



# Garden Cuttings

a monthly newsletter for the discerning gardener

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Managing Editor: TIM NORTH

Production Editor: KEVA NORTH

Editorial Office: C/o P.O. Box 279, EDGECLIFF, N.S.W. 2027 - Tel: (02) 326-1519

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## Reading, and Cooking — and some very special gardens

The discerning reader will notice that this month's "Garden Cuttings" is a little thicker than usual, just 50% thicker in fact. The extra pages take the form of a special winter supplement on reading and cooking, two occupations which seem particularly appropriate in winter, so we thought you might like it. We have to thank those business houses whose advertising contributions made these extra four pages possible, and we hope that *your* interest will justify this step, so that we can start thinking of a spring supplement — etc. etc . . .

We are really dying to tell you all about our "Garden Lovers Tour of English Gardens" next year, but for the moment we are going to lift the wraps only one at a time. Each month, from now on, we will feature a brief — necessarily a very brief — account of just one garden we will be visiting, and this month you can read the first in the series, something about Beth Chatto's marvellous garden and nursery in Essex. If you then study the article on winter reading you may be able to pick out another five on our list — but there are no prizes for guessing! The itinerary is virtually complete, apart from a few details; we believe that it's a really exciting tour, and one that those who have a real feeling for English gardens won't want to miss. It will be confined to the southern half of England, so there won't be too much travelling, and it will be conducted from no more than about five different centres, so there won't be too much packing and unpacking either. And we will be meeting, and listening to, several interesting people. More later!

TIM NORTH

## The Year of The Tree

June 5th 1982 is New Year's Day for trees. As the United Nations World Environment Day it marks the official commencement of the United Nations Association of Australia "Year of the Tree", and the beginning of the Decade of the Trees.

The main objective is to "launch an imaginative and festive public awareness and education programme designed for schools and the community to show the importance of the natural environment to our very survival; to teach reforestation techniques and their different applications and to foster an appreciation of our unique national heritage".

The Year of the Tree is a celebration of all growing things — window boxes, community garden plots, school gardens, nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs in cities, towns and suburbs, in forests and on farms.

And why the Year of the Tree? In two hundred years Australia's forest cover has dwindled to one of the world's lowest, due to demands for timber, woodchips, clearing for agriculture, urban settlement, mining and industry. World-wide, half our trees have disappeared in little more than thirty years, and at this rate by the end of the present century we could be living in an atmosphere which contains 30% more carbon dioxide than the air we breathe to-day. Billions of tonnes of topsoil will have eroded, leading to deserts which will encroach substantially on our food producing areas.

The Year of the Tree is far from being a gimmick. Its statement of policy is nothing less than a policy for survival. So we should all join in celebrating this Year of the Tree and we should support every activity we can. Subscriptions and donations will greatly assist the campaign.

For details of local festivities and tree planting events, and for ways in which you can personally help the campaign, write to:

The Director,  
U.N.A.A. Year of the Tree,  
241 Pitt Street,  
Sydney, 2000

or to the U.N.A.A. office in your capital city.

## The Dawn Redwood

The Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) is remarkable in that it was known from fossil remains long before it was discovered in the living state. These fossils had been found in various locations in North America and in China and Japan, in the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary strata, which meant that they were between forty and eighty million years old. They were originally identified as a species of *Sequoia*, but in 1941 a Japanese palaeobotanist placed them in a separate genus which he named *Metasequoia*.

As no later fossil remains had been discovered it was concluded that the genus had become extinct by the mid-Tertiary age. But in 1945, to the amazement of botanists the world over, living specimens were discovered in a valley in Central China. The Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts promptly sponsored an expedition to collect seeds, which were distributed to botanic gardens in several different countries, including Australia, in 1948.

Although the species had somehow survived in this one limited area for many millions of years it is not, in fact, the oldest known conifer species, since some *Araucaria* species occur earlier in the fossil record and also show more primitive features. Nevertheless it has a most unusual and intriguing history.

The foliage of the Dawn Redwood is similar to that of *Sequoia* (the Californian Redwoods, among the largest trees in the world), but softer, feathery, and deciduous, normally shedding whole branchlets rather than individual leaves. In cool climates it takes on a yellowish-bronze autumn colouring, while in spring and summer it is a bright larch green. It grows into a narrow conical tree, with numerous side branches, and is quick-growing; in the comparatively short period since its introduction in 1948 some specimens have reached twenty metres or more in height. It is a highly ornamental tree, and

adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions. The only climate to which it is not suited is that of the hot, dry inland, since it prefers a moist soil, and where abundant water is available, for example near the bank of a river or stream, it will make very vigorous growth. Protection from hot drying winds is also advisable.

One of the features of the Dawn Redwood is the ease by which it can be propagated. Cuttings, either soft-wooded tip cuttings or cuttings of the previous year's growth taken in autumn or winter strike very readily. Dr North, whose beautiful garden in Leura, in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, will be known to those thousands of people who have visited the Leura Spring Garden Festival, had a specimen growing in his garden several years ago, but it was accidentally broken off near the base by a falling tree. Undaunted, he cut off some of the side branches, stuck them in the ground in his nursery bed, and each one rooted! The replacement tree is now some eight metres in height, and very handsome, and the others are growing happily in the gardens of friends to whom he gave them.

This is a very beautiful, interesting and extremely adaptable tree that might, perhaps, be better known.



Photo: John Lloyd

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## Plants Wanted

Anyone having plants or seeds of the following are invited to get in touch with the people whose names appear opposite:

<i>Nicotiana alata</i> "Lime Green"	Mrs Julie Keegan, 7 Cove Street, Watson's Bay, N.S.W. 2030
<i>Petrea volubilis</i>	

<i>Clivia miniata</i> , cream or yellow flowered form	Mrs D.M. Wallis, R.M.B. 401, Miram, Vic. 3415.
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<i>Oxalis adenophylla</i> (seed or corms)	Mr Gordon Julian, 18 Fromalls Street, Toowoomba, Qld. 4350
<i>Alstroemeria pelegrina</i> and <i>A. pelegrina alba</i>	

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## English Gardens, No. 1

White Barn House is at Elmstead Market, which lies on the flat coastal plain between Colchester and Harwich. It's a cold and uncompromising spot, the winds sweep in from the North Sea and the rainfall is low, even for the eastern half of England — over a period of fifteen years it averaged only 22 inches a year.

