.

GROW: These iris are happiest in standing water or in boggy areas and can be grown in the garden as long as they are given plenty of water. Find them at www.irishaven.com.au.



Dutch iris
Iris reticulata

ID: This is the iris familiar from florists. They grow from small bulbs and flower in spring in shades of light blue, yellow, white and purple.

GROW: Plant bulbs in autumn, in groups. They like plenty of sun and rich, well-drained soil. Add some compost or soil conditioner before planting out in autumn. Dutch iris can be left in the ground for year-after-year flowering. Cut when in bud for long-lasting cut flowers.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAINBOW RIDGE NURSERY AND SHUTTERSTOCK.

Ross Garden Tours

celebrating 35 years



Let us take you to the most beautiful places in the world



Graham Ross



Sandra Ross



Linda Ross



Michael McCoy



Libby Cameron



Peter Whitehead



Robin Powell



Angus Stewart



Carolyn Dwyer



Colin Barlow

We travel to...

Chelsea Flower Show, Keukenhof tulips, Japan's Cherry Blossoms, China's peony festival, Tasmania's lavender, WA's Wildflowers, NSW Garden Festivals and lots more

www.rosstours.com



kitchen garden



Try this delicious fennel recipe this spring. Recipe page 67



Our kitchen garden

We love picking dinner fresh from the vegie patch. Everything tastes so much better! Spring is a busy time in the edible garden. Here are our tips and tricks for a bumper summer harvest.

harvest p.64



beans p.65

fennel p.66





pick

Radish give quick rewards, and add a peppery bite to salads. Sow 6 every few weeks. The French like to eat them as a drink snack, served with cold butter and salt.

sow now

Get a head start on tomatoes by sowing into small pots and leaving on the windowsill. Prick out the weaker seedling so just one fills up the pot. Alternatively sow in situ once the soil warms. Try a new variety this year.

Sow a square of lettuce. Fresh seed gives the best germination results.



Sow bean seeds in tepees or tunnels. Each bean will produce at least 1kg of beans. 'Blue Lake' is our favourite. Sow a few more 4 weeks later.

Lettuce seedlings need shade once summer hits. If they get too hot they bolt to seed and become bitter. Plant where they are shaded by other plants or place shade cloth over your leafy greens.

pick now

Spring garlic can be pulled out of the ground in November. Let dry then plait the leaves, hang and use through summer and autumn.



Kale is a profuse leafy vegetable. Use some of the surplus as 'pesto': whiz the chopped leaves with two garlic cloves, the juice of one lemon, ½ cup parmesan and a good glug of olive oil. This zesty spread is delicious on toast, steak, hardboiled eggs or swirled though pasta.

Peas must be eaten as soon as they are picked to ensure their sugars don't turn into starch. Shelling peas is a favourite family afternoon activity in spring.

Preserve a glut of broad beans by blanching them on a rolling boil for two minutes. Dry on kitchen paper before freezing in a zip lock bag.

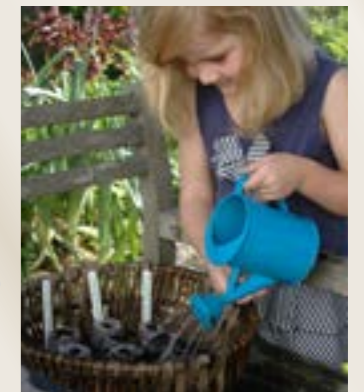
feed now

Shovel out the compost to enrich vegetable beds. Dig over the beds, adding cow manure, dolomite, blood and bone, Dynamic Lifter and potash (only for beds growing fruiting veg). Leave two weeks before planting out seedlings.

Seaweed is needed fortnightly as seedlings grow.

Hold off any liquid fertilisers for fruiting plants, such as Harvest, until the plant comes into bud.

Side dress throughout the season with well-rotted animal manures.



Think ahead

Think succession. Leave room for planting the next stage of vegetables next month to prolong your harvest.



