

Thank you RHS members for supporting this newsletter; please keep sending articles and photos through, so we can share with others.

Pauline Cain

flannelflowerpc@bigpond.com

The Floral Art photos forwarded during May, will be in Issue 2 of the RHS Magazine



KEEPING CONNECTED

Life is like a camera.....

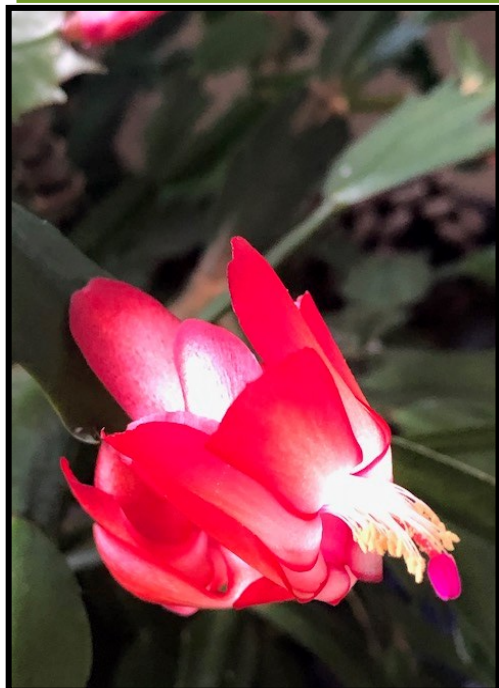
Focus on what's important,
Capture the good times,
Develop from the negatives,
 And if things don't work out,
Take another shot

Don't forget to send photo's in of your Floral Art displays as listed in the 2020 Schedule

In the meantime, please keep safe until we can meet again.

This newsletter is not replacing the 'Better Gardening' magazine.

Photos Sharryn's Zygocactus started their flowering in early May.





Zygocactus Originated in the mountains of Brazil, where they grow as epiphytes in trees.

Many shades of pink and lavender, hot orange, salmon and white with pink throat.

Even though they are a succulent, they will grow better if watered more regularly than other succulents. Don't have the pots sitting in saucers of water.

Winter flowering is triggered by shortening daylight hours. Indoor plants will need darkness at night to avoid affecting the flowering period.

Stems are fairly brittle, so choose a location that's protected from strong winds or being knocked about by people or pets.

ZYGOCACTUS CULTURE

Will grow in your garden but the following information is for growing Zygos in POTS.

- Choose a pot or hanging basket at least twice the width and depth of the rootball. Position in dappled shade. In frosty areas, they will need some winter protection.
- Use a good potting mix; they require good drainage. Remove the Zygocactus from the container; gently tease the roots and cut away any circled or tangled roots.
- Place in the centre of the pot and add potting mix, gently firm down and water well.
- Water well once or twice a week, depending on weather.
- Feed during the growing season to promote strong root development, healthy foliage and good flowers.

A hanging basket allows the arching stems to hang down from the crown of the plant, just as they do from tree trunks in their natural habitat.

Growing tips

Pieces of flattened stems can be separated where the segments join and used for propagation. Can use a rooting product—place pieces vertically into pots filled with a seedling mix and leave in a well lit, warm spot for several months.

Don't move the plants once the buds have formed as they don't like change at this stage.

FROM THE BACKYARD



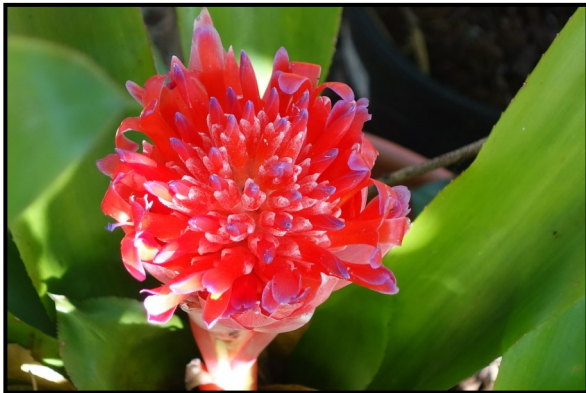
Lesley Azalea

Pauline



Procatavola Golden Peacock

Bettina



Grewia occidentalis Lavender Star



Antidesma erostre Wild currant
Edible Australia Tucker Bush



Plantation Pink + Seedling



Plantation
Pink
Seedling

Ecclesfield



Flower Girl



Avalanche

Moonlight Bay



Paradise Pearl



Helenor



Paradise Helen

Debutante



FROM JULIET'S BACKYARD
Camellias



Clamping techniques an online demonstration from RHS Facebook 9th May
Madhu Shah

Bamboo or wooden pegs make suitable supports for long horizontal designs[1]
This is a monochromatic design in brown/ beige.

