



# Tasmanian Garden Group

ABN: 292 645 71427



May 2024

Dear TGG Members,



I hope that your vegie gardens are being planted out with seedlings for economical winter soups and casseroles. Onions, shallots, broadbeans, Asian cabbages are perfect for planting in May (see p. 3 below).

Delicious locally grown apples and pears are such a treat at this time of year. Why not investigate a new recipe? If you grow rhubarb, you might try the one on page 9 below.

This is a good time of year to look for gaps in your garden where you could plant spring bulbs or some annuals. Push in a small twig or stick as a reminder where you want to plant some new delights.

Sick of bending over to get to weeds? Invest in a hoe. You'll be amazed how quickly you can attack weeds even when you only have five minutes or so. If you progressively remove them, then you will break their lifecycle of seeding into your garden.

Don't forget to pop the events on the last page into your diary to ensure that you don't miss out.

Cheers for now, *Heather Pryor*

## Reminders for Your Garden in May

### In the ornamental garden:

- **Order bare-rooted roses** from your favourite nursery in May.
- Now is the time to **plant annuals** for a winter and early spring display. Visit your local nursery to select punnets of forget-me-nots, cineraria, lupins, alyssum, poppies (see Iceland poppies at right), pansies, polyanthus, violas, snapdragons, primula, cornflower, delphinium, hollyhock and wallflower.
- Cut down **herbaceous perennials** as they finish. Choose a cool day and divide if necessary to rejuvenate the clumps.
- **All flowering perennials and shrubs** (except natives), including roses, carnations, daisies, lavenders will benefit greatly from feeding now with *Sudden Impact for Roses*. The liquid form of this fertiliser can quickly get to the roots of your shrubs to build strong cells that help support your plants through winter. The balance and ratio of nutrients is the secret to its success. Watering in with *GOGO Juice* mixed in with a seaweed fertiliser or *Sudden Impact for Roses* will further encourage a faster uptake of the nutrients by the plant.
- **Dahlias** will need your attention. Cut off any dead growth and lift your dahlia tubers from the ground and store them in any dry position that is cool and airy. Cover with sand, sawdust or other material. In spring you can divide and replant.
- Lift and divide **lilium bulbs** and replant the firm well-developed ones as soon as possible.
- Clear away any **fallen rose leaves** infected with black spot or other disease underneath your bushes.
- Plant or pot up **spring-flowering bulbs** as soon as you can.





- Prune whippy shoots and sticks from **shrubs**, such as viburnum or wisteria and cut back to five or six buds from the main stem for tidiness.
- Lightly trim **lavenders and hebes** after flowering without cutting into old wood.
- Trim vigorous growth on **vines and shrubs** to keep them manageable.
- Keep **camellias and rhododendrons** well watered to help develop good bud formation for bloom in later winter or spring.
- Tip-prune **salvias** as flowers drop or stems finish to keep them tidy and encourage more blooms.
- Top up **mulch** and cover any bare soil to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth.
- **Fertilise annuals** every two weeks with liquid fertiliser and a seaweed tea.
- **Wait until the end of June** to prune your roses, apples and stone fruit trees. But now is a good time to feed your roses with some rose fertiliser (such as *Sudden Impact for Roses*) mixed with some liquid seaweed.

### In the native garden:



- Trim the old flowers from **bottlebrushes and other natives** as they finish their autumn flush. Especially trim grevilleas to keep them compact. They will respond with many more flowering shoots.

**Left:** *Hakea petiolaris* or Sea Urchin Hakea.

### In ponds and for wildlife:

- Keep **birdbaths** topped up with fresh water. Clean regularly with a mild detergent to avoid spreading avian diseases.
- In ponds, destroy any **algal blooms** ('green water') with an algicide or water dye.
- Pop a **bird box** in a strategic branch or on a fence post near a shrub.