Spring planting plan

Our spring planting plan provides four of us with fresh produce all through spring and summer. We divide our garden into 8 1 m blocks and plant them up like this:

- 1:** 9 corn, 1 squash
- 2:** 3 climbing tomatoes, 3 cucumber, basil
- 3:** 6 climbing beans, 4 potatoes
- 4:** 4 eggplant
- 5:** 20 lettuce, 5 celery, 5 spinach
- 6:** 20 beetroot, 20 carrots, 40 radish
- 7:** 2 zucchini
- 8:** 4 capsicum



feed

For leafy crops use seaweed tonic. For tomatoes and strawberries the best choice is home-made comfrey tea. Comfrey gives a natural boost of potassium which encourages more tastier fruit – and more of it!



fennel

Here's a bit of trivia for you. Fennel was among the carefully chosen selection of seeds and plants that the First Fleet brought from England in 1788. In our book that makes it a traditional Aussie vegetable!

TEXT: JUSTIN RUSSELL

Fennel's value is its amazing aniseed flavour, which is fresh and crunchy in salads, or more subtle and meltingly soft when baked or braised.

GROWING First get hold of the right seed. You need Florence fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare* var. *dulce*, not the herb fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare*

which never develops those delicious bulbous stems. To prevent bolting it's important to sow at the right time. In my temperate garden, that's either in late summer or early spring. A sowing in early September is ideal, but in cold climates you can get away with sowing in October or early November.

Fennel likes to be grown fast

in rich soil that drains well, but retains some moisture. You can accommodate both requirements by boosting your soil with well-rotted compost.

HARVESTING

I harvest at around 80 days from sowing, when the bulbs are roughly the size of a cricket ball. You can harvest earlier or later than this if you like, but the larger fennel bulbs get, the tougher they become. For salads, young, crisp fennel is the way to go. Don't forget the leaves. These have the same aniseed zing as the bulb, and you can safely chop a handful of leaves every week during the growing period without halting bulb formation.

TROUBLE-SHOOTING

* Don't skimp on the moisture, as this can stress the plants into bolting.

* Fennel performs best when sown directly into the garden - sow a couple of seeds every 20cm and keep rows about 30cm apart. If planting seedlings, get them into the ground while small. Older seedlings rarely transplant well.

VARIETIES

'Zefa Fino' is a Swiss-bred cultivar that resists bolting and reliably forms bulbs of excellent flavour and texture. It's ideal for warmer climates.

'Orion' also resists bolting but forms rounder bulbs and more compact plants. It's an F1 hybrid favoured by commercial market gardeners.

Fennel and asparagus salad

The combination of zingy herbs, aniseedy fennel and citrus tang is a flavour explosion.

RECIPE: CHRIS ARKADIEFF

To prepare a fennel bulb for use in the kitchen, first cut off the stalks about 1cm from the bulb. Reserve any fresh green fronds to use in the salad. Pull off and discard any wilted or browned pieces of the bulb, then slice in half. Cut out the tough core at the base of each half. Slice thinly, or use a mandolin to get paper-thin slices.

What you need

1 fennel bulb
5 large green asparagus spears
1 orange
1 handful of fresh herbs, such as parsley and basil
¼ cup pistachio nuts, lightly roasted
1 handful parmesan, coarsely grated
½ lemon, juiced
100ml extra virgin olive oil

This salad is **delicious** served as a starter or as a **fresh** accompaniment to a rich main meal.

What to do:

- 1 Thinly slice the fennel bulb, and shave the asparagus spears into thin strips using a potato peeler.
- 2 Top and tail the orange, then slice off the skin and use a paring knife to slice the segments from between the membranes.
- 3 Mix the fennel, asparagus, orange segments and freshly torn herbs in a large bowl.
- 4 Whisk together the lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil and season with sea salt and freshly cracked black pepper.
- 5 Scatter the salad over a large serving platter; top with pistachio nuts and parmesan.
- 6 Drizzle the dressing over the salad.



salad leaves

In an era of masterchefs and duelling kitchens it's hard to believe that 30 years ago a salad was iceberg lettuce, a pale, firm tomato wedge and a splash of bottled French or Italian dressing. Not any more!

TEXT: JUSTIN RUSSELL

GROWING Most salad leaves are best in full sun, but nearly anything leafy will also tolerate light shade. Rich soil is a must, as is a regular supply of moisture. Keep plants hydrated, mulch to cool the roots and limit weed competition, and apply liquid fish emulsion every couple of weeks to keep the plants cranking along.