The house was built and the garden started twenty two years ago by Beth Chatto and her husband, who up until that time had farmed seventy acres of fruit in the same district. The spot they chose was a shallow depression of three or four acres that had been neglected for many years. A few oaks and hollies rose above a mass of bramble, blackthorn, willow and bramble. Buried in this was a spring-fed ditch that never dried up even in the severest drought. The soil ranged from a hot dry gravel bank on one side to a black acid silt in the bottom of the depression.

The Chattos decided to make three different types of garden. On the gravel slope there would be a Mediterranean-style garden, using only plants that would stand some drought; on the opposite slope, where the soil was rather better, there would be a woodland garden, while the bottom of the valley lent itself to becoming a bog garden.

In the hot summer of 1960 Beth Chatto says she sat on the slope and let the hot dry sand run through her fingers; the bulldozers had just left, and there was no vegetation other than a few selected oaks and hollies. It was not an auspicious beginning. The first plants they put in were desiccated by the east winds, or were planted too soon in ill-prepared soil. The need for shelter and the value of good planting were the first lessons learned.

Over a period of years five large ponds were made by damming the ditch; the dams were levelled and grassed over to make walks across the water. Raised banks and beds were made in the Mediterranean garden, and plants started to grow.

After about five years Beth Chatto decided that either she had to call a halt, or the garden had to start paying for itself. She chose the latter course, and so started a remarkable success story, one that has led to several Gold Medals at Chelsea, and a nursery that, although small, is known in countries throughout the world, to which its plants are now exported.

The garden itself shows a great many interesting plant associations. For example in one area there is a clump of *Yucca recurvifolia*, its rosettes of sword-like leaves rising to meet a falling cascade of *Genista aetnensis*, while nudging around its trunks to hide any damaged and unsightly leaves are self-sown seedlings of *Euphorbia wulfenii*. Beth Chatto believes in planting in planned groups, and covering the ground with foliage; plants are sited as far as possible in the kind of environment for which nature has fitted them.

The nursery is a treasure trove of unusual plants; the 64 page catalogue is entitled, quite simply, "Unusual Plants". There are so many that it's a hard task to pick out a few names. Some would be interested in three different variegated forms of *Hosta fortunei*; some in rather special Foxgloves like *Digitalis ferruginea* and *D. lutea*, others in a number of hybrid Epimediums. But whatever your interests in hardy plants, there will be something here for you.



UNUSUAL PLANTS  
BETH CHATTO  
WHITE BARN HOUSE  
ELMSTEAD MARKET  
COLCHESTER  
CO7 7DB  
Telephone: Wivenhoe 2007

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## The Hahndorf Country Garden

contributed by Trevor Nottle

Allan Campbell has chosen the picturesque town of Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills, for his nursery business, which specialises in plants suitable for old-fashioned cottage gardens. Many homeowners in the vicinity are taking advantage of the wide range of plants available to redevelop and replant the gardens around their cottages and farmhouses. A drive through the back streets of the town, or out to Paechtown, where German style nineteenth century cottages and farmsteads abound, will reveal a wide variety of shrubs, bulbs and perennials in almost every garden.

Of special interest to those touring in this area will be Allan's special selection of Japanese Maples and Magnolias. A continuous selection of flowering perennials is always on hand, many grown by knowing amateurs living in the surrounding countryside. Some of these plants are treasured items from great-grandmother's garden, handed down by slip, sucker or bulb from generation to generation. Among these are old-fashioned favourites such as Balloon Flower (*Platycodon*), Speedwell (*Veronica*), Traveller's Joy (*Clematis*), Love-lies-bleeding (*Dicentra*), Scented Geraniums, rare and unusual herbs, tri-colour Geraniums, Houseleeks (*Sempervivum*), Sedums and Iris (dwarf, Louisiana and *Spurias*). All these plants are container grown.

In the winter months Allan will also have a selection of old-fashioned roses — Moss and Cabbage Roses, Bourbons, Alba and Gallicas.

As well as plants Allan handles horticultural and botanical prints and paintings, which are displayed in a small gallery set up in the old stable building at the back of the sales area. Outside the stable a display garden is established, featuring a wide selection of old favourites — Shasta Daisies, Asters, Sunflowers, Daylilies, Hellebores, Pinks, Sweet William, Butterfly Bush, and so on.

Later this year Allan plans to extend his sales into quality gardening books, such as those dealing with major landscape movements, garden history, works about one particular plant family, horticultural reference books and books featuring quality art plates and line drawings.

The Country Garden is situated in the main street of Hahndorf.

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## Growing Alpines in Queensland

contributed by Gordon Julian, Toowoomba

The City of Toowoomba is situated on the Great Dividing Range west of Brisbane, at an altitude of approximately 2000 feet. Average annual rainfall is 36 inches, and summer is the main wet season. Winter has a lower rainfall and light frosts are frequent.

The soil is mainly a red clay-loam, in which Alpine plants of many species grow vigorously. Some losses are experienced from time to time in the early stages, mainly in hot dry weather. Autumn seems to be the best time to put out established plants, or plants that have been grown from seed sown in the preceding spring.

Some care is needed with grey and silver foliaged plants as many resent excess water, and last summer rainfall was well above the average.

I have been gardening for little more than three years, and have taken a great deal of interest in the growing of Alpine plants. I have purchased plants from K.D. and L.M. Gillanders, of Longley, Tasmania, and from W.A. and J.A. Coffield, of Ballarat, Victoria, and have found that all these plants have adapted well to the Toowoomba climate.

