

WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY PLANT SHOW AND TELL

6 December 2021



*Schlumbergera gaertneri*

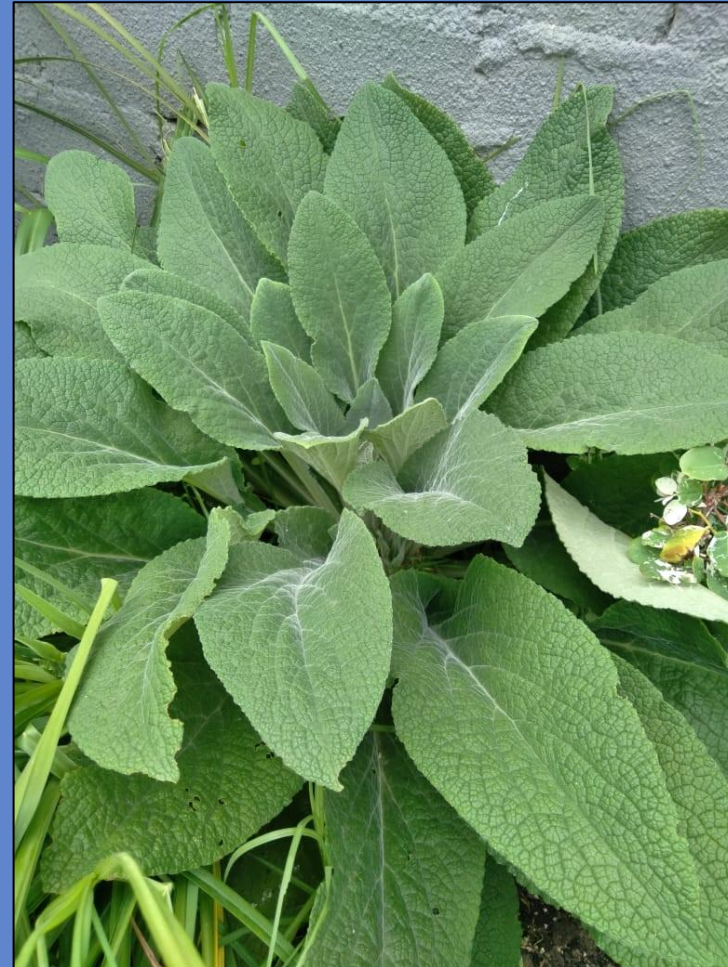


**CATEGORY: THE PLANT THAT I FIND THE MOST DIFFICULT TO GROW**



Linda says: “This variegated *Brugmansia* ‘Moonflower’ has grown from a rooted cutting given to me by Leoné Williams of Petal Faire. I found it difficult to grow as I moved it around the garden for many years before putting it in a pot where it has flourished.”

Zelda’s *Foxglove* Excelsior Mixed was grown from seed. It has taken almost 2 years to get where it is today – and it’s still not flowering!