HARVESTING Pick the outer leaves from established plants as required, or cut whole young plants with a knife, leaving the crown to regenerate new foliage. This latter method

will allow two or three cuttings from the same patch of plants.

TROUBLE-SHOOTING

* Hot, windy weather can be a real problem. Keep leaves succulent and fresh by watering well and covering the plants with 50% shadecloth during the hottest part of the day.

* Brassicas are vulnerable to cabbage white butterflies as spring progresses. Spray with Dipel, or cover plants with fine weave netting.

* Keep an eye out for slugs: they love hanging out in salad patches. Control with non-toxic baits that contain the active ingredient iron EDTA, such as Multiguard.

VARIETIES

Experiment with everything from well-known loose-leaf lettuces, rocket, baby spinach, chicory, sorrel, mizuna, mustard, and endive to lesser known shungiku, purple orach, and miner's lettuce.

Remember that non-salad vegies and even weeds can be harvested for their leaves. Baby beetroot, cavolo nero, bok choy, basil, chick weed, purslane and baby milk thistles can all make vibrant contributions to a mixed salad.

Go for plenty of leafy variety, but don't

forget the iceberg - still best for burgers!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHUTTERSTOCK.

Wish you were here!

Sign up for our postcards



Chasing the cherry blossom in Japan

(excerpt from Postcard by Caroln Dwyer on May 1st, 2014)

"The gentle pink of Cherry blossom creeps up the face of Japan like the blush of a shy Maiko. From the end of March to early May more than a million cherry-blossom-chasers travel to Japan from around the world to catch these flowers in bloom. During these precious weeks the nation is consumed with the centuries-old tradition of hanami or flower viewing. Hanami is the Japanese tradition of enjoying the beauty of flowers."

Tour Leader Carolyn Dwyer

Subscribe now at WWW.ROSSSTOURS.COM

Go to the top of any page of our website, fill in your name and email address.

You'll receive Postcards featuring great pictures and entertaining stories about gardens and travel.

or follow us on



Garden Clinic

Need a question answered, a triumph celebrated or a shoulder to cry on? We're here to help.

Water plan

I have a small courtyard garden full of potted plants, mostly flowering perennials. How often do I need to water them?

Adrian, Catherine Field

Sanda writes: We tend to water when it suits us, but it's best to do it when it suits the plant! The water requirements of each plant will be different, based on its origins, the size of the plant, the size of the pot and the plant itself. Check soil moisture before watering, and if required water deeply in the early part of the day to provide moisture for the day ahead.



New tomatoes



I have a sunny balcony with a large planter box, where I would like to grow a small-sized tomato. I'm an old hand at growing tomatoes and would love something new and interesting to try. Any suggestions?
Eve, Port Macquarie

Linda writes: So many great choices Eve! Oasis Horticulture has two new release trailing tomatoes we're keen to try this spring - 'Cherry Fountain' and 'Tiger Eye'. Both grow to just 35cm high, but produce abundant, small-sized fruit. 'Cherry Fountain' has red fruit; 'Tiger Eye' has red-orange fruit with showy yellow stripes. Plant them towards the edge of the planter box to take advantage of their cascading habit. You will be picking tasty fruit in eight weeks if you keep them well fed and watered. Match them up with sweet basil or perhaps the small-leaved Greek basil for something new.

Greenpatch Organic Seeds
Heritage seeds and rare plants - Since 1993
Organically Grown - Non Hybrid - No GMO's
700 Varieties of Seeds and Plants including Vegetables, Herbs, Cottage Garden and Fruiting plus Books and Garden Products



To Order: Call 02 65514240 or visit our website www.greenpatchseeds.com.au



FREE Catalogue email: enquiries@greenpatchseeds.com.au
Open to the public - 109 Old Bar RD, Glenthorne, NSW, 2430

Multicrop®
GroundBreaker®
Clay Breaker & Soil Treatment

BREAKS UP CLAY THE EASY WAY!
Breaks up clay the easy way!

- ✓ Breaks Up Clay without digging
- ✓ Super strength liquid concentrate, 500mL treats 40m²
- ✓ Safe to use on existing plants or when planting
- ✓ 500mL will treat the same area as 40kg of powdered Gypsum

Available at all good garden supply outlets

www.multicrop.com.au

garden clinic

Citrus protection

Citrus leafminer is relentless in my garden. Every year my lemon and orange trees show signs of damage. I spray occasionally. Is there something else I could be doing?