### The lawn or in general:

- **Sow lawn seed** or plant runners in patchy lawn areas and make sure they are moist until seeds have germinated or runners have established.
- Now is the time to take softwood, such as grapevines and hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees and shrubs.
- **Collect fallen leaves** and enjoy adding them to your compost bin.
- Reduce the water for **indoor plants** and keep them away from fires and heaters.
- **Repot pot-bound plants**, including indoor plants, remembering to trim and tease out any tightly bound roots. Choose a quality potting mix, use slow release fertiliser and water with a seaweed solution to settle them in. If you don't want to move a plant to a larger container, replace some of the soil around the root-ball with new mix.
- Soak potted plants in a bucket of water to keep the root ball well hydrated.
- Don't allow the **weeds** to get you down. Try whittling them down with sudden attacks, such as a daily 10-minute blitz. You'll soon see them diminish and you won't feel as distressed about them.
- Move any frost-tender potted **succulents** under the eaves, near a northern wall or somewhere they are more protected. Remember that frost occurs from late autumn to early spring when our nights are cold, clear and still.
- Regular applications of **Seasol Gold or a seaweed fertiliser** every two–three weeks will help protect your plants against frost and cold weather by building stronger cell structures in the leaves and stems.



- Revitalise any **tired soil** with *Seasol Liquid Compost* which is a soil conditioner. It's so easy to use and no digging! Just mix two caps in a 9L watering can. You can even buy a hose-on pack and make life even easier!

## Reminders for Your Vegie Garden in May

### In the kitchen garden:

- Cut back **raspberry and other berry canes**. Tie up any canes that you are retaining.
- Tidy **strawberry** plants by removing dead leaves and runners. Then plant out the runners to begin a reinvigorated crop.
- Plant **garlic** cloves.
- **Plant vegie seedlings**: Planting seedlings shortens the time to harvest by three to four weeks. Plant now: mini-cauliflower, late leeks, loose leaf or winter lettuce (cos), shallot and spring onion, parsley, potato (early, frost-free districts only), silverbeet and green manure crop. Plant garlic cloves now. Planting seedlings as well as seeds will give you some quick results and a range of maturing times.
- **Plant vegie seeds**: Asian cabbage and root crops, broadbeans (plant 8cm deep), spring and salad onion, English spinach, Japanese turnip. Watering plants and seedlings with liquid seaweed promotes root growth. Apply weekly but use a mild mixture. Be careful though, because root crops, such as carrots, are far better planted directly into the soil as they hate being transplanted. Also be careful to not over-fertilise root crops as you will end up with lush leaves and small roots.
- **Water vegies well** in our windy weather to give them the moisture to pump out produce and avoid a tough and bitter flavour to your harvest, especially cucumbers.
- **Fertilise capsicum**, eggplant and chilli bushes with a side dressing of blood and bone and a good pinch of potash.
- Replace or build up a clean, dry bed of **straw mulch** under developing melons and pumpkins to help avoid rot.
- Remove **basil flower stems** and tip prune any growth especially when harvesting to keep the plants bushy.
- **Cutting back herbs** will be very beneficial to encourage new growth before winter sets in. The trimmings may be dried or frozen in ice cubes to pop into stews and casseroles during winter. Or use the herbs to flavour vinegars and oils.



- **Rosemary, thyme, sage and oregano** dry easily when tied into small bunches and hung upside down until the leaves are crisp and brittle. Use an elastic band to keep the stems tight as they dry out as well as string or a pretty ribbon to tie them up. You can always use the microwave to dry herbs on paper towels as well. Freeze excess parsley, chives, basil, dill, chervil and tarragon.

It's time to **sow rocket** (or arugula, pictured below right) as a peppery salad green which is delicious in risotto, especially when combined with asparagus or mushrooms. Use it on pizzas and in pastas. Rocket bolts to seed very quickly in hot weather unless it is given shade, but during autumn, winter and early spring, you can have continual supplies of it. Sow seeds progressively (or successively) for a continuous supply. The leaves can be consumed until the plant begins to flower as then the leaves will become bitter. However, the flowers can be used attractively in salads or to decorate any meal course, savoury biscuit or dip.