Some of the plants I have growing are:

<i>Aethionema</i> "Warley Rose"	<i>Achillea clavennae</i>
<i>Androsace</i> species	<i>Andryala aghardii</i>
<i>Dianthus</i> (15 species)	<i>Globularia bellidifolia</i>
<i>Gypsophila cerastoides</i>	<i>Helichrysum argyrophyllum</i>
<i>Helichrysum virgineum</i>	<i>Jasminum parkeri</i>
<i>Penstemon pinnifolius</i>	<i>Phlox subulata</i>
<i>Pterocephalus parnassii</i>	<i>Pulmonaria augustifolia</i>
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>

About six months ago I was given some seed of Alpines by a friend who belongs to several Alpine Garden societies, and some of these, listed below, are now ready to plant out:

<i>Acinus alpinus</i>	<i>Alyssum mollendorffianum</i>
<i>Aquilegia</i> (3 species)	<i>Braya alpina</i>
<i>Draba haynaldii</i>	<i>Dianthus</i> (5 species)
<i>Iris</i> (3 species)	<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>
<i>Primula denticulata</i>	<i>Ranunculus grantifolia</i>
<i>Symphyantra hofmannii</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>

The first batch of seed was sown in a homemade soil mix and was not very successful. Subsequent sowings were made in Yates' seed raising mix and proved very successful. Plastic seedling punnets were used, and the seed was watered from below by soaking, then placing under plastic cloches in semi-shade until the seedlings were large enough to be transplanted. Small seedlings were pricked out into small pots and the tops of the pots covered with 5 mm diameter gravel chips. The gravel prevents soil from splashing out of the pots and over the plants. The pots were then placed in an open position under 50% shadecloth. Losses have been minimal and the plants stand up well to the rainstorms that are common in summer.

I have now joined the Canterbury Alpine Garden Society of New Zealand, and am eagerly awaiting their seedlist for new varieties to grow.

Any interested visitors to Toowoomba are most welcome to visit the garden and to offer advice, as I find that one never stops learning.

(Note: Mr Julian's address in Toowoomba is 18 Fromalls Street).

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## Growing Fuchsias as standards

Fuchsia standards are being produced in less than five months by a method developed by Professor James P. Stefanis and Douglas A. Bell of the University of Connecticut.

Rooted cuttings are planted in 4 inch pots in a 1;1;1; soil/peat/perlite mix with dolomite and 0;20;0 fertilizer added. In the study they were grown at 60 degrees night temperature, and fertilized with 20;20;20 fertilizer at each watering. Three weeks after potting the plants were sprayed with varying concentrations of gibberellic acid with a wetting agent added. This spraying was repeated at the fourth and fifth weeks. The plants were staked and lateral branches removed as they developed. When the plants were 28 inches high terminal growths were pinched and the plants transferred to 6½ inch pots (it was later found that 8 inch pots would have been preferable). Three weeks later the lateral branches, which were developed into a head, were pinched again. In less than five months the plants were between 37 and 41 inches tall, with heads 20 to 27 inches in diameter. The gibberellic acid treatment also resulted in straighter stems than would otherwise have been the case.

## The Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

"This magnificent tree was originally brought from India, and has been naturalized in Europe for more than two centuries, but yet we do not see it raise its gorgous head among our forest trees. It is well suited to be an ornament in parks, to adorn the castles of our nobility, and to shade the residences of Kings, and when the geometrical style of architecture was in vogue in this country a good deal was planted, as at Busby Park, Castle Howard, etc. It luxuriates at the Tuileries, where it rises around the great lake in masses of incomparable beauty. At the Luxembourg it spreads its branches in accordant pomp and splendour. In the beginning of spring one rainy day is sufficient to cause this beautiful tree to cover itself with verdure. If it be planted alone nothing surpasses the elegance of its pyramidal form, the beauty of its foliage or the richness of its flowers, which sometimes make it appear as an immense lustre or chandelier all covered with pearls. Fond of ostentation and richness it covers with flowers the grass which it overshadows and yields to the idler most delightful shade. To the poor man it is of little service, supplying him with nothing more than a light and porous timber and bitter fruit. Naturalists and physicians have attributed to this child of Asia a thousand good qualities which it does not possess."

(from "The Book of Flowers", a little book from the library of Audubon, the great American naturalist).

## SPECIAL WINTER SUPPLEMENT

### Winter Reading

Winter is a good time to catch up with one's reading, so for this month's special supplement we have been doing the round of the bookshops — and have discovered enough books we haven't read to last for several months.

There are not many bookshops which deal exclusively in horticultural (and agricultural) books. One that does is Johima Books in Pennant Hills, a north-western suburb of Sydney. Johima is the creation of Nick Warmerdam, a consultant to the horticultural industry, and his wife Sue, a trained research assistant from Macquarie University. They found, during the course of their respective occupations, that there was a demand for horticultural reference books. Accordingly they started selling these on a mail order basis from the garage of their home. It wasn't long before the business burst out of the garage, and just over twelve months ago it moved into its present shop in the Village Arcade, in the shopping centre of Pennant Hills.

The shop, which Sue Warmerdam looks after, is a veritable storehouse of horticultural knowledge, and includes many American and European publications. As well as a great many more or less technical books on plant physiology, propagation (including tissue culture), soils and composts, entomology, botany and mycology, there are books for the specialist on growing African violets, begonias, bonsai,

bromeliads, carnivorous plants, ferns, fruit, fuchsias, orchids, proteas — and more! There are also some excellent books on garden design and gardening in general — books like Kiyoshi's "A Japanese Touch to your Garden", Christopher Lloyd's "The Well-tempered Garden", Rosemary Verey's delightful book "The Scented Garden", and the late Vicomte de Noailles' book "Mediterranean Plants and Gardens". This latter book is worth buying as much for its marvellous colour photographs as for its almost equally colourful text, much of it written by Roy Lancaster, who is Curator of the Hillier Arboretum in England and himself a noted plant collector. As well as descriptions of many plants that grow in the Mediterranean climate there are short descriptions of gardens like the legendary La Mortola, just across the Italian border in Ventimiglia and currently the subject of some controversy, the Villa Noailles at Grasse and La Garoupe, at Cap d'Antibes.

Johima Books also acts as a subscription agency for several Australian and overseas magazines, like the "American Horticulturist" and the American "Horticultural Science".

They also say that they will be pleased to try to obtain that "hard to find book". A large proportion of their business is still mail order, and lists are issued periodically. If you are interested in horticultural books — and why else are you reading this? — you really should write for a list, or better still call in and have a browse. The address is Johima Books, Village Arcade, 5 Hillcrest Road, Pennant Hills (P.O. Box 41) N.S.W. 2120, telephone (02) 84 6576.