John, Parramatta

Graham writes: Squiggly lines and curled leaves in citrus are the results of citrus leaf miner. This nocturnal moth lays its eggs in the new leaves and when the eggs hatch they tunnel through the leaves making the tell-tale marks. Spraying with mineral oil, such as Eco-oil, every three weeks from early spring discourages moths from landing and laying the eggs. A new citrus leaf miner lure for male moths is now available from OCP. Find out more at www.ecoorganicarden.com.au. And listen to our interview with citrus nurseryman Mark Engall for more tips, www.gardenclinic.com.



Camellia pruning

My camellias have all but finished flowering. Do I prune now or hold off until the weather warms up properly?

Heather, North Richmond

Graham writes: Pruning should be carried out directly after flowering. If you leave it until the new spring growth has appeared you will be removing the stems that will produce next year's flowers. Start pruning camellias from a young age to promote the desired shape. If done annually, you won't need to trim off much, simply adjust the shape, remove spent flowers and cut off unhealthy branches. Be sure to use sharp, clean secateurs or pruning shears and add the off-cuts to the compost or green bin.



The Simple DIY Vertical Garden

VersiWall is affordable, easy to install and durable, just fix the VersiPanel to your wall and hook the VersiPots to the Panel, complete the picture with your choice of plants! Make the most of the space in your Courtyard, Balcony or Kitchen Garden and enjoy gardening from a new perspective.



Call us for more information: 02 9648 2073 | www.elmich.com.au | Email: australia@elmich.com.au



WINTER IS THE TIME FOR ... PRUNING & HEAVY LOPPING

2WAP have a range of easy to use garden tools to help you with this annual task.

The popular Power Lopper will cope with any of your lopping tasks in the garden this winter cutting stems and branches up to 75mm diameter with ease.

Our well known secateur range was recently updated with the release of the DualKut[®] MK6 - a powerful single cut/ratchet cut tool to handle all your pruning jobs. Just flick the switch!



**SPECIAL OFFER FOR
GARDEN CLINIC MEMBERS**
FREE DELIVERY FOR ANY OF OUR
PRODUCT RANGE (excluding Spare Parts)

ORDER ONLINE using coupon code - **GCW2014**

CREATE > MAINTAIN > ENJOY



PH: 1300 297 000 | [2WAP.com.au](http://www.2wap.com.au)



Shower Witch
...makes bathroom cleaning easy!
Simply spray today, then rinse off tomorrow. Perfect for your tiles, glass & chrome!

...another great product by **WET&FORGET**
02 9986 2126
www.wetandforget.com.au

Celebrate 50 Years of Spring in the Blue Mountains

Leura Gardens Festival
October 4 to 12 - 9.30am to 4.30pm

- Enjoy 11 stunning gardens
- Music in the gardens
- Horticultural talks
- Art show • Plant sales
- Special 50 year celebration souvenir – the gorgeous "Leura Gold" daisy

All gardens ticket - \$25
Single garden ticket - \$5
Shuttle bus ticket - \$5

Tickets are available at Leura Mall; Festival HQ, Fitzroy Street, Leura; and at all gardens

Money raised helps to purchase equipment for the Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital and other local medical organisations



For information: T: 0431 095 279 - www.leuragardensfestival.com
Email: leuragardensfestival@fastmail.com.au

Nooroo
Mt Wilson

Come to the Blue Mountains and see this famous garden (and summer house) featured on the Australian \$2 Stamp

Open...

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 10am-4pm
Starting from 13th Sep – last day 10th Nov.
Admission - Adults \$8, Children \$2
Group bookings of 10 or more people.
Ph: (02) 4756 2018
Mob: 0400 987 761

Tim's FRUIT FLY RESISTANT TOMATO
'No nasty chemicals required'



Tim's Fruit Fly Resistant Tomato requires no nasty chemicals. It can produce sweet tasting apricot sized tomatoes for 4 months. It's perfect for pots and gardens and its easy care!
Exclusive to Tim's Garden Centre


Tim's GARDEN CENTRE
"Our plants are better"
2 Queens st
Campbelltown - 4626 7022
www.timsgardencentre.com.au
Winner best large garden centre in Australia 4 times!