## May Autumn Garden

Make the best of the good autumn days now. Autumn is an underrated season as many gardeners tend to put all their energy into spring. However, with heat still in the soil, use the next couple of months to really spend time in your garden, such as preparing garden beds for spring.

After all, as allegedly Abraham Lincoln stated, **“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”**

This quote is a metaphor for the way we choose to view life’s challenges. We can either focus on the negative aspects of a situation or choose to see the positive. The quote is intended to encourage us all to adopt a more positive outlook on life.

## Loving Luculia

Blooming from late autumn to early spring, luculias have clear pink flowers and a wonderful fragrance which is often described as being somewhere between a gardenia and a vanilla fragrance. Luculias grow well in a semi-shaded position. They dislike frost, wet feet and hot afternoon sun, but are well worth finding a spot for them. After flowering, pinch back new growth to encourage bushiness in your shrub.

They dislike having their roots disturbed when weeding, so mulch well with sugar-cane mulch and old manure before spring.

**Right:** *Luculia gratissima* (Latin for ‘most pleasing’) blooming in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.



## Some Cooking Tips

### Soggy green vegetables

Soggy vegetables are simply overcooked. All green vegies should be put into boiling, not cold water. Vegetables carry on cooking once they've been drained, so factor that in too. Always have a metal skewer to hand to test how done they are. Most green vegetables, such as asparagus and zucchini, need three minutes maximum, while beans, cauliflower and broccoli just need a minute or two longer, depending on size. Avoid cutting a cross into Brussels sprouts as it makes them soggy.

### You've added too much salt

Occasionally, you might be a little too heavy handed using salt in your cooking. If that happens, you could add an acid, like lemon juice or vinegar to tone down the saltiness if you've not gone too overboard or add more of an unsalted liquid like water or low-sodium stock.

### Chocolate seized

If your melted chocolate has ended up as a lumpy mess, in culinary terms it has ‘seized’. This is because the chocolate has overheated or some of the water from the pan underneath has splashed into the chocolate or the water underneath was too hot. To avoid this, the water under the bowl shouldn't touch the bowl and it should be kept at gentle simmer. A little patience is needed for the best result.

### Meat juices end up on the chopping board

Whether cooked meat or poultry, it needs to be rested when it comes out of the oven. Resting allows the proteins in the meat to coagulate and keeps most of the juices in the meat. Wrap over the container with foil and rest a chicken or steak for 10 minutes, a joint of meat for around 20 minutes and a turkey can sit for 25 minutes before carving. Resting also makes it easier to carve.



### Better poached eggs

Crack your egg into a cup before adding it to boiling water, rather than poaching one straight from the shell. This way, the egg will enter the poaching liquid more rapidly and in one go, resulting in a rounder and more compact poached egg shape. Add a splash of vinegar to the boiling water.

Another good tip is to create a vortex in the hot water by stirring it in a circular motion just before adding the egg. Cook for 2–4 minutes.



## The Value of White Vinegar in Your Laundry

Professional laundries have long mastered the art of keeping towels soft and fluffy, a method that extends their lifespan and enhances their luxurious feel.

### A Step-by-Step Guide to Softer Towels:

- **Wash towels separately:** Ensure towels have enough room to be thoroughly cleaned and rinsed by washing them on the 'High' water setting on your washing machine.
- **Reduce detergent:** Use a smaller amount of detergent, use approximately 50 ml, to prevent soap build-up which can stiffen fibres.
- **Add white vinegar:** Replace your regular fabric softener with 20 ml of white vinegar to keep fibres soft and eliminate detergent residue.
- **Increase washing temperature:** Washing at a higher temperature, such as 60°C, not only kills germs and bacteria but also helps in removing soap residue.

