



MALMESBURY GARDEN CLUB

September *NEWSLETTER* 2011

www.malmesburygardenclub.org.uk

Chairman - Ron Peel

Secretary - Ellie Church

Jottings From The Chair

Probably several members experiment each year with a new variety of flower or vegetable. This year I tried a new variety of runner bean called Moonlight (white flowers), a runner-french bean cross. It is supposed to set bumper crops when the weather is bad, temperatures are high and there is a shortage of bees. The plants have been covered with flowers and I do not think I have ever had such a large crop.



Although these notes are written mid-August, may I take this opportunity to thank everybody who in some way has helped to organize the August Bank Holiday Show and therefore contribute to its success. Also to those who will enter in due course.

Dobies Order:

I will soon be ordering the catalogues. These normally come mid-late September and should be available at the October meeting or from me at

'Derry Hill', Milbourne Lane,
Malmesbury,
SN16 9JQ, or
Phone 01666823408

The main discount available will depend on the size of the order. The main discount is on PACKETED flower and vegetable seeds. Bulbs, fruit, plants, onion sets, potatoes and sundries are 10% discount only, regardless of the order total.

Orders are required by November 30th . Any subsequent orders are not liable to receive the main discount.

Ron Peel

The Annual Harvest Supper

Will be held at "The Red Bull" on 21st October arrive 7.00 for 7.30pm meal. Cost £11.50 per person. To book: either at the September meeting; in the Club post box in the E & S shop; or telephone Sean O'Shea 01666 510490 Tickets to be paid for by 14th October please.



MEETINGS-EVENTS-ACTIVITIES

September Meeting Monday 12th September

7:30 pm in the Charlton Village Hall

“Pelargoniums”
DAVID TAYLOR



A talk on the history and general cultivation of Pelargoniums. David is an experienced grower and exhibitor of Pelargoniums and he runs the GOSBROOK PELARGONIUM NURSERY from his home in Shrivenham.

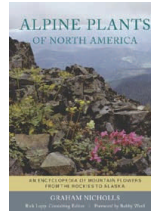
For more information please visit:

<http://www.gosbrookpelargoniums.com/>

October Meeting Monday 10th October

7:30 pm in the Charlton Village Hall

“Introduction to Alpines”
GRAHAM NICHOLLS



Graham has been growing and showing alpine plants for over 40 years and is the author of several books on the subject.

For more information please visit:

<http://graplant.co.uk/>

November Meeting Monday 14th November

7:30 pm in the Charlton Village Hall

“Roses”
THOMAS SANDAY



A talk on the care, history, cultivation and pruning of roses. Thomas is a retired managing director of John Sanday (ROSES) Ltd. He grew up on a rose nursery and is a keen practical rose grower.

Dates for Additional Meetings in 2011/2012

Please mark your calendars for the following Monthly Meetings:

- December 12th
- January 09th
- February 13th
- March 12th
- April 16th



Bulletin Board



Would you like to receive your Newsletter via Email?



Just email me at
info@malmesburygardenclub.org.uk
and I will add your name to the mailing list.

Editor

(If you do receive your newsletter via email, and you are planning on changing your email address, please let me know and I can make sure there is no disruption to your newsletter deliveries.)

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But if you know of an announcement (not a commercial advertisement) that would interest members of the Club, we could put it here for the next issue of the newsletter!

Bulbs with a Difference

By Keith



Comments from the garden....



One of my larger gardens that I work in has always been troubled by deer. So, while casually looking at my gooseberry bushes I noticed some defoliation and thought the deer had been back again. It was not until a week later,

looking from a distance, that I noticed all the gooseberry bushes did not have any leaves at all. On closer inspection, I found they had been infested by hundreds of tiny green caterpillars. In the 30 years I have been in this garden this had never happened before. If nothing else, it was easy to see the gooseberries!

Unusual Bulbs

With September being the beginning of bulb planting time, it gives us a chance to add some new and interesting bulbs to the garden. Of course there are always new tulips and daffodil varieties being produced each year, but what about something really different.

First up is Glory of the Sun, *Leucocoryne*, a bulb originating from Chile and needing a well drained, sunny location. The variety *L.* 'Andes' has lavender purple and red bi-coloured flowers on long stems. It flowers in June/August and reaches a height of 50cm. The colour range also includes pale blue and white. *Leucocoryne* may need a mulch over them during the winter.

A good and unusual bulb for the rockery or the front of the border is *Ipheion*. It is available in a number of colours. It flowers in March/April and is only 25cm high. *Ipheion* is a native of Argentina and Uruguay. Recommended varieties include: *I.* 'Wisley Blue' and *I.* 'Froyle Mill'.

Corydalis is a bulb I can strongly recommend. Its attractive foliage sets off the flowers which come in a number of colours; *C. flexuosa*—blue, *C. solida*—cream/lilac and *C.* 'Beth Evans' - rose pink. *Corydalis* reaches a height of 30cm, flowering in April/May.

Ixiolirion pallasii has elegant spikes of long, funnel shaped sky blue flowers borne in clusters on long stems. Best grown in clumps in borders, it flowers in June with a height of 30cm.

Bulbocodium vernum, also known as the red cross, has grey green foliage that holds up rosy/violet open flowers at a height of 20cm.



Camassia are a good addition to the garden and are also good for naturalising in grass. They reach a height of 18" to 4ft, flowering in May/June. Most of the flowers of this variety are blue, examples include: *C. cusickii*—wisteria blue, *C. leichtlinii*—alba creamy/white and *C.*

esculenta - bright blue.