THE EFFECTIVE & PROVEN ANIMAL & BIRD REPELLENT YOU CAN RELY ON **D-TER**

REGISTERED FOR USE AGAINST ANIMALS AND BIRDS.

- Protect herbs, vegetables, trees and shrubs from possums, kangaroos, wallabies, hares, bandicoots, deer, foxes and other wildlife.
- Protect vegetables, fruit trees, ornamentals, seedlings and buildings from cockatoos, crows, ducks, pigeons, rosellas, starlings, swallows, other birds and bats.
- Protects homes, gardens, patios, shop fronts and paved areas from both dogs and cats or rats and mice.
 - Protect one plant or a whole area - perimeter and/or band sprays
 - Not considered a poison - no withholding period
 - Easy to use - spray on. Effective when dry.
 - Safe, Proven and Effective.
 - Available in 100g, 1Kg and 4Kg sizes.

D-TER is unique. Reject products said to be "just as good" nothing is at all "like it". For further information send 2 x 70c stamps to:
D-TER, Dept. GC, PO Box 3, Oyster Bay, NSW 2225.
Enquiries:Phone: (02) 9589 0703 Fax: (02) 9589 0147




Are you tired of always having sore knees from gardening?

Try the "Gardeners' Knees" kneepad range from kneetek. Our patented kneepads have proved to be the industry's leading kneepad for over 20 years.
For more information on the Gardeners Knees and other products or to purchase a pair, visit www.kneetek.net
Phone: (02) 93372611
email: sales@kneetek.net
www.kneetek.net

Kneetek
For the best knee protection you can get.

Member Offer

Fine Italian Dining for Garden Clinic Club Members...

Sevardi Cucina has been operating in Beecroft for 15 years. All food is made daily in house by chef / owner Toni who loves cooking and takes great pride in the quality and presentation of his meals.

When you bring in your Garden Clinic member card and present it to staff on arrival you will receive a 10% discount on food.

For bookings:
Phone: (02) 9980 1150
1/12 Hannah Street
Beecroft, NSW 2119



spraypower Battery Operated Spray Systems

AUTOMATIC GARDEN SPRAYING

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY POWER

NO MORE HAND PUMPING!

SPECIAL GARDEN CLINIC PRICES

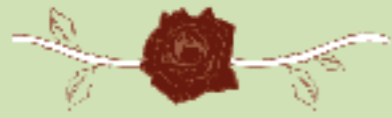
KB16-EW8
16 LITRE DUAL SPEED
• Adjustable Pressure
• 5 Nozzles
• Battery Indicator
WAS \$279
NOW \$249

K5-BA PRESS BUTTON • Effortless spraying • 2 nozzles \$119	K5 BASIC MODEL • 5L capacity • Single nozzle \$89	K16-EW STANDARD SPEED • 16L • 5 nozzles • 6 hour charge NOW \$229	K16-E6 HEAVY DUTY • 16L carry pack • Dual speed \$239
--	---	---	---

FOR MORE SPRAYERS VISIT US ONLINE
www.spraypower.com.au
OR CALL US (07) 5450 8081 or 0418 196 605

12 MONTH WARRANTY

La Vie en Rose



The Garden Clinic® preferred florist
Perfect flowers for any occasion
Show your membership card for a
10% discount

Shop 2, 5B Hannah St, Beecroft NSW 2119
P 9875 4000 F 9875 4022

flowers@lavieenrose.com.au
www.lavieenrose.com.au

garden makeovers *love that garden*



- * Dip Hort
- * established or new gardens
- * designed to meet your needs
- * planting
- * pruning
- * mulching
- * irrigation
- * water blasting
- * maintenance packages
- * pre house sale- mini makeover

Free fertiliser...

with every garden makeover for a limited time only

call me today
Dave 0400 874 733

STOCKISTS DIRECTORY Find more details on your favourite stockists and suppliers here:

Amgrow Garden Products: 1800 063 619
www.amgrow.com.au
Brunnings: (03) 9543 5600 www.brunnings.com.au
Camellia Grove Nursery: (02) 9652 1200
www.cameliagrove.com.au
Carlingford Produce: (02) 9871 4777
www.carlingfordproduce.com.au
Citrus – refer to www.citrus2grow.com.au
D-TER: (02) 9589 0703
Felco Pruning Tools: (03) 9544 6976 www.felco.com.au
Fiskars: (03) 8645 2400 www.fiskars.com
Garden Clinic subscriptions: 1300 133 100
Garden Makeovers: 0400 874 733
Greenhouse Capsule Australia: 1300 2277 853 www.
greenhousecapsule.com.au
Greenpatch Organic Seeds: (02) 6551 4240
www.greenpatchseeds.com.au
Hozelock: (03) 8645 2401 www.hozelock.com.au
Kings Pride Soft Leaf Buffalo: 1300 756 195
www.kingspridebuffalo.com.au
Lawn Green: 1300 557 472 www.lawngreen.com.au
Laymour Poultry Farm: (02) 9627 1423
www.laymour.com.au
Leaf Stopper: 1300 334 333 www.leafstopper.com.au
Leura Gardens Festival: 0431 095 279
www.leuragardensfestival.com
Maxicrop Seaweed Solution, Multiguard Snail
Pellets: (03) 8720 2100 www.multicrop.com.au
Mayfield Garden: (02) 6336 3131
www.mayfieldgarden.com.au
Munns Lawn products: 1800 060 544
www.munns.com.au
Nooroo Gardens: (02) 4756 2018
O.C.P Organic Crop Protectants: 1800 634 204
www.ocp.com.au
PlantNet: (07)3491 9905 www.plantnet.com.au
Ross Garden Tours: 1300 233 200 www.rosstours.com
Sudden Impact for Roses: 1800 656 644
www.neutrog.com.au
Seasol Seaweed Solution: (03) 9729 6511
www.seasol.com.au
Spraypower: 0418 196 605 www.spraypower.com.au
Strayban: 1800 671 759 www.strayban.com.au
Tim's Garden Centre: (02) 4626 7022
www.timsgardencentre.com.au
Van Diemen Quality Bulbs: 1800 179 113
www.vdqbulbs.com.au
Wet and Forget: (02) 9986 2126
www.wetandforget.com.au
Yates: 1300 369 074 www.yates.com.au

EUREKA!

SEEDLESS LEMON.

Eureka is the **best**
of the lemon varieties!

Now seedless
& available at
your favourite
garden centre



NEW!
SEED FREE

“At last no more
annoying pips!”



COME AND VISIT 115 YEAR OLD
CARLINGFORD PRODUCE
IN IT'S HERITAGE-LISTED PREMISES.



WE ALSO SELL
LIVE POULTRY &
POULTRY FOOD

5% GARDEN
CLINIC CLUB
MEMBERS
DISCOUNT ON
BROOMS & TOOLS!

WE SELL TOOLS, FERTILISERS, MULCHES,
HATS, BOOTS AND PET FOOD

Carlingford Produce, Railway Goodsyard,
off Jenkins Road, Carlingford, NSW.

ph (02) 9871 4777
www.carlingfordproduce.com.au

Camellia Grove Nursery



Camellia Specialists

also supplying Azaleas, Gardenias, Murrays,
Magnolias and Rhododendrons.

Open 7 Days 9am - 5pm

8 Cattai Ridge Rd Glenorie NSW 2157

www.cameliagrove.com.au



02 9652 1200

www.citrus2grow.com.au

In the garden {september}



It's time to...

Can't wait to get into the garden? Here's what you could do with a few minutes or a lovely long day.

Admire

Foxglove spires are drop-dead gorgeous in dappled shade.

Prune

Late-winter and early-spring flowering plants such as diosma, flowering quince and May bush (*Spirea*) should be pruned as soon as they've finished.

Prune passionfruit by a third to control size and allow it to fruit on this year's growth.

Pick

Pick weeds out as you see them and cover bare soil with mulch.

Sweet peas allow gardeners to have their cake and eat it: the more you pick the more they flower. Pick a posie today!

Feed

Liquid feed spring-flowering bulbs as they flower and again when they yellow-off to add energy for next year's blooms.

Apply organic fertiliser to all beds. This does more than feed the plants, it nourishes the soil by encouraging microbial activity.

Feed roses every six weeks to increase the blooms, and to bolster the plant's disease resistance.

Feed and aerate lawns.