If you are concerned about vinegar's strong smell; it vanishes during the rinse cycle, leaving no trace behind.

### The Benefits of White Vinegar in Laundry:

- **Softens fibres:** Vinegar maintains the softness of towel fibres, making them feel luxurious.
- **Removes detergent build-up:** It eliminates lingering detergent, refreshing towels to a nearly new condition.
- **Neutralises odours:** White vinegar is effective in eliminating unpleasant smells, particularly in towels that haven't dried completely by being hung on a towel rail in the bathroom.

### Drying for Optimal Softness:

After washing, use a maximum strength spin cycle to help remove excess water. For the ultimate softness and fluffiness, machine dry your towels, even for 20 minutes after they have been nearly fully dried on the clothesline.

A tumble dryer plays a crucial role in achieving the desired softness that is unattainable with line drying.

### Beyond Towels:

The white vinegar laundry tip extends beyond towels. White vinegar can rejuvenate a variety of fabrics, removing accumulated soaps and chemicals. The vinegar preserves colours, reduces static cling, and even tackles stubborn stains like wine, tomato sauce, coffee, tea, and deodorant marks.

Try incorporating white vinegar into your laundry routine to enjoy the plush comfort of fluffy towels.



# Some Healthy Advice

## Is it safe to use grey water?

Many water authorities recommend the re-use of grey water (that is, final rinse water from your washing machine) as long as it's done in a way that is sustainable, protects one's health and the environment. (Image below from researchgate.net)

### What is greywater?



#### Clean Water

Springs, wells, purified water, city water, rain water



#### Greywater

Used water without toxic chemicals and/or excrement



#### Blackwater

Contaminated water with toxic chemicals and/or excrement

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### Some grey water do's and don't's:

- **Do** use products that are biodegradable, low in salts, and specifically intended for greywater use, and allow your gardens to rest and recover from greywater irrigation over the cooler or wetter months of the year.
- **Do** use grey water from the final washing rinse, bath or shower.
- **Do** rotate the areas to which grey water is applied.
- **Do** use grey water immediately or within 24 hours.
- **Do** wash your hands after using grey water as it may contain pathogens.
- **Do** stop using grey water if someone in the household is sick.
- **Don't** use grey water on food plants, such as vegetables, herbs or fruit trees. If you must use it, then the produce must be cooked before eating.
- **Don't** spray your plants' leaves with grey water as any residue could block cells from breathing.
- **Don't** store grey water for more than 24 hours.
- **Don't** use grey water from washing nappies or greasy work clothes.
- **Don't** let grey water flood from your property onto someone's property. That is illegal.
- **Don't** use grey water that has antibacterials, disinfectants and bleaches in it as that would affect the microbes in your soil.
- **Don't** use 'black water' from the kitchen sink, dishwasher or toilet.
- **Don't** allow pets to drink or play in grey water.

## Physical Safety Tips

**Warm up before you begin.** Do a few stretches, twists, bend your knees and squat.

**Try to vary your activities** in the garden by only doing one activity for 20 minutes. Change your tasks, such as weeding for a little while, then pruning, then weeding again and so on so that you change your posture.

**When lifting heavy items**, there is a right way to lifting heavy bags of potting mix or pot plants. It's important to bend your knees (and not use your back only) and lift by straightening your legs and keeping your back straight. Hold the load close to your body. Also think about using a wheelbarrow or small trolley regularly. Carrying two buckets (or bags) half filled is far better than one very heavy bucket (of soil or water).

Some jobs are better done with two people, so don't try being a hero and do things alone. Have two people when using a ladder, transplanting a tree or shrub, major pruning jobs or lifting a very heavy object.

## Care Using Warrigal Greens

Warrigal greens is a wide-spread species, native to Australia and is commonly known as Botany Bay



greens. They are often found growing near beaches or coastal areas as groundcovers. They will grow in poor soils, but will produce larger leaves in good garden soil and with regular watering and care. Grow them from seed in a sunny or semi-shaded location where the space is about two metres square.

