

THE LIFESTYLE ISLAMIC GARDEN CLUB

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



Greetings & Welcome

... to another year of "gardening pleasure" Positive thinking and trust in that great power will certainly make 2010 the very best year all our members have ever had!

Almost a month has crept pass us, without us even being aware of it! I wonder how many members like me have already broken our "New Years" resolution. (Ag, shame on us...) however let's us not break our resolution to do more gardening, improve our gardens and gain further knowledge this year.



In cold areas where some herbs die back, try taking slips and keeping them in jars of water on a sunny windowsill - they will grow roots and can be harvested for several weeks.

OUR NEXT MEETING

We will be joining the Soweto Garden Club this month.

Date: 13th February 2010
Time: 1:30 for 2:00
Venue: Lifestyle Lecture Hall
Topic: Veggies and Herbs in the late summer
Speaker: Caro Sabagha

February Checklist



Marigolds - *Calendula officinalis*

- To cut the costs of gardening during late summer and autumn months, sow seeds of warm coloured annuals like Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos, Poppies and Celosias.
- Tidy up any plants that have been damaged by hail; look at the positive side of hail as it adds nitrogen to our gardens, giving our gardens a great boost!
- If you have any bits of leftover pieces of soap that are too small to use? Tie these into a plastic net and hang them from the garden tap - perfect for scrubbing dirty gardening hands!
- Give roses a light summer pruning but take care to leave sufficient leaves on the base of the shrub, so that the stems are not too exposed to the sun.
- Container plants require regular feeding, as their roots are restricted to the size of the container and therefore require a regular supply of nutrients.
- Remember never to mow wet grass, wait until the weather is fine and the grass is dry to avoid possible fungal infections entering cut surfaces.
- Strawberries can be planted now through to the end of April - do remember to add a few handfuls of fertiliser and compost.

● I would like to encourage members to plant beautiful "sweet peas" in their gardens, nothing can be as rewarding.

How to take successful cuttings!

- Dip the bottom of cuttings in rooting hormone; plant your cuttings into a mixture of clean river sand and compost. Place in a shady area keeping soil moist but not soggy. If night time temperatures drop, cover the cuttings with a sheet of clear plastic to protect them from the cold.
- Collect seeds of your summer perennials and annuals; store these in labeled brown paper packets (do be sure to keep them dry for planting next year.)
- Do not throw away your tea leaves, as this is a wonderful mulch of all plants.
- Beetroot is a multi-use vegetable. Baby leaves can be snipped off a few at a time and added to a salad. The larger leaves can be used in stir-fries. (as long as you have enough leaves to feed the plant you will still be able to harvest the root.



Bring us a picture of your garden with a short description about the garden to win a stunning prize!

Produced for the members of the **Lifestyle Islamic Garden Club**
Any comments or suggestions would be welcome contact:
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*Yours in
the garden*

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