Repot

If you haven't done so in the last three years, re-pot cymbidium orchids when they have finished flowering.

Watch out

Be vigilant against the hungry hawk moth caterpillar, which finds clivia leaves delicious. Zap with Success Ultra.

Plant

Plant out summer vegetables after the last frost. Try eggplant; capsicum; tomatoes; cucumbers; zucchini; chilli; green beans; beetroot and carrot.

Dahlia tubers are unbeatable for late-summer and autumn colour. Single petal, pompom, pinwheel or enormous sunflower types are all easy to grow and come back year after year.

Last chance

Prune and shape hibiscus hard before the spring weather pushes them into new growth.

Better Homes and Gardens LIVE

INSPIRATION
SYDNEY'S BIGGEST HOME AND GARDEN EVENT
SHOPPING

19-21 SEPT 2014
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park

Proudly presented by **ROYAL CANIN**



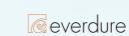
Join us for a day of ideas and inspiration!

GARDEN CLINIC MEMBER TICKET OFFER
TICKETS JUST \$15 - SAVE \$7 OFF THE DOOR PRICE!

TICKET OFFER ENDS 10PM THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014. TO BOOK GO TO

bhglive.com.au/gardenclinic

KIDS UNDER 16 ENTER FOR FREE!



Spare parts set Felco apart.

Even the finest pruning tools wear over time, but did you know that all parts of all Felco models can be replaced?

Felco pruning tools can be refurbished time and time again, with new blades, springs, handles and more.

Call 1800 730 257 for expert advice or the name of your nearest Felco Service Centre. www.felco.com.au



FELCO[®]
SWISS  MADE

In the garden {october}

Watch out

Fruit fly are about. Lure and trap them now. If you can get your neighbours to do the same you will double protection of the summer tomato bounty.

Grow

Pumpkins can be grown vertically over fences and trellis to save on space while still providing a plentiful harvest for next winter's soups. And no they don't need stockings to hold themselves up – that's a myth.

Plant

Plan your Christmas party colour scheme and plant to suit.

stuff a hanging basket with flower and foliage. Water often, especially if the wind is blowing. Fertilise regularly too.

make garden Christmas gifts now; perhaps a pot of herbs, grown from seed.

Prune

Spring-flowering shrubs with arching canes, such as *weigela*, *philadelphus* and *deutzia* should be allowed to develop their natural form so don't give them a short back and sides prune. Instead remove canes three years and older at ground level. This allows the new soft arching canes some room.

Sow

Summer stunners such as zinnia, cleome and sunflowers can be sown directly into warm garden soil or pots.

Lawn Care

Fill any bare spots, lawn gaps or dips with top dressing and feed evenly with granular fertiliser. A light aeration will help compacted lawns get the drink they so desperately need.

Last chance

Plant liliium bulbs for Christmas colour. They'll come back every year.

{november}

Admire

Bushfire-red Illawarra flame trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) are all aglow. Get all-over flowering by feeding with native fertiliser. Look out for the new grafted versions of its sister tree the Kurrajong, *Brachychiton* 'Bella Pink' and 'Griffith Pink'.

Prepare

The heat is coming. This month's hot dry weather can cause your plants heat stress. If you're worried spray the leaves with StressGuard.

Prune

wisteria can be severely cut back after flowering.

Lightly prune lavender to encourage more flowers for summer.

Roses that flower just once in spring, such as old-fashioned climbing varieties and banksia roses, flower on last season's growth, so the sooner you cut them back the longer they have to develop next year's flowering wood.

Deadhead

Keep the roses deadheaded, and you'll be picking many more fresh blooms for bouquets and bunches.

Delay

Avoid planting big trees and shrubs at this time; the dry weather makes it more difficult to get them established.

Spray

Zucchini and pumpkins can be afflicted by powdery mildew. Spray with Eco-fungicide.

Feed

Nurture tomatoes as they start to flower with liquid fertiliser or homemade comfrey fertiliser.

Last chance

Plant dahlias and petunias for Christmas colour.

DIGGING JUST GOT A HOLE LOT **EASIER**



SCAN HERE
FOR VIDEO



Introducing Fiskars QuikDrill™, the easy, lightweight solution to planting, aerating, fertilising and installing posts. The QuikDrill's™ unique angled blades help you drill deeper and quicker with less back strain.

www.fiskars.com

FISKARS[®]

garden clinic

Members receive 10% off plants purchased at the following nurseries. It's time to make that green membership card work for you!