However, the succulent leaves are high in oxalic acid and **must be blanched before being eaten**. Simply boil them for two minutes and drop into cold water. Discard any boiled water (or when cool, throw it into the garden). Then you can use the greens in a stir-fry or your preferred way, such as in soup or quiche as they are similar to spinach.

# The Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania recommends:



**Above:** Tasmanian Pencil Pine (*Arthrotaxis cupressoides*), 26-years-old.

Pines are adaptable and flexible allowing the artist to express themselves in many forms. Pines need full sun with no protection required. There are many sub-varieties of pines, especially dwarf pines. Many are excellent for bonsai purposes due to their slow growth rate and small needle size, but some are not so good because of factors like branching becoming too thick and needle thickness looking out of place. It's suggested that you would benefit from researching your variety of pine before embarking on its bonsai journey, to help determine what course to take.

Recommendations for the best varieties of pines for bonsai purposes are:

- Japanese black pine - *Pinus thunbergii*
- Japanese red pine - *Pinus densiflora*
- Japanese white pine - *Pinus parviflora*
- Scots pine - *Pinus sylvestris*
- Swiss pine - *Pinus mugo*
- American white pine - *Pinus strobus*
- Monterey pine - *Pinus radiata*
- Shore or lodgepole pine - *Pinus contorta*

**Right:** Smallfruit Needlebush (*Hakea macrocarpa*) 19-years-old, created from a cutting.



## Tips for your Bonsai in May:

- ◇ Progress your work on natives.
- ◇ Check wiring on all trees.
- ◇ Finish any remaining conifer work.
- ◇ Reduce watering. Use a satay skewer to judge if your bonsai needs watering.
- ◇ Last chance to finish up wiring your conifers and natives. No heavy wiring bending.
- ◇ Clean excessive moss from trunks and branches.
- ◇ Tidy up dead leaves, needles, etc.
- ◇ Now is the time to over-winter your trees in a greenhouse or other shelter.

## Bonsai or Penjing?

Worldwide, the art of cultivating miniature trees has captivated enthusiasts. You may be familiar with the word 'bonsai', but have you heard of 'penjing'?

Bonsai and Penjing are both miniature tree art forms, but they have distinct cultural and stylistic approaches. Bonsai originated in Japan and usually focuses on individual trees and shrubs (or a clump of them) meticulously pruned and trained to create an aesthetic, miniaturised impression of a mature plant. Japanese 'bon' means 'pot' or 'container'; and 'sai' means 'plant'. The aim is to evoke the essence of mature, full-sized trees in the limited space of a pot. Bonsai is an art form that requires dedication and patience, as it takes years or even decades to shape a tree into the desired form.

Like other Japanese art forms, such as Ikebana and the Tea Ceremony, bonsai holds deep cultural significance in Japanese society and is associated with principles such as patience, discipline and simplicity. The art of bonsai is often seen as a reflection of the Japanese aesthetic and Zen philosophy.

**Penjing**, on the other hand, originates from China and is a traditional Chinese art that can be traced back to as early as the Tang Dynasty (618–907 AD). Chinese ‘pen’ means ‘pot’; and ‘jing’ means ‘panorama’ or ‘landscape’. It emphasises the creation of an entire miniature landscape within a single container and elements can include rocks, figures and water features.



**Above and left:** Examples of penjing.



In Chinese culture, penjing represents harmony between humans and nature, highlighting the interconnectedness and balance in the universe. It often incorporates elements of Confucianism and Taoism, symbolising philosophical ideas.

Both art forms share the goal of creating miniature natural scenes, but their visual styles are quite distinct. Bonsai is a more refined, stylistic depiction of nature, while Penjing is more natural and wilder.

## Your Iris Garden in May

**Spuria iris:** Don't need too much water before moving. Best time to shift them is as soon as new shoots appear. Keep the level of nitrogen down when you fertilise.

