



Newsletter

November 2022



The Doncaster Garden Club meets on the **Second Wednesday** of each month

Venue: the **RSL Hall** corner of Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster

Next meeting: 9th November at **8.p.m.** Which is the **Annual General Meeting**

The Speaker is **Dan of Seeds of Plenty** talking on Tomatoes, including dwarf tomatoes

The competition for November is for

Fruit and Vegetables

Committee Members 2022

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DGC Life members

Gerda van der Peet Doug Brewer,

Ken Beer Toni Myers

Joanne Driver Gayle McCann

Elsie Carter and Bev Turner

_Hello Gardeners All,

What a wet month and on 16th October I had already had 112.6mm. It's been rare to have so much in October and will continue in some unknown extent till late summer. The peak is late November. It is causing issues in our Garden. Garlic has been looking unhappy with yellowing leaves. Upon close inspection I have found them to have rust like marks on the dying leaves. The internet said that 'garlic rust' is limited to the allium (onion) family. It is a fungal growth spread by watering from above or excess rain and by wind. The soil needs to be mulched lightly to stop the spores in the soil splashing up to reinfect the leaves or spread it further. There are many varieties of fungal rust for other plants in the garden!

I can limit the damage (which has a concomitant risk of a small or lost crop) by spraying with a **DIY spray**: I cut off all the badly affected leaves and put them in the garbage bin NOT the recycle bin where they will spread the disease; then I **mixed 1/2 teaspoon each of bicarbonate of Soda and Vinegar with 600ml of water and a couple of drops of sink detergent**. Using a bottle with a nozzle attached (I had saved one from a cleaning product, washed, of course) I sprayed the garlic plants generously with the solution. They will need to be done weekly till harvest, or the days are warmer and dryer to save the crop. This spray is also a preventative and works best by spraying sooner than later.

November is our AGM. I encourage you all to come to hear Dan from Seeds of Plenty, receive a free miniature variety of a tomato plant and exercise your privilege of assisting in the choice of Office Bearers & General Committee with your nominations and, if a 2nd person nominates, your voting. Not least, you will hear my 1st Annual President's Report of a very busy and active year by myself, Avril and the Committee on your behalf. Do post or bring your nominations for these positions to the AGM as all positions are declared vacant according to the Model Rules by which we run.

In the meantime, Happy Gardening,

Pauline

They had to admit she was a great house keeper. Divorced three times and each time kept the house.

All correspondence should be forwarded to: **Avril Clark 62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109**

What went on at the October meeting.

A smaller group of us, due to the very wet day, enjoyed a very detailed and informative talk from Seila Hierk on Asian Summer Vegetables. The document he spoke from is attached for those who did not attend. Do all try growing at least one vegetable from it for summer. Seila donated a jar of honey from his own bees for the raffle.

The Aggregate prize of a Bromeliad was won by Gayle McCann for her dark fine leafed Kale. - very unusual.

Pauline announced that from the commencement of the new financial year at the AGM, all membership fees are due. These have a slight increase:

Pensioners will stay at \$20; Singles will be \$25; & Couples will be \$35. All were asked to pay promptly at the November meeting to save Toni and the Committee extra work with emails and phone calls. Cash or credit will be accepted.

The meat prizes of chicken breasts and pork steaks on the raffle were popular, going promptly. The Committee has sent the butcher Brendan Watts of Jackson Court Shops a Letter of Appreciation. He is offering us a large ham (he makes his own) cut into 2 or 3 pieces for our Christmas raffle. This is most generous!

J & D Clothing Mensland (Chris Georgallis) has kindly donated 5 x \$20 in gift vouchers for raffle prizes.

We thank Chris for his generosity. Details of their address etc, will be found on page 4.



* The Committee is pleased to announce EFTPOS is now available to pay annual fees at the RSL Hall. *
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We thank everyone for their support to our running costs.

Vegetables to grow in November Asian Greens, Basil, Beans (French, climbing) Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrots, Chives, Choko, Coriander, Cucumber, Eggplant, Ginger, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lettuce, Melon, Okra, Parsnip, Potato, Pumpkin, Radish, Rocket, Rosella, Silver beet, Spring Onion, Squash, Sweet Potato, Sweet Corn, Tomato, Zucchini,

Article by Sustainable Macleod (Group) Paul Gale-Baker (We thank them for the use of the article)

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF)

Take action now to protect your fruit and vegetables.

Step 1 Put out Wild May in lure bottles now to catch the males. Top up when necessary and check for Queensland Fruit Fly. Catching any will indicate you need to go to step 2-4 immediately



Step 2 Put out protein baits such as Cera traps, to attract both male and female QFF now. We no longer recommend home made protein baits as we have had no confirmation of success of these

Step 3 As soon as pollination has taken place spray fruit trees all over with Kaolin clay to deter females laying. They hate the grittiness of the clay. Or net trees, Tying the net at the bottom or weighing it down. Spraying citrus trees fortnightly from third week in November to end of the 1st week in December will also prevent gall wasp.

Step 4 Net your vegetables especially tomatoes, Chillies, capsicums, and egg plants after pollination. Tomatoes are self pollinating so net them at planting time. Cherry tomatoes are less prone to attack, but should be netted anyway.