# JOHIMA BOOKS

## THE GARDEN LOVERS BOOKSHOP

### SUGGESTIONS FOR A WINTER'S DREAMING

- ★ Cradle of Incense by George Althofer \$17.50
- ★ The English Gardener by William Cobbett \$6.50
- ★ The Cottage Garden by Anne Scott-James \$24.95
- ★ Exotic Ferns in Australia by D.L. Jones \$14.95
- ★ The Well-Tempered Garden by Christopher Lloyd \$3.50
- ★ The Pleasure Garden by Ann Scott-James \$4.95
- ★ The Scented Garden by Rosemary Verey \$29.75
- ★ Mediterranean Plants & Gardens by Vicomte de Noailles \$15.95

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Village Arcade, 5 Hillcrest Rd., Pennant Hills.  
P.O. Box 41, Pennant Hills, N.S.W. 2120.

Phone: (02) 84-6576

MAIL ORDER  
SPECIALISTS

Webbers, in Little Collins Street, Melbourne, is a bookshop that can be described as being in the finest English tradition — elegant, dignified and refined, yet full of the very latest books from every imaginable source. It is presided over by its genial, erudite — and surprisingly youthful — proprietor, Neil Robertson. Neil himself has a keen interest in gardening so it is not surprising that this bookshop has an exceptionally strong gardening section. Just how strong can be judged by the fourteen foolscap page list of books on “horticulture, botany, and allied subjects” which was issued as recently as last April. This is the sort of list over which one can drool for days. There are books by Margery Fish, Anne Scott-James, Christopher Lloyd, reprints of five Gertrude Jekyll books (!!!); books like “John Claudius Loudon and the early nineteenth century in Great Britain”, “The Picturesque Garden in France” by Wiebenson, “Gardens of Illusion — the genius of Le Nostre” and Blomfield’s “The Formal Garden in England”.

The most exciting news, though, is what is on its way to Webbers. Firstly, a biography of William Robinson by Mea Allen, “William Robinson — Father of the English Flower Garden”. Robinson was an autocratic and uncompromising individual, the value of whose contribution to the development of garden design in England has probably still to be assessed; Mea Allen, who has already written biographies of her illustrious ancestors, the Tradescants, and more nearly contemporary figures like the great E.A. Bowles, would have to be a worthy biographer. This is a book that you will need to order well in advance, for there is sure to be a rush on it. Another one, equally exciting, is “Gardens of the Golden Afternoon — the story of a partnership, Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens”, written by Jane Brown. This would be one of the most intriguing, and in many respects the most unlikely, partnerships in the history of English gardens, so this book promises to be a highlight of the year’s reading.

Of course, Webbers don’t deal exclusively in gardening books — there is far, far more to browse through. With a day, or better still a week, in Melbourne, with nothing else to do, can you think of a better place to be?

Write for this fourteen page list now, and while you are doing that, ask to be put on the mailing list for their regular newsletter. The address is Webbers Booksellers, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, telephone (03) 67-2418 and 67-2559.

Another bookshop well worth a visit is Henry Lawson’s Bookshop in York Street, Sydney — one of the chain of Abbey’s Specialist Bookshops. Henry Lawson’s recently won the National Book Council’s Micael Zifcak Medal for its role in promoting Australian books, for that is its speciality. The manager is David McPhee, who is an experienced natural historian and author of the Observer Book of Australian Snakes. Henry Lawson’s have an excellent selection of Australian gardening books (who said that there are too few books written for Australian conditions?). One in particular to be recommended is Ken Gillanders’ “Know your rock garden plants and dwarf bulbs”; Ken and his wife are proprietors of Woodbank Nursery, near Hobart, which was featured in our April issue. There are also books by Thistle Harris, Alan Blombery, R.J. Rowell, and many others. Shortly they will be stocking the various publications issued by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. and the Gould League, and also some



## Henry Lawson’s Bookshop

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Anyone who is interested in old or rare books should visit Berkelouw’s Book Barn, four kilometres from Berrima, in New South Wales. This is the first book barn ever opened in Australia, with between five thousand and six thousand books. It adjoins the old homestead “Bendooley” which was established in 1839, and is now the head office of Berkelouw. The Book Barn is open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. A subscription of \$25 brings you a regular succession of book catalogues through the year, and is used as part payment of your first purchase. If you hurry you may still find treasures like Paul Jones’ “Portfolio of Camellia Paintings”, 1973, fully signed with an introduction by Professor E.G. Waterhouse, for \$200; or “The Forest Flora of New South Wales”, Vols. 1 to 8, bound in four volumes, by J.H. Maiden for \$850; or C. Daley’s “Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller”, 1924, for \$125. Write to Berkelouws, “Bendooley”, Hume Highway, Berrima, N.S.W. 2577, or to their Sydney office at 202 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025.

For books on conservation and garden history, the National Trust Bookshops are well worth a visit. For example the National Trust Bookshop in Melbourne has “What state is the garden in — a resource book on the alpine and forestry conservation issues in Victoria”, “Bush regeneration; the practical way to eliminate exotic plants from natural reserves”, and “Beyond the View, our changing landscape”. The National Trust Bookshop is in the National Trust headquarters at Tasma Terrace, Parliament Square, Melbourne, telephone (03) 654-4711.

The Technical Book and Magazine Co. Pty Ltd, of 289 to 299 Swanston Street, Melbourne, have just issued a new catalogue of “Books for people on the land”, which includes a number of gardening books. The section on fruit and vegetables is particularly strong and includes one new release, “Growing Fruit in Australia” by P. Baxter. They also list books on cooking, forestry, insect pests, irrigation and soil conservation; and one section that will interest some people is headed “Self Sufficiency”; here you will find books like “Australian and New Zealand Complete Self Sufficiency Handbook”, “How to make your own solar electricity”, and “Living on a Little Land”.

A somewhat surprising source of hard-to-get gardening books is The Fragrant Garden, a nursery specialising in herbs



**WEBBERS  
BOOKSELLERS  
MELBOURNE**



**THE PAGEANT  
OF  
JEKYLL & LUTYENS**

1982 is proving to be a bumper year for gardening books and among the most significant must be counted the reprints of Gertrude Jekyll's essays on garden design. Miss Jekyll is rightly considered the mother of the modern English garden and together with Edwin Lutyens, provided the main inspiration for late Victorian country house architecture and planning.