**All bearded irises** will benefit from a light top dressing of dolomite or garden lime. May is a good month to give this (about a handful per square metre), cultivate in and around your clumps and water in well. Also keep your beds free of weeds as they harbour snails and slugs, which are on the move around this time. Wait until July to give TBs potash, either spray or powder.

**Louisiana iris:** Check for tiny slugs as they can strip the foliage. They hide in the folds of the leaves, so keep all dead leaves pulled away and beds weeded.

**Pacific Coast iris:** Now is the month for attention to Pacific Coast Iris (or PCs). Give them some liquid fertilisers, such as *Aquasol* and *PowerFeed* combined. If you didn't plant your seeds in March, plant them now either in pots or in the ground.



**Above:** The colour pattern in irises of clear yellow over burgundy falls is called a **Variegata**. The tall bearded iris is called 'Treasure Trader'.

### Take visual memory photos

Need to remember what food you've run out of? Take a photo of the fridge before you go shopping. In our busy lives, we tend to forget some details, such as how you perfectly packed up the Christmas decorations or the colour of a garment that you want to find something to match. Your phone camera makes a great visual reminder. This can be advantageous for many situations. What is the brand of a friend's or grandchild's favourite toy/game/character/book series, etc.? Take a quick photo with your phone when you are nearby and be ready when you want to buy a gift.





# Orange and Rhubarb Teacake

Serves 8

## Ingredients:

200g butter, chopped in small cubes  
2 tsp finely grated orange rind  
1/3 cup (80ml) fresh orange juice  
3 eggs  
1/2 tsp vanilla essence  
1 1/2 cups (225g) self-raising flour  
1 tspn cinnamon  
2 cups rhubarb, copped into small pieces  
1 tablesp demerara sugar (or raw or brown sugar)

## Method:

- ◆ Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease and line a 20cm springform round cake tin.
- ◆ Using electric beaters, beat the butter and sugar until creamy.
- ◆ Beat in the rind and vanilla essence.
- ◆ Add eggs one at a time, beating well between each.
- ◆ Fold in the flour, cinnamon and orange juice using a large spoon or spatula.
- ◆ Spoon half of the mixture into the cake tin.
- ◆ Scatter half of the rhubarb over the top.
- ◆ Add in the remaining mixture and smooth the surface.
- ◆ Scatter over the remaining rhubarb and sprinkle with the sugar.
- ◆ Cook for about 50 minutes, until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the centre of the cake.
- ◆ Stand for 5 minutes before releasing the sides of the cake tin. Slide the cake onto a wire rack to cool. Alternatively, serve warm as a dessert with yoghurt or cream or ice cream.



## Collect Your Parsley Seed

Your parsley will probably be going to seed and starting to look dry and turn brownish. Do not collect any seed that is still green. On a dry day, cut off the seedheads and place them in a paper bag. Label your bag clearly and store it in a dry, cool place. The seeds will be viable for about one year.

