



THE GARDEN OF THE SOUTH

JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER

The sharpest tool in the shed

Sharpen and oil your pruning equipment as well as changing the oil and sharpening the blades of your lawn mowers in preparation for summer.

HANGING BASKETS

The secret to successful beautiful hanging baskets is **NOT** to allow them to dry out – a great idea is to add water-retaining granules to the baskets, this makes a world of difference.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep all peels of citrus fruit and soak them in a bucket of water, the white of the citrus contains a hormone, which helps to promote plant growth. Use this water to water your seedlings; you will be amazed at how well they will grow!

QUOTE

"The love of a garden is a seed that once planted never dies!"

GARDEN WINTER NOTES

- Echinacea is an ideal plant for building up the immune system. A strong perennial plant that dies back during winter and starts to flower again mid-summer. The flower heads can reach up to 70cm tall. A tea can be made by boiling 1 cup of water, pour this over a ½ of chopped leaves and flowers; allow this to stand for 5 minutes. Strain, adding a little squeeze of lemon and honey. Very good for boosting the immune system, great for colds, bronchitis, bladder infections and throat infections.
- Fertilise bulbs fortnightly to encourage prolonged and strong growth.
- Roll up hose pipes after use and store in a dry place (shed or garage) to prevent water freezing in the hose, should water freeze in a hosepipe it will become brittle – causing the hosepipe to crack!
- Put mulch around perennials to protect them from frost. If any plants have been affected by either frost, after a freezing cold night, be sure to hose them down with cold water before the sun reaches them. Please do not get excited about pruning too many plants in the garden during July; in particular, Hydrangeas, as Hydrangeas flower on old wood (last season's growth) by pruning now you will be cutting away flowers that would have flowered for you during the October and November months.
- Pest to be on the "look-out" for are - Bore beetles on fig trees. Snails on Daffodils and Clivias. Scale on rose stems and aphids on conifers.
- Remember this is the very best time of year to move around trees and shrubs in the garden that have previously been planted in an incorrect position in your garden.
- Many plants died in winter not from the cold or frost but because they have been given insufficient water - do be aware of this!



Now please take note!

*Please, members remember to bring your secateurs to the July meeting as we are doing a 'hands-on' pruning! The venue and time are the same except the date is on the 25th of July which is the fourth Saturday



OUR NEXT MEETING

Date: 25th July 2015.
Time: 1:30pm for 2:00pm.
Venue: Lifestyle Lecture Hall..
Topic: Hands-on pruning by Malanseuns