**GARDENS FOR SMALL COUNTRY HOUSES**

Gertrude Jekyll & Sir Lawrence Weaver . . . . \$52.00

**WOOD AND GARDEN**

Gertrude Jekyll . . . . . \$37.50

**HOME AND GARDEN**

Gertrude Jekyll . . . . . \$60.00

**COLOUR SCHEMES FOR THE  
FLOWER GARDEN**

Gertrude Jekyll . . . . . \$55.00

**GARDEN ORNAMENTS**

Gertrude Jekyll & Christopher Hussey . . . . \$60.00

**HOUSES & GARDENS BY E. L. LUTYENS**

Described and criticised by Sir Lawrence Weaver  
. . . . . \$58.50



**EXPECTED LATE 1982**

**GARDENS OF A GOLDEN AFTERNOON**

The story of the partnership of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens. A new publication by Jane Brown.

. . . . . \$29.95

*If you have any queries concerning gardening books or would like a copy of our garden booklist please contact Neil Robertson at:*

**WEBBERS,**

343 Little Collins Street,  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

Telephone: (03) 67 2418 - 67 2559



and old-fashioned plants, at Erina, near Gosford in New South Wales. At the time of writing they are offering three books by Graham Thomas, "Old Shrub Roses", "Shrub Roses of today", and "Climbing Roses Old and New" for the special price of \$65 the set. They also have six books on old roses, "The Book of the Rose" (Gore), "The Rose Garden" (Paul), "Old Roses" (Keays), "The Rose Manual" (Buist), "Old Garden Roses" (Bunyard) and "The History of the Rose" (Shepherd) at very competitive prices. Not surprisingly they also have a very comprehensive list of books on herbs and herbals. The Fragrant Garden is on the Portsmouth Road, Erina, N.S.W. 2250, telephone (043) 67-7546, and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They publish a beautifully produced catalogue which is well worth writing for.

... and

**Winter Cooking**

With some of the new vegetable varieties that are available now vegetable cooking takes on a new look. Fortunately we are getting away from the giant marrow syndrome, and the trend nowadays is to small, quick-maturing varieties.

Broccoli Romanesco is one of these. It looks almost futuristic, but is a fabulous vegetable. Its main advantage is that you don't have to cut the whole head — you simply snap off individual spears as you want them. After all the spears

have been used smaller side shoots will be produced, making this a real "cut and come again" vegetable. You can start using the spears about 70 days after planting.

Mini-cauliflower Garant is what it claims to be — a mini. It occupies a space no more than 15 cm by 15 cm, which means that you can grow fifty plants in one square metre, as opposed to about five standard cauliflowers. It's ready to cut about 80 days after direct sowing, and can be sown right through summer and autumn, and even in winter in all but the coldest areas.

Brussels Sprouts Ormavon, a F1 hybrid produced at the National Vegetable Research Station in the U.K., is something of an oddity — a sprout plant with a cabbage on the top. The sprouts mature over several weeks, and the cabbage top can be cut at any time without affecting the rest of the sprout crop. It has a dwarf habit, growing to no more than 60 cm.

Onion Red Torpedo is a long red onion with a rich flavour. Our cookery expert, Margaret Alcock, says it has the best flavour of any onion she has used. It's easy to grow and early maturing, but like many early onions has a limited storage life — about two to three months.

Thompson and Morgan have been seedsmen in the U.K. since 1855. Their seeds are now distributed all over Australia by Erica Vale Australia Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 50 Jannali, N.S.W. 2226, telephone (02) 533-3693. Their illustrated catalogue of both flower and vegetable seeds is full of interesting things — including all the varieties mentioned above, plus a very good Chinese Cabbage — and bean sprouts — and contains a great deal of valuable information. Catalogues are issued for Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer. They are well worth writing for.

# SOWING GUIDE

# FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES WITH AN EXCITING DIFFERENCE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p><b>CARROT EASIGROW</b> – Ball-shaped Patio Carrot</p> <p><b>CAULIFLOWER ALL YEAR ROUND</b> – Transplant to harvest 50 days</p> <p><b>DWARF LUPIN LULU</b> – Up to 12 spikes only 60cm (2') tall</p> <p><b>CHRYSANTHEMUMS T&amp;M'S DOUBLE MIXED</b> – Rich variety of brilliant colours</p>	<p><b>BETROOT TRIPLE CHOICE</b> – Red, white, yellow varieties</p> <p><b>BROCCOLI GREEN COMET F<sub>1</sub></b> – Transplant to harvest 40 days</p> <p><b>SWEET PEA SNOOPEA</b> – New, non-climbing carpet Sweet Pea</p> <p><b>COREOPSIS TIGER FLOWER</b> – Eye catching colour combinations</p>	<p><b>WINTER CHICORY SNOWFLAKE</b> – A winter salad breakthrough</p> <p><b>PEA PUGET</b> – Bunches of 3 &amp; 4 pods</p> <p><b>CALENDULA GREEN CROWN</b> – Distinct emerald green centre</p> <p><b>FOXGLOVE EXCELSIOR HYBRIDS</b> – Modern Hybrids, wide colour range</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p><b>BROAD BEAN AQUADULCE CLAUDIA</b> – The home gardener's variety</p> <p><b>CARROT FAST CROP</b> – A genuine Autumn sowing carrot</p> <p><b>GODETIA SQUATTERS MIXED</b> – A riot of stunning colour</p> <p><b>FORGET ME NOT ROYAL BLUE IMPROVED</b> – A rich deep blue strain</p>	<p><b>TURNIP TOKYO CROSS F<sub>1</sub></b> – Tasty, fresh, tangy flavour</p> <p><b>BORECOLE SPURT</b> – Ready in 8 weeks, easy as spinach</p> <p><b>CAMPANULA BLUE CLIPS</b> – Ideal for rockeries &amp; pots</p> <p><b>GYSOPHILA 'COVENT GARDEN' STRAIN</b> – Larger, pure white flowers</p>	<p><b>SWISS CHARD (SILVER BEET)</b> – Rich in vitamins, coloured stems</p> <p><b>ONION RED TORPEDO</b> – New! Early maturing, perfect slicing</p> <p><b>BLUE POPPY</b> – A magical flower for semi-shade</p> <p><b>BONSAI – DECIDUOUS</b> – 4 varieties suitable for Bonsai work</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p><b>RADISH KUTARA</b> – Specially bred for Winter sowing</p> <p><b>SPRING ONION ISHIKURO</b> – A new type. Use from pencil thin to as thick as a carrot</p> <p><b>CONIFER TREES MIXED</b> – Ideal for Bonsai enthusiasts</p>	<p><b>TOMATO PIXIE F<sub>1</sub></b> – Ideal for pots, 60cm (2') high</p> <p><b>TOMATO MR. STRIPEY</b> – Early maturing with rich tangy flavour</p> <p><b>LAVATERA SILVER CUP</b> – An outstanding new annual</p> <p><b>MARIGOLD FIREFLAME</b> – A dazzling colour combination</p>	<p><b>SWEET CORN GOLDEN CANDY SWEET</b> – Twice as sweet. A superb variety</p> <p><b>LETTUCE SALAD MIXED</b> – A sensible mix maturing over several weeks</p> <p><b>GARDEN PINKS</b> – Choose from several excellent strains</p> <p><b>EVERLASTING FLOWERS</b> – Individual varieties or a superb mix</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><b>DWARF BEAN LIMELIGHT</b> – The 8 week variety</p> <p><b>APPLE SQUASH F<sub>1</sub></b> – For round zucchini and squash</p> <p><b>NASTURTIUM ALASKA</b> – marbled foliage, wide colour range</p> <p><b>BROWALLIA VANJA</b> – Navy-blue bells on compact plants</p>	<p><b>PUMPKIN GOLDEN ACORN</b> – Zucchini in 50 days. Pumpkins in 90!</p> <p><b>WATERMELON GOLDEN MIDGET</b> – Bush type, tells you when it's ripe</p> <p><b>LAVENDER MUNSTEAD DWARF</b> – Fragrant, neat, compact bushes</p> <p><b>SUN ROSE</b> – Showy, quick growing groundcover</p>	<p><b>CABBAGE SPROUT ORMAVON F<sub>1</sub></b> – The brussell sprout that has a cabbage on top</p> <p><b>MINI-CAULIFLOWER GARANT</b> – The true mini-cauli ready in only 80 days</p> <p><b>ASTER GUSFORD SUPREME</b> – A brilliant combination of red &amp; white</p> <p><b>FLOWERS OF THE DESERT</b> – A rich &amp; varied range of cacti</p>