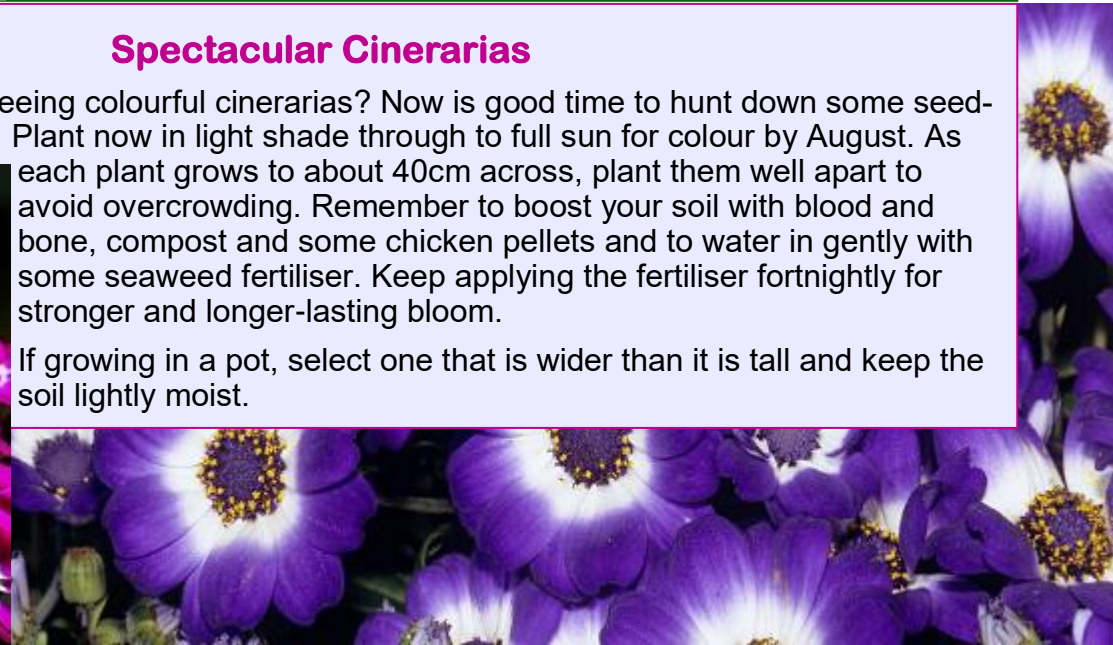
However, it is still a good time to plant some seeds for a fresh crop. Firstly, refresh your soil, adding in some blood and bone and some chicken pellets or compost. Then create a shallow groove in your soil and scatter in several seeds, spacing them 15 cm apart. Water gently.

## Spectacular Cinerarias

When did you last enjoy seeing colourful cinerarias? Now is good time to hunt down some seedlings in your local nursery. Plant now in light shade through to full sun for colour by August. As

each plant grows to about 40cm across, plant them well apart to avoid overcrowding. Remember to boost your soil with blood and bone, compost and some chicken pellets and to water in gently with some seaweed fertiliser. Keep applying the fertiliser fortnightly for stronger and longer-lasting bloom.

If growing in a pot, select one that is wider than it is tall and keep the soil lightly moist.



# Thinking Aussie Natives? Think Pink



**Correa:** There are 11 types of correa only found in the eastern states of Australia and South Australia growing from coastal regions to coastal plains and mountainous areas. Blooming for months, they are much loved by nectar-feeding birds when little else is in bloom. In addition to the species, there is a good range of hybrids offering many colour combinations.



**Above:** *Correa reflexa* 'Dusky Bells'. **Right:** *Correa* 'Canberra Bells'.

Correa are hardy, drought-tolerant, flowering plant species that range from lower groundcover to large shrubs, even lending themselves to topiary projects. To plant in your garden, choose a spot in full to filtered sunlight, dig the hole twice as wide as the rootball and about the same depth. Gently tease the roots out, position in the hole and backfill, firming the soil. Water well initially and then sparingly after established.

To plant in a pot, choose a container that is at least twice the size of the variety you have chosen, fill it with potting mix and follow the planting process. You may like to feed your plants (whether in -ground or potted) in spring with a native plant fertiliser and lightly trim after the flowering season.

**Eriostemon** or **Waxflower** has been reclassified as *Philotheca myoporoides*. It is a hardy large shrub to 4m with a long flowering season of small but showy pale pink and white flowers set amid a firm mid-green foliage. With light pruning, it can be kept to 2m tall.

It is a hardy plant that will thrive through cold and drought. It has dense growth right down to ground level. It anchors well and, as the branches are flexible and tough, is not liable to breakage in strong winds. Flowering from late winter through to Christmas. Plant in bright-lit, dappled shade.