Materials long piece of bark, branch, yarn covered wire, dried Banksia, dried leaves and styrene balls, covered with small shapes of Shola- an Indian Reed.

Balls add contrast & texture. Smooth texture comes from the mustard coloured velvety dried leaves.



White batflower *Tacca integrifolia*

A plant that has one of the strangest and most amazing flowers in the plant kingdom.



They are native to Southeast Asia and grow wild Yuuan Province.

The flowers and whiskers are white or close to white in colour.

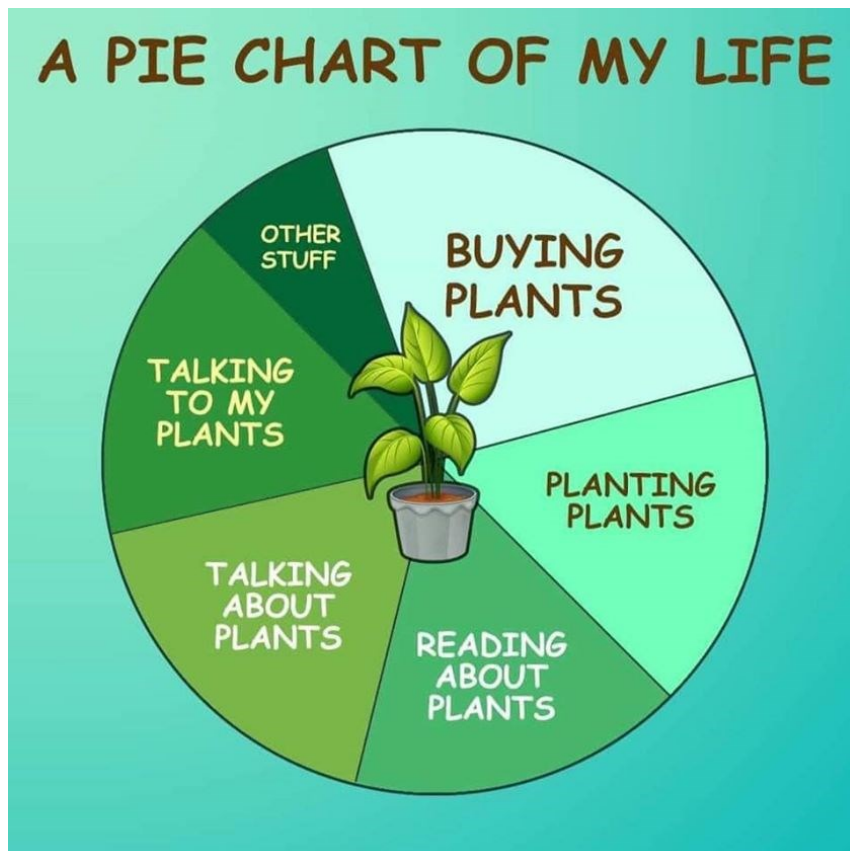
The plants can grow to a height of 60 to 90 cms. with a spread of equal size and their whiskers can reach a length of 70cms.

Tropical or subtropical climates are the more suitable areas for growing these plants. However, they will grow in different environments with proper attention and care.

It is best to pot these plants when you have at least 2 or 3 months of warm weather to allow them to establish.

Grow in well-drained light, very porous and slight acidic mix.

It is recommended to grow these plants in full shade or filtered light with good air circulation.



NO -DIG GARDENING

Is a non cultivation method used by some gardeners.

The principle of this type of gardening is that soil is a complex mix of living organisms. When the soil is disturbed as little as possible, mulch is left on the surface, for worms and other soil fauna to work in. The action of soil life brings down the mulch, whilst naturally aerating the soil and improving texture and fertility.

The origins of no-dig gardening are unclear, but in Australia, Esther Deans, promoted this type of gardening in the **1970's**

Esther Deans, in her book "**Esther Deans Gardening Book growing without digging**" details her method of growing vegetables and flowers without digging.

Living in St Ives, during this period, Esther's garden was opened over the weekends and many 1000's of visitors came to learn about the know how of the straw garden.

The idea is to build on top of the ground, comprising rectangular beds made from old pieces of hardwood or any material that will hold the rich organic mixture in place.