Look for these and many other unusual and exciting seeds on the Thompson & Morgan displays at major retail stores, nurseries and garden centres.



The Seedsman est 1855

# Thompson & Morgan

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## Creative Vegetable Cooking

contributed by Margaret Alcock

So many vegetables, particularly the brassicas, are overcooked leaving them dull, tasteless and often bitter, whilst their pervasive smell is reminiscent of boarding house corridors. To retain colour and flavour they are best cooked in plenty of boiling water (with the lid off) as follows: broccoli — 5 minutes; brussels sprouts — 3-5 minutes; cauliflower — 3-5 minutes. These vegetables may also be steamed in a pan with a tight fitting lid for approximately 15 minutes. Cabbage may be cooked in a covered saucepan containing only 2 cm. water and a knob of butter. Wedges of cabbage take only 3-5 minutes and one should consider using Chinese Cabbage which has the ideal texture for this type of cooking.

### Broccoli Sformato

— 6 people.

Preheat oven to 200°C. *Balsamella Sauce* Melt 125 gms butter in heavy saucepan over low heat. When butter froths add ½ cup flour. Mix well with wooden spoon. Cook until golden. Remove from heat and let rest 10 minutes. Bring 2 cups milk to boil in another saucepan. Put first pan back on heat and quickly add all of milk, stirring with wooden spoon whilst pouring to prevent lumps forming. When sauce reaches boiling point, leave on low heat for 5 minutes more. When sauce is cooked cover saucepan and allow to cool — approx. 30 mins. Blanch 500 gms. *Broccoli Romanesco* spears in lightly salted boiling water, drain, refresh and allow to cool. Add 4 egg yolks, 3 tbsps freshly grated parmigiano cheese, freshly grated nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste to cooled balsamella. Mix thoroughly and then gently mix in broccoli. Butter a loaf pan or ring mould (approx. 1¼ litres size) and coat with 3 tbsps bread-crumbs. Pour in broccoli mixture. Place mould in bain marie and put in preheated oven for approx. 1¼ hours. If sformato browns too much on top, cover with foil. Allow mould to cool for approx. 15 mins. and then unmould onto serving dish. Serve immediately.



## Margaret Alcock

As well as running a comprehensive catering business covering French, Italian, and Indian cooking, Margaret also conducts cooking classes which draw on her experience of living in India. She runs a course on Creative Vegetable Cooking, which covers all the families of vegetables, including the more unusual ones.

149 HARGRAVE ST, PADDINGTON, N.S.W. 2021.  
Tel: (02) 328-1864



Left: T. & M's Broccoli Romanesco  
Above: T & M's Onion Red Torpedo

### Take 6 of seven

#### Brussels Sprouts

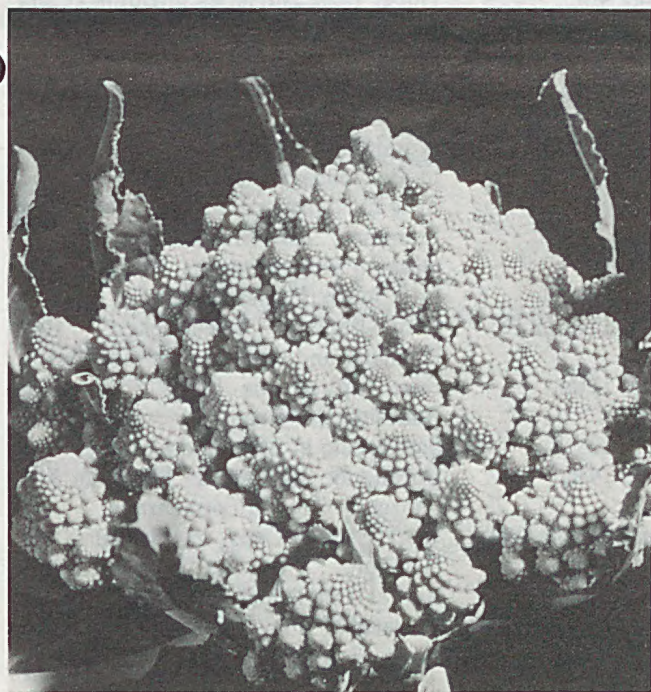
— 4-6 people

Trim 1 kg. small sprouts, removing any outer yellow leaves. Cook sprouts in lightly salted boiling water for 5 minutes until tender but still crisp. Drain and refresh. Place sprouts in buttered au gratin dish. Cook 250 gms. peeled and chopped tomatoes gently in butter for a few minutes. Stir in 1 tbspn chopped chives. Pour over sprouts. Mix freshly grated nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste into 200 mls. thick cream. Pour over the top of the sprouts and tomato mixture. Sprinkle with 4 tbsps freshly grated parmigiano cheese. Bake for 15 minutes in oven preheated to 200°C, or until cheese is lightly browned.