**Epacris impressa** or Pink Heath or Common Heath is Victoria's floral emblem, although it's also found in Tasmania, SA and NSW. Different colour forms are used in cultivation, including 'Grampians Heath', 'Cranbourne Bells' and 'Bega' (one of the most reliable forms in cultivation).

The flowering time lasts from late autumn to late spring with an abundant peak in winter. This long flowering time is one of the reasons why this plant is often sought after in gardens. *Epacris* needs moisture and grows on well-drained soils, such as sandy or gravelly pots, raised beds or sloped areas. It prefers a slightly acidic soil and can be planted in full sun and semi-shade.

**Thryptomene saxicola 'F. C. Payne'** has masses of dainty pink or white flowers during winter and spring. It is a small shrub to about 1 metre high with small, oval, heath-like leaves about 5-10 mm long that are aromatic when bruised. Like many members of the myrtle family, the leaves contain aromatic oils. It can be used for cut flowers as severe pruning has no detrimental effect on its vigour or shape. Pruned well, it will generally flowers more profusely in the second year. Like most *Thryptomene* species, *T. saxicola* is spring flowering, but carries some flowers most of the year. Plant in well-drained soil. Only the hardest frost will affect this species.



# Brown Spots on Hellebores (Winter Roses)



Many leaves on your hellebores are starting to be replaced by new growth and the older ones are dying off. However, if you have brown spots, then you probably have leaf spot (or black spot) which is a fungal disease spread by aphids. Rain and wind can spread the spores throughout your garden, causing the disease to spread to other plants. These dark brown patches will eventually join, forming spots on both sides of the leaves. If you don't treat your plant, then flower buds will shrivel, the plant will wilt and eventually die. It is best to cut off any affected leaves now to prevent any spreading. Fungicides are also an option. While none has been specifically developed to fight black spot, most fungicides will act on an array of fungal diseases, especially ones recommended for use on roses. (Left: Photo by Geoff Kidd)



## Diary Dates

**Sunday 19 May Hobart Horticultural Society May Seminar.** 10:00 am at The Caroline Room, Black Buffalo Hotel, North Hobart. Three speakers. \$20. Book 0438 700 457 or on Facebook.

**Monday 20 May Tasmanian Orchid Society Annual Autumn Show.** 7:30pm at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart. Guest Speaker on orchids will be David Banks.

**Winter Lectures at Government House, Hobart:** Don't miss out! Please don't forget to book in for these fascinating lectures. It's easy, just click on to the [Events website](#) (or ask someone to do it for you). There will be three in all. Cost: Adult \$30.00 (incl GST); Pensioner/Senior \$20.00 (including GST).

*Literary Gardens - Looking at Gardens of Famous Writers in England.* 10:00am on **Friday, 5 July 2024.**

*Inala Jurassic Garden: Gondwanan Connections and the Conservation of Ancient Lineages Threatened by the Effects of Climate Change through Collaboration.* 10:00am on **Friday, 16 August 2024**

Other Tours at Government House either for yourself and friends or as an idea for your club: ([click for the many options through until December 2024](#)). Held on Thursdays, the Significant Trees Tour and the Ornamental Gardens Tour are great for the whole club as a different activity.

Left: The poet Lord Byron's Newstead Abbey.



## 2025 Diary Date in Northern NSW

**1– 5 October 2025 Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Show and Conference.** The Wiigulga Sports Complex in Woolgoolga is named in tribute to the local Gumbaynggirr heritage and culture. The word "Wiigulga" is the original name for Woolgoolga and refers to the black apple tree, which is found locally and on the site of the sports complex on Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga, NSW. It is pronounced as "Wee-gill-gah". World-renowned speakers, hailing from

around the world, giving interesting, informative and cultural talks. Information from Annie Houston at: [woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com](mailto:woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com) or [anniehouston@bigpond.com](mailto:anniehouston@bigpond.com) and the website: [www.aoc2025.org.au/wdos/](http://www.aoc2025.org.au/wdos/)



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