Cover the area with a good thickness of newspaper, then pads of lucerne hay. Over this, sprinkle a light dusting of organic fertilizer or dry poultry manure. Cover this with a layer of about 20cms deep of loose straw and sprinkle again with fertilizer. Finally, add a good quality compost 8-10cms deep and 45cms across, where seeds are to be planted.

AND NOW IN the 2020's

It is the STRAW BALE GARDEN



Positioning the bale. Choose a sunny spot, turn the bale so the narrow cut side is up.

Conditioning the bale. Must be done before planting. This process usually takes around 10 to 14 days. As soon as the bale gets wet, it will start to decompose and the inside will start to

heat up. For the first 3 days, water the bale thoroughly. For the next 7 days, in addition to watering, add a liquid or powder fertilizer [dissolved] with a watering can; can help speed up the decomposition rate.

On day 10 return to watering only. Continue watering until the temperature inside the bale decreases and reaches the air temperature. The bale is now ready to plant.

Your plants will receive less nutrition from the bales so fertilize regularly and don't let the bales dry out.

Ref. Esther Deans gardening book growing without digging. 1977

University of Maryland Extension



MORE DISPLAYS of SPRING in HOLLAND

Photos supplied by Maureen Brown



HOW TO CREATE A FLOWER BALL

Wire baskets can be transformed into a flower ball by planting into the sides of the container. For a 35cm basket, use about 12 trailing plants for the sides.

Decide on an upright plant to plant in the top, surrounded by 4 to 8 mounding plants and 4 trailing plants.

Add about 3cm of potting mix to the lined container, firm down. Cut 6 evenly spaced horizontal slits, about 12cms apart, in the liner and plastic, just above the mix.

Wrap the root ball of a trailing plant in a tube of newspaper to protect it, then insert through the slit. Remove the newspaper once the root ball is level with the potting mix. Trailing plants that could be used include alyssum, pansy, viola, lobelia and petunia.

Add enough potting mix to half fill the basket, firm. Cut 6 more slits between the first slits and insert more trailing plants.

Add more mix and plant into the top of the basket.



Meet one of our Native Australian Bees, the Blue Banded Bee. In my language we call bees "Murnalongs", their name gives me a clue to their favourite flower, the Murnong; an Australian native yam with a yellow flower.

This little Murnalong is very special because it's a buzz pollinator. European bees cannot buzz pollinate so we really need the Blue Banded Bee to flourish and we can do that by planting more native plants in our garden.

This Blue Banded Murnalong collects pollen by a head banging technique; banging its head on the flower up to 350 times per second. They grasp the flower and vibrate them with their flight muscles, making the pollen shoot out through the anther pores for collection.

Such an incredible part of our ecology and one that is needed as most of our native plants need our native insects to pollinate them to survive.

Ref. ABC Science 2015

Dancing Plants in Melbourne <https://danceoftheplants.org>

Find A Word

H	U	M	I	D	I	T	Y	F	D	N	F	D	W	C	R
N	D	X	B	I	Q	Q	T	N	P	R	Y	G	F	D	A
K	O	J	Z	A	K	C	I	F	S	X	F	M	Q	B	I
Z	O	N	E	P	J	W	I	N	T	E	R	G	Y	W	N
A	W	K	W	Z	T	S	E	C	L	O	U	D	E	B	I
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G	J	E	T	C	I	H	R	L	M	Z	H	R	N	E	L
N	P	D	N	H	M	V	O	U	N	D	E	W	E	T	F
I	V	X	S	J	A	N	S	Y	K	M	O	G	E	E	L
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P	U	G	V	N	E	L	L	U	A	G	A	V	G	K	W
S	Z	R	O	P	I	C	S	U	N	O	M	I	R	I	A

Air

Anemometer

Autumn

Barometer

Climate

Cloud

Desert

Dew

Frost

Green Waste

Humidity

Spring

Summer

Sunshine

Rain

Wind

Winter

Zonal Flow



Cancellations

Our Gloucester Hosts and the **NSWFAA committee** announce the cancellation of the planned activities for 31 July and 1st August.

Rivendell 2020 has been cancelled



WESTLEIGH NATIVE PLANTS

BRIAN ROACH

Hoping to have his next open garden / plant sale weekend towards the end July.

For a current plant list and to order plants please contact westleighnativeplants@gmail.com



Arrangements by Carol from material in her garden.

1 Inspired by the facebook workshop presentations by Francine Thomas.