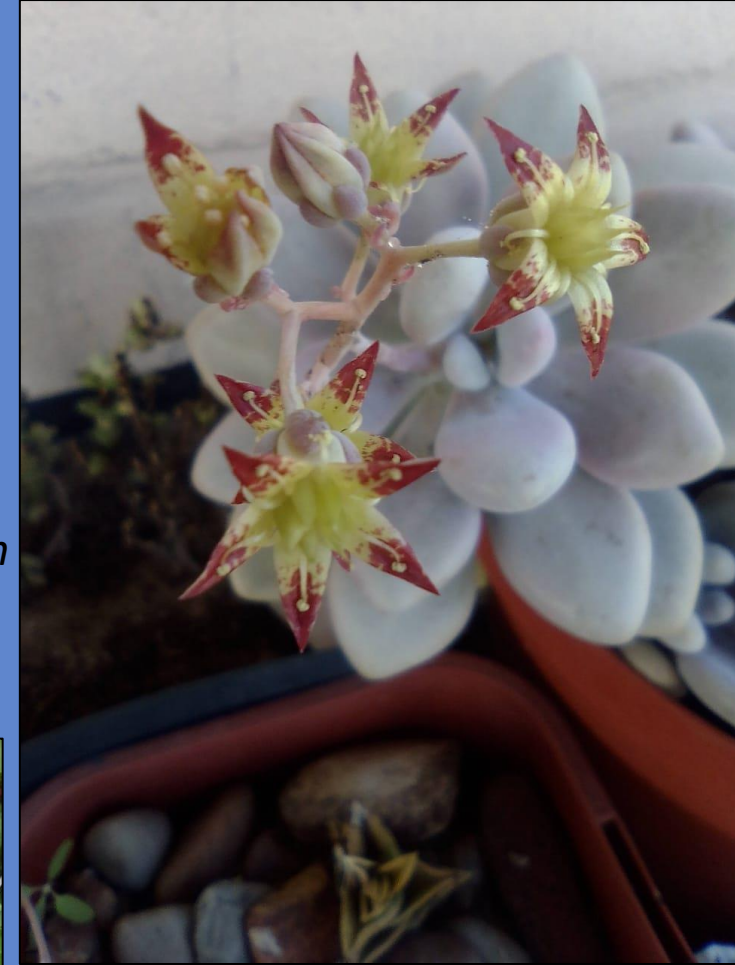


CATEGORY: THE PLANT THAT I FIND THE MOST DIFFICULT TO GROW



Isabella says this is most difficult to propagate, not difficult to grow – the *Hydrangea quercifolia*, the oak-leaved hydrangea.

Wilma's *Graptopetalum amethystinum*  
(one of Anne McKenzie's plants)



Belinda says: "I have really struggled to grow New Guinea Impatiens – they always turn up their toes and die, but look at this. I'm holding thumbs and hoping I have finally got it right."



## CATEGORY: THE PLANT THAT I FIND THE MOST DIFFICULT TO GROW

Cherry says: It's growing at the top of the slope outside, with an *Eriocephalus* hedge on either side.

Her research tells us: *Widdringtonia cedarbergensis* 'Clanwilliam cedar' – on the brink of extinction, it has been overharvested in the past (over 7,000 were used as telegraph poles in the area!), because of its beautiful, long-lasting fragrant timber and also victims of too frequent fires.

“There is a long, interesting article on the PlantzAfrica website discussing the conservancy and the re-planting programme.

My tree started as a seedling given to me by a re-planting volunteer who grew it in a pot until it had outgrown *his* largest pot. Then he kindly passed it on to me.



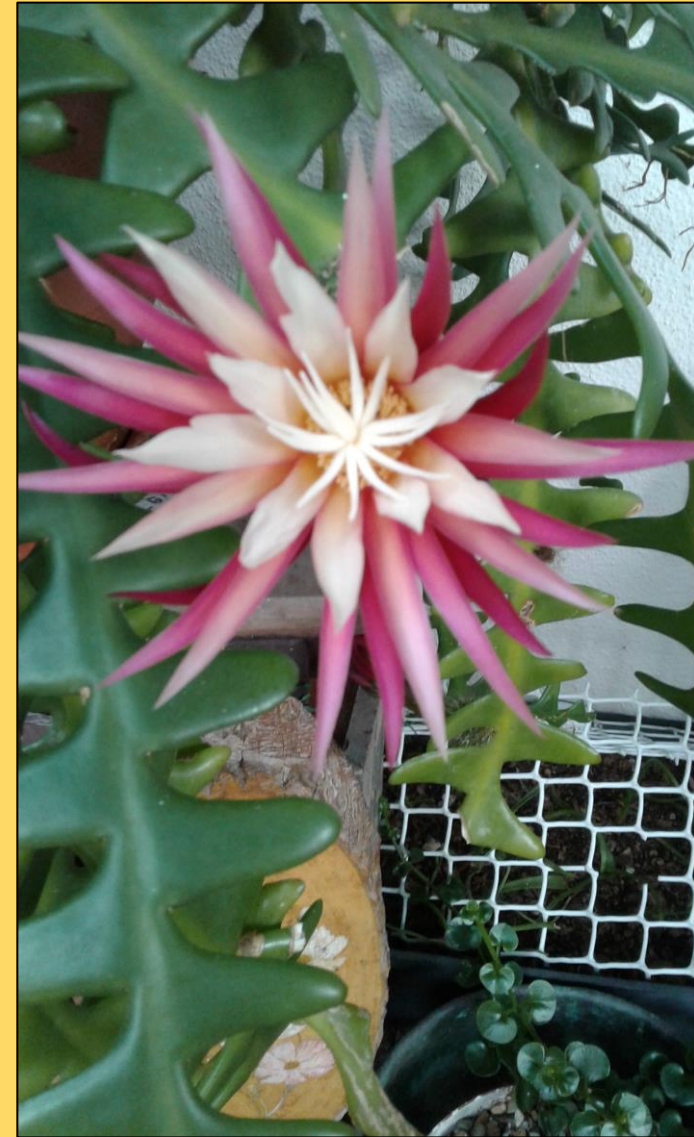
**CATEGORY: THE PLANT I FIND TO BE THE MOST UNUSUAL**