NSW

Carlingford Produce

Specialists in bulk gardening materials.
Jenkins Rd, Carlingford. 02 98714777

Camellia Grove

More than 60 years experience growing the best camellias in Australia.
8 Cattai Ridge Rd, Glenorie. 02 96521200

Ecogardens Bondi

Our newest network partner.
28 Curlewis St, Bondi. 1300 470 878

Elegant Outdoors

Stunning topiary, pots and plants.
**Corner Pacific Hwy and Rohini St, Turramurra
02 9449 1987**

Engall's Nursery

More than a century of experience growing citrus.
997 Old Northern Rd, Dural. 02 9651 2735

Four Seasons Garden Centre

The premier nursery on Sydney's northern beaches.
200 Forestway, Belrose. 02 9450 1606

Geranium Cottage

Café, jam shop, art gallery and plants.
**828 Old Northern Rd, Middle Dural.
02 9652 0475**

Honeysuckle Garden Centre

Honeysuckle Garden Centre is in the heart of Bondi Junction.
92a Oxford St, Bondi Junction. 02 9387 8786

Honeysuckle Garden Centre

Friendly staff sharing good advice.
361-363 Military Rd, Mosman. 02 9958 8361

Hunters Hill Garden Centre

A gem in the heart of Hunters Hill.
39 Alexander St, Hunters Hill. 02 879 5222

Sherringham's Nursery

A great nursery with an online plant buying service and home delivery.
**Cnr Wicks and Waterloo Rds, Nth Ryde.
02 9888 3133**

St Ives Nursery

A great range of excellent quality plants, great gift ideas and home delivery.
405 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives. 02 9144 4435

Swanes Nurseries Carlingford

Find the best roses here or in the online catalogue at www.swanes.com.
237 Marsden Rd, Carlingford. 02 9871 1699

Swanes Nurseries Dural

Beautiful gardens and a delicious café.
Galston Rd, Dural. 02 9651 1322

Swanes Nurseries Sylvania

Get good advice from the friendly staff.
80 Port Hacking Rd, Sylvania. 02 9522 7086

Tahmoor Garden Centre

Browse the nursery and gift shop then stop in at the café.
3070 Remembrance Drive, Bargo. 02 4684 2000

Tim's Garden Centre

Renowned for friendly and experienced staff.
2 Queen St, Campbelltown. 02 4626 7022

Wentworthville Nursery

Great nursery with the best florist in region.
**394 Great Western Hwy, Wentworthville
02 9631 8495**

VIC

Aumann's Garden Supplies

A one-stop shop for home and garden.
**Templestowe and South Morang
03 9404 1738 and 03 9846 4877**

Gardenworld Nursery

Don't miss our Garden Clinic classes here.
**810 Springvale Rd, Braeside
03 9791 0111**

What's flowering in your garden? How's the weather? Hear a great tip on the Garden Clinic radio show? Use this space to record your garden happenings in words or pictures.

Johnsons

NEW

world kitchen

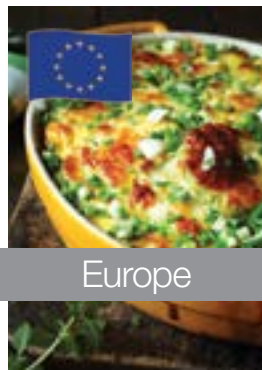
Grow & cook the flavours of the world



Americas



Asia



Europe



France



Mediterranean

Johnsons World Kitchen is a new and unique range of packet seeds comprised of distinctive vegetables and herbs that are essential ingredients in regional cuisines around the world. Cuisines of the Americas, Asia, France, Europe and the Mediterranean are all at your fingertips with these exciting and delicious varieties.

Every pack includes a recipe tip, and with more recipes available on the Johnsons website there's no shortage of exciting cooking ideas!

Johnsons World Kitchen seeds are now available at Bunnings and independent garden centres nationwide.



Johnsons Seeds 15B Walker Street, South Windsor NSW 2756
Tel: (02) 4571 6200

www.johnsons-seeds.com.au