#### Chinese Cabbage and Bean Sprouts

— 4 people

Heat 1 tbspn vegetable oil in a large heavy frying pan (or wok). Add 1 bunch chopped spring onions and 1 cm. piece fresh ginger, peeled and sliced, and fry over high heat, stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Add 200 gms. sliced button mushrooms and 100 gms. bean sprouts, stir for one minute, add 500 gms. shredded Chinese Cabbage and 1 tbspn Soy sauce and stir fry for 2-3 minutes until cabbage is tender but still crisp. Serve immediately.



### ***Gobi Musallam***

— *spiced whole cauliflower* — 4 people

Grind together 6 cloves garlic, 15 gms. peeled green ginger, and 2 seeded green chillies. Add ½ tspn. each of salt, chilli powder and garam masala with juice of half lemon. Rub all over the surface of 4 mini cauliflowers. Place cauliflowers with stem down on steamer rack in saucepan and steam until half cooked. Meanwhile make masala paste. Heat 75 gms. ghee and fry 125 gms. peeled and sliced onions with 6 cloves chopped garlic in a heavy pan. Grind 15 gms. peeled fresh ginger with 1 tblspn ground coriander, 6 cloves, 8 peppercorns, 2 cm. piece cinnamon stick, 4 green cardamoms, 15 gms. desiccated coconut, 15 gms. ground almonds, and ½ tspn white cumin seeds. Add this ground masala with salt and nutmeg to taste to onions and continue cooking, adding 4 tblspns yoghurt until it is fully amalgamated. Add pulp of 125 gms. tomatoes. Place steamed cauliflowers in baking dish and cover tops with half masala paste. Bake in oven preheated to 175°C. for 15 minutes. Remove, pour remaining masala around and bake for another 5 minutes. If desired, serve sprinkled with chopped coriander leaves.

*Red Torpedo* onions are ideal for use in the next dish which shows off their excellent flavour.

### ***Egyptian Cucumber and Cheese Salad***

Crumble 250 gms. Feta cheese and work into juice of 1 lemon and 2 tblspns olive oil. Mix in 1 large red torpedo onion, peeled and sliced, with 2 cucumbers, peeled and sliced. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

## **Toowoomba — “The Garden City of Queensland”**

*contributed by Col. Boag, Toowoomba*

This title is never more evident than during the last full week in September when the famed Carnival of Flowers is held.

The 1982 Carnival, from September 18th to 25th, will be the thirty-third held to celebrate the arrival of Spring in this northern city, with a population in excess of 75,000.

Fertile volcanic soil, moderate winter rains and clear crisp mountain air combine to produce a riot of colour in the first few weeks of warmer weather in September.

The date of the Carnival is timed to coincide with the bursting into bloom of the flowering peaches in their many forms of white, pink and red. These, coupled with annuals of all descriptions, flowering bulbs and the spring greenery of plane trees, camphor laurels, liquidambers, which line many of the streets, help create a kaleidoscope of colour.

Thousands of visitors each year visit The Chronicle competition gardens which are open free of charge for the week of the carnival. These gardens, are a colour photographer's delight.

In addition, other large gardens of private homes are open for inspection. For these, a nominal charge is made and net proceeds donated to various local charities.

Some of Australia's best known horticulturists have judged Toowoomba gardens, including Stan Peck and Tim North from Sydney. The late Mr. George Burns, of Melbourne, in 1968 referred to one of the competition gardens as “the most perfect garden I have ever seen”. The owners of this garden are still competing.

Special sections in the competition gardens encourage entries from schools, factories, hospitals and offices.

During the carnival week, business houses spend many staff hours decorating shop windows and premises with thousands of blooms. Competition is keen and the standard high.

One large city church, St. Luke's, is a focal point for visitors as willing workers arrange a sea of blooms into appropriate themes.

For the duration of the Carnival the emphasis is on flowers.

Organisers say “come and join us in celebrating the birth of Spring” — but, be sure of your accommodation, as such is the popularity people book 12 months in advance.

## **The Sixth World Rose Convention**

The picturesque city of Baden-Baden, adjoining the Black Forest in the southern part of the Federal German Republic, is the venue for the Sixth World Rose Convention, from the 5th to the 10th of July 1983.

The convention will comprise invited talks, meetings and discussion groups on all topics relating to roses. Special events include an evening open-air festival in the streets and gardens of Baden-Baden, an official ceremony on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the German Rose Society in the Kurhaus, and a Rose Festival Ball, also in the Kurhaus.

Full day trips to Karlsruhe, Speyer und Strasbourg and Zweibrücken, and a half-day trip to Heidelberg round off the programme.

In addition special tours are being arranged for both before and after the convention. These include:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| July 1st:          | Visit to Munich Botanic Gardens and the International Horticultural Show in Munich.   |
| July 2nd:          | Visit Neuschwanstein Castle, Constance.   |
| July 3rd:          | Visit Isle of Mainau and Lotte Günthart in Regensburg, Zurich.  |
| July 4th:          | Huber Rose Nurseries in Dottikon and Heidegg Castle near Lucerne.   |
| July 5th:          | Waldenburg with the smallest rose gardens in the world, the rose village of Nockenschwil in the Black Forest.   |
| July 2nd to 5th:   | World Rose Days at Frankfurt with visits to Palmengarten and an international Rose Exhibition, reception by the city of Frankfurt, concert in Palmengarten, visits to rose nurseries at Steinfurth, Bad Soden, Hattersheim. |
| July 11th to 15:   | Baden-Baden, Zweibrücken, Bad Nauheim and visits to rose nurseries.   |
| July 12th:         | Boat trip on the River Rhine from Rudesheim to Bonn.  |
| July 13:           | Sightseeing in Bonn and Cologne.  |
| July 14th:         | Dortmund: the German Rosarium and the rose village of Seppenrade.   |
| July 11th to 14th: | World Rose Days in Holstein and Hamburg. Visits to rose breeders Kordes and Tantau.   |

Further details are available from the German National Tourist Office, Lufthansa House, 143 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000.