Cherry says: "*Hymenolepsis crithmifolia* = *hymenolepsis parvifolia* = *athanasia parvifolia*, is considered rare overseas and I am surprised it is not more widely grown here as it brightens the garden in November and attracts bees and butterflies. I cut it back after flowering or it could become straggly. It is growing in my inside rockery."



The common name for *Selenicereus anthonyanus* (*Cryptocereus anthonyanus*) is 'Fishbone Cactus' or 'Zig-Zag Cactus'. It is night-flowering cactus. Jean discovered this: "It is from Tropical America and the Caribbean and is a group of 20 species of semi-pendant, epiphytic or rock dwelling cacti. The stems have small spines between the zig-zags. They are frost-tender and prefer dappled to part-shade and humus-rich, moist but very well-drained soil.

She says: "Mine are flowering now and I have at least 6 more buds of various sizes this year. Nicky and I both received a small piece of it about 10 years ago and now mine is enormous, at least a metre tall and wide, is situated on a stand on a covered porch and is sending its fronds up a fence and right over the other side."



## CATEGORY: THE PLANT I FIND TO BE MOST UNUSUAL

Anne's *Rothea myricoides* = *Clerodendrum myricoides*,  
'Bloutontelhout' or 'Blue Butterfly Bush'.

She says: "I think it has the most beautiful flowers – the colour is stunning but, of course, they look like butterflies. Quite magical!"

<https://www.gardeninginsouthafrica.co.za/> tells us  
"The blue butterfly bush is native to tropical Africa and is particularly abundant in Kenya and Uganda, but can also be found wild in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal. It is commonly found growing in sheltered groves in rocky places, or along hillsides and river banks, open woodlands and along the margins of evergreen forests, shrubby bushveld, and in coastal bush, from Natal to Transkei, at elevations of up to 1400m.

### **Problems, Pests & Diseases:**

The pungent leaves and twigs seem to repel most insects, and this plant is not easily affected by most plant diseases or pests.