Garden hygiene is extremely important. Clear any fallen or infected fruit but do not compost them.

Boil, microwave, or freeze them and then bin. If it is possible let chooks run under your trees the more the better as they will eat any larvae crawling or dropping out of the fruit before they can develop in the ground.

The farmer's wife, mother of ten kids told the doctor that she wouldn't be seeing her any more as a pregnant mother as she had her birth control appliance. The doctor was puzzled as she indicated that her "appliance" was an ordinary hearing aid. "Before we had it," she explained, "We would get into bed and my husband would say,

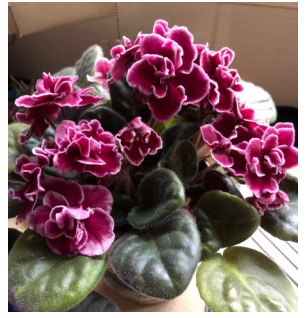
"Will we put out the light or what?" And I would say "what?"

African Violets

African violets require an open potting mix, a common mixture is part perlite, Vermiculite and peatmoss. A very small amount of dolomite lime can be added to improve the PH.

African violets need warmth and light, a north facing window is a good location, but plant should be kept around 30cm (1 foot) away from the window.

They need repotting once a year, some leaves should be removed and if the trunk is too long it needs to be reduced so when the plant is lowered into the same size pot the trunk will be surrounded by potting mix and will grow roots.



When growing from a leaf the stem should be trimmed with a front facing sloping cut. Fill the pot with African Violet mix and insert the leaf from the side rather than straight down so that the cut edge is not too far under the surface. The pot may be placed inside a clear plastic bag.

Much of these details are provided by the Early Morn African Violet Group



Clivias are making a comeback. Lying low in gardens, unheralded for years, they have suddenly become all the rage with gardeners.

These wonderful, [evergreen perennials](#) grow under the shade of trees in quite tough conditions and almost always perform well. Over recent years they are enjoying a resurgence in popularity with the introduction of new flower colours and exciting leaf forms.

The most desirable colours are yellow, cream, apricot and pink. Deep red-flowered forms and varieties with broad leaves are also highly sought after.

The craze for clivias is worldwide, reaching Japan, the United States, Europe, China, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Leaf shape and leaf colours determine favourites in Japan, while in Australia collectors go for cream and yellow flower tones.

Currently, prices for the new-coloured clivias range from about \$20 up to hundreds of dollars. But be aware when buying your clivias that many plants sold as cream, pink or yellow turn out to be another colour entirely, especially when grown from seed.

Plants that will be reliably coloured are grown as off-sets from a plant with a known flower colour. The only sure way to know you are buying what the label promises is to buy a named variety, or a plant in flower.

Clivias are easy to grow, but their position is vital. Early morning sun or dappled shade is best, with protection from midday and afternoon sun. Clivias planted out in the open will become scorched and unsightly on the first hot sunny day. In cold climate areas, clivias will need protection from frost.

From Albert Schafer

Important notice to all Garden Club members

After being the Editor of the Garden Club newsletter for the past three years, unfortunately, this will be my last edition.

I hope over these years, you the readers, have found some helpful information and perhaps the odd laugh. If so then I have done my job.

Many thanks to those members who have provided articles over those years, without them there would have not been a newsletter.

The Club will need someone to continue on the newsletter, it is an important function of the club, keeping members up to date, especially if they are unable to attend the club meetings.

Please consider, if you can help, speak to a committee member

Grandpa was proud of his garden and when it was admired by visitors he always said manure, manure, manure. This always embarrassed his daughter "Why can't you get grandpa to say fertiliser?" she asked her mother
"It took us years to get him to say manure" said her mother. ★

Harry mumbled a few words in church and found himself married. A few words later he mumbled a few words in his sleep and found himself divorced. ★

"Have you ever been cross examined before?"
"Yes, your honour, I'm a married man."



Aquilegia bush

(Granny Bonnets)

Aquilegias are woodland edge plants, so the best location is in partial shade in a fertile well drained soil.

These are from Pauline's garden so it looks like she has the perfect spot.

Wednesday, 7th December

Committee meeting at the home of Pauline Webb,
11 Inglewood Close East Doncaster

Wednesday 14th December

General Meeting and Christmas party

This meeting will start at 7,30 p.m.

Please note: **There is no meeting in January**



SEEDS of PLENTY
15% off Code DGCseeds at Pay Basket

If members have a topic to assist in their gardening skills which they might like to hear of from a monthly Guest Speaker.

Please email Pauline at pauline.pw25@gmail.com or Mob 0409 063 060

If you have a special photo (plant, tree, etc) send it to Stella Yea, Editor@manninghamlife.com.au

\$50.00 available as a prize

Manningham Life comes out four times a year. Send entries no later than the second week of the month

The Committee now each have a **Ryset catalogue** and a printed pricelist to share with members. (Thousands of products)
The Club receives wholesale prices which are usually the retail price discounted by 60-70%. Do ask to borrow the catalogue. All orders must be given to a Committee member and the Club then sends in a Club order.