## 1982 Iris Convention

The 1982 Iris Convention will be held under the auspices of the Iris Society of Australia (New South Wales Region) from 20th to 24th October).

The Convention will be based on the Killara Motor Inn, 480 Pacific Highway, Killara, N.S.W. 2072. Included in the programme is a tour of gardens in the Dural district, visits to the Japanese Garden at Auburn and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and a tour of gardens in Leura and Mount Wilson.

The Annual Show of the New South Wales Region of the Iris Society will be held on Saturday 23rd October at St. John's Hall, Gordon, to coincide with the Convention. The Annual Show of the Victorian Region of the Society will be held the following week-end, that is Saturday and Sunday 30th and 31st October, at the Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Anderson Street, South Yarra.

Full details of the Convention programme, cost, and registration forms may be obtained from —

The Convention Organizer,  
The Iris Society of Australia (N.S.W. Region),  
P.O. Box 11, Gordon, N.S.W. 2072.

## Binders for "Garden Cuttings" — and back numbers

Arrangements are in hand to produce suitable loose-leaf binders for "Garden Cuttings". They will be strong binders, bound in green Buckskin P.V.C., with "Garden Cuttings Volume 1" printed on the spine. Each binder will hold twelve issues, that is one year, and insertion will be a simple matter of sliding each copy over a separate wire held in the spine.

Each binder will cost \$4.75 plus \$1.00 postage and packing. Naturally we need a certain number of firm orders before we can place an order with the manufacturers, and if we can get these by, say, the end of July, the binders should be ready for despatch by the end of August. So the sooner you can send in your order the sooner can we start the ball rolling.

Cash with order please!

Also, back numbers of all issues of "Garden Cuttings" are available (very limited numbers, however, of No 1) for 75c each, including postage. You can save time by using the binder order form below.

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## The German Rosarium

The German Rosarium in Dortmund is the scientific home of the German Association of Rose Friends (VDR) in the Federal Republic of Germany.

All important rose varieties of the world are collected and cultivated there, including wild forms and historic varieties no longer available, or hard to find, from commercial sources. Modern roses are arranged in beds according to their country of origin, and within each national division each breeder's products are grouped together. The other groups, such as wild roses, climbers and dwarf varieties, are planted in various parts of the Rosarium.

Other features are a "colour palette" showing the naming of colours of roses in fine differentiations, fully grown examples of selected wild rootstocks, and roses especially suitable as ground covers. There is also a special planting of roses used in perfume production.

The Rosarium is situated in one of Germany's most popular public parks, the Westfalenpark in Dortmund.

## The Rare Fruit Council of Australia

The Rare Fruit Council of Australia was established in 1979, to introduce and promote the growing of exotic fruits, both on a domestic and a commercial scale. Some members of the Council have learned the techniques of grafting, especially of Rambutan, Sapodilla, Mangosteen, Pomelo, Durian and Carambola, and their knowledge and expertise is much sought after.

The Council is interested in any new edible plants introduced into Australia from anywhere in the tropical regions of the world. It is constantly collecting and correlating information on cultural requirements for exotic fruit trees.

The annual subscription is \$15.00, and this includes a bi-monthly newsletter. Public meetings are also held bi-monthly.

Further details may be obtained from P.O. Box 707, Cairns, Queensland 4870.

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## News Briefs

On a recent collecting trip to Japan, Dr John Creech of the U.S. National Arboretum found a pure yellow double-flowered form of *Chimomanthus praecox*, the Winter-sweet.

Leaf amaranths have proved to be an excellent garden crop, producing edible leaves thirty days from sowing and doing best in midsummer heat. They are said to taste as good as spinach when cooked, and the oriental varieties (*Amaranthus tricolor*) produce the best greens.

Biological control of fusarium disease of gladiolus has been demonstrated at the University of Florida, by inoculating freshly harvested corms with a non-pathogenic isolate of *Fusarium moniliforme*.

To produce moss quickly in brick or flagstone paths dribble beer or buttermilk into the cracks; conversely moss can be removed from similar paths by brushing with undiluted laundry bleach.

In Kenya tobacco production is expanding at the rate of 8% per year. The country is now self-sufficient in tobacco, but unable to feed its population.

Planting a tree is becoming popular at weddings in the U.S., to symbolize the beginning of a new life.

## Potato seed

Potato seed, as opposed to seed potatoes, is hailed as a new 'startling triumph' in the United States. Seeds of a variety called 'Explorer' can be bought at the rate of 50 seeds for \$US1.00, and are treated exactly as you would tomato or capsicum seed. When ready for transplanting they are planted in furrows, 15-18cm deep and 25cm wide; the soil in the furrows is hilled around the plants as they grow, with 12 to 15cm of the plant always being left exposed. The potatoes are dug when the haulm dies, said to be about 90 to 120 days after planting out.

## Vertical gardening

A West German architect, Rudolf Doernach, working in Stuttgart, Dusseldorf and Zurich, is employing a form of vertical gardening to supplement or even replace inert materials in construction. He says that covering the facades of buildings with plants can reduce summer temperatures by as much as 12 degrees, and in winter the loss of energy can be reduced by 30%. He recommends a trellis of wood or polypropylene ropes from ground to roof. On south walls (in the Northern Hemisphere) he uses deciduous fruiting climbers to produce a cooling chimney effect in summer, while in winter the sun can penetrate to warm the wall, which should be dark in colour to absorb heat. North walls are fully covered with evergreen climbers to produce a stationery cushion of air between them and the wall. East and west walls are planted with a mixture of deciduous and evergreen species.

## Quote for the month

"Gardener, if you listen listen well,  
plant for your winter pleasure, when the months  
dishearten. Plant to find a fragile note  
touched from the brittle violin of frost."

V. Sackville West — The Garden

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# *garden cuttings*

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Single copies are also available from the address below, and from selected bookshops (including some National Trust bookshops) for \$1.00 each.

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