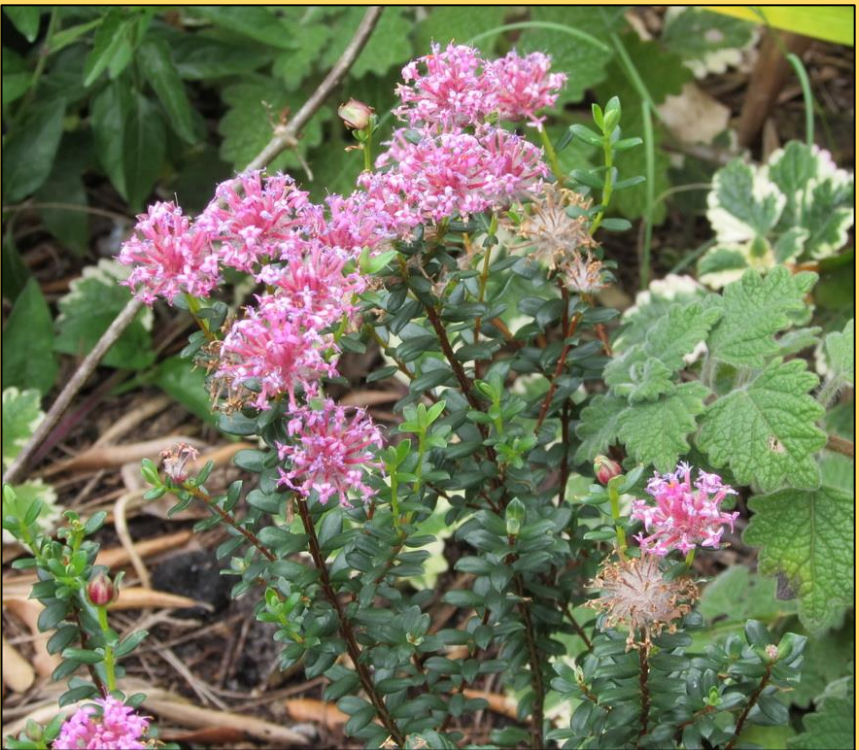
### **Warning:**

Some parts of the tree have been recorded as being toxic if ingested, and care should be taken when small children are near."



CATEGORY: THE PLANT I FIND TO BE MOST UNUSUAL

Isabella says: "*Thunbergia atriplicifolia*, a slow-growing, sprawling relative of the common Black-eyed Susan climber. Got this at Kirstenbosch a couple of years ago, and trying to grow a few from cuttings, but they are slow.



Jenny asks: "Is this a Hebe? The leaves say it is, but the flowers don't."

Wilma's low growing *Conicosa pugioniformis* and its curious seed pods (above right).



**CATEGORY: THE PLANT I FIND TO BE MOST UNUSUAL**

Peppy's *Ansellia Africana*  
"Leopard Orchid"

Zelda's *Podalyria sericea*  
(Silver Sweet Pea Bush)



*Crotalaria capensis* (Cape Laburnum)

## CATEGORY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT IN MY GARDEN

Cherry's *Brugmansia*, a gift from a neighbour.

"The photos show the 3 stages. When the bud (which looks like an elongated pod ) opens, the flower is a crumpled yellow. On day 2, when fully open, it is white. On day 3, the flower edges turn pink. It lasts another day, or two if you are lucky. This is the first time it has flowered."



**CATEGORY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT IN MY GARDEN**



Jean tells us: “The *Hippeastrum* (*Amaryllis*) are tropical plants and indigenous to South America. The flowers are very large and have clusters of 3 or 4 on a hollow stem about 60 cm tall. They flower in Spring and need a warm climate with rich organic soil and prefer part-shade.”

Isabella’s *Kalanchoe beharensis*, “a great structural succulent”.



**CATEGORY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT IN MY GARDEN**

Linda's *Epiphyllum*



Peppy's *Zygocactus*  
"Christmas cactus"



Melanie's orchid which has bloomed for the first time.

**CATEGORY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT IN MY GARDEN**



Wilma tells us about the Aztec Lily, or Jacobean Lily or, as she knows it, the Maltese Cross). “This is one of just three known species of the genus *Sprekelia* in the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae). *Sprekelia formosissima* is the one usually grown for its showy flowers – and even it is not very common, especially in colder climates. This tender bulb, native to rocky hillsides of southern Mexico and Guatemala, is hardy only to zone 8 and higher. It is sometimes offered as *Amaryllis formosissima*. The genus is closely related to *Hippeastrum*, with which it may hybridise. Unfortunately, the flowers only last for a few days, then quickly shrivel.”

Zelda’s *Hemerocallis*  
'Baja' (Day Lily)



**CATEGORY: THE MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT IN MY GARDEN**

Sabina tells us: “The flowers are *Agapanthus*, Canterbury Bells (*Campanula trachelium* – we think) which grow a meter tall, yellow and pink Inca Lilies (*Alstroemeria*). They and the Bells just come up every year. Arranged with a rescued bit of wood, sprayed gold.”



Belinda says: “*Epiphyllum*: These flowers are bigger than my hand; first time flowering from a cutting I got a few years back from a friend.”

Ninon’s *Schlumbergera truncata*



A selection of plants sent in as extras because it was too difficult to decide which plants to choose for the 3 categories.

Jean's white *Amaryllis*



Another of Melanie's orchids



Left: Linda's *Streptocarpus* "Cariad" and (below) Harlequin Blue. The tiny pink flowers to the right are from a cutting she made at Cherise's workshop just before lockdown, so it has a nostalgic element.