Calochortus, butterfly tulips or fairy lanterns, grows wild in the grass lands of North America. *C.* 'Golden Orb' is yellow with brown inside markings. It flowers May/June at a height of 2ft.

Last but not least, *Erythronium*, also known as dogtooth violet, trout lily or fawn lily. It has delicate star shaped flowers that appear in spring. A number of new hybrids have been raised. The colours are mostly in shades of yellow and pink with the foliage sometimes mottled. Examples include: *E. revolutum* (pink trout lily) is good for semi/shade, *E.* 'Pagoda' has deep yellow flowers reaching a height of 30cm, and *E. dens-canis* (European dogtooth violet) has mottled foliage and white to lilac flowers with purple blue anthers reaching a height of 8".

Keith's Choice Plants

Helenium (or Sneezewood) 'Double Trouble'

The first double variety produced. Bright yellow flowers from July to October, ht 3ft.

No Disease Please

Hollyhock Rust: Areas of yellow/orange spots appear on the leaves which become raised. They slowly spread and affect the whole leaf, Affected areas eventually turn a buff brown colour. A fungus is the cause. Remove affected leaves when seen and spray with a fungicide. Remove all affected foliage as fungus will overwinter and cause the same problem the following year.



Pests Paradise

Oleander Scale: Flat scale like sap feeding insects appear on stems and foliage. Heavy infestations can cause loss of vigour and dieback. Many glasshouse plants can be affected including jasmine, azalea and asparagus ferns. Prune out heavily affected areas and spray with bug clear or an insecticidal soap at fortnightly intervals.

Plants to enjoy in September/October



Helenium, Solidago (Golden Rod), *Berberis, Rhus, Schizostylis, Dahlia, Symphoricarpos* (Snowberry) *Fuchsia, Skimmia*

.....Tasks for September/October.....

- Continue to spray roses
- Take Hybrid Tea and Floribunda rose cuttings
- Prepare ground for new rose beds
- Continue to dead head perennial plants
- Spray Michaelmas Daisies against mildew
- Prune back flowering shrubs i.e., *Weigela, Philadelphus, Senecio* etc.
- Sow Sweet Peas in pots and place in frame
- Sow hardy annuals—*Nigella, Godetia, Candytuft*
- Place prepared Hyacinths in bowls for Christmas
- Sprinkle 2oz per sq yard of bone meal around perennials and shrubs
- Plant Wallflowers, Polyanthus, *Bellis* and Pansies for spring flowering
- Sow lettuces—Arctic King or Winter Density
- Spray brassicas against caterpillar and whitefly
- Plant out spring cabbage plants
- Store main carrot crops
- Order fruit trees and bushes
- Cut out old fruiting raspberry canes
- Prune blackcurrant bushes
- Pick apples and pears for storing
- Spray outdoor peach and nectarine against peach leaf curl

From the Vegetable Plot

By Keith

Storage

I have always stored vegetables since winter months can be the most expensive time to buy them. Potatoes, onions, carrots and beetroot are all stored. The potatoes are dried off completely before being bagged up. Only use paper bags as they will sweat in plastic bags. Onions are also dried off and strung about 15 per string they are then dusted with green or yellow sulphur to prevent rotting. The carrots are dug up the end of September. I have found if they are left in the ground any longer a lot of them will have carrot fly damage. The carrots are laid not touching in containers. I leave a small amount of stem on the carrot when cutting off the foliage. Each layer is then covered with peat. Beetroot is covered in the same way but can be done at a later stage, November is a good time. Twist off the foliage of beetroot as it will stop them from bleeding.

Depending on the harshness of winter most other vegetables will be ok. Last winter I left out in the ground swede, turnips and celeriac, but all three rotted. If it becomes necessary, these three can be stored in the same way as carrots. If you have freezers, and a surplus to requirements crop, runner beans, french beans, broad beans, peas and sweet corn, summer green sprouting and cauliflower can all be frozen for winter use. This year was a good year for soft fruit and, they will all freeze happily. With other winter vegetables such as leeks, savoy, brussel sprouts and parsnips, its quite possible you will only need to buy the odd vegetable.

Seasonal Activities

Other than sowing salad varieties and late beetroot and turnip, which are delicious when small, the season's planting program is nearly over. Some Japanese onion varieties can be sown now for cropping early summer, also spring onion and arctic king lettuce. In late October the broad bean 'Aquadulce' can be sown. I have to say I have not sown broad bean in the autumn for the simple reason most of them fail to grow or are damaged by severe weather. It all depends on the weather. Good Luck.

No Vegetable Nightmares Please.

Parsnip Canker: Areas of the parsnip are covered by orange/brown or reddish/brown patches. A soil borne fungus is the cause and sometimes damage by insects. By sowing late spring and having smaller roots the problem is less likely to occur.

Turnip Gall Weevil: can be troublesome on a number of root vegetables. Eggs are laid by a beetle which causes a rounded swelling which hides the grub. The problem is never disastrous as only a few turnips will be affected. Little can be done to prevent the problem other than growing on a new piece of ground the following year and removing any turnips that show signs of the symptoms.

*****Stop the Press*****

The November/December newsletter on the vegetable plot will be entitled—**Reflections**; i.e., reflections on our growing experiences. If there is anyone who would like to add a short piece to the newsletter about any victories or calamitous disasters or just to say something about a variety of vegetable that surpassed all expectations, I am sure all the readers of the newsletter will want to grow them (or avoid the disasters) next year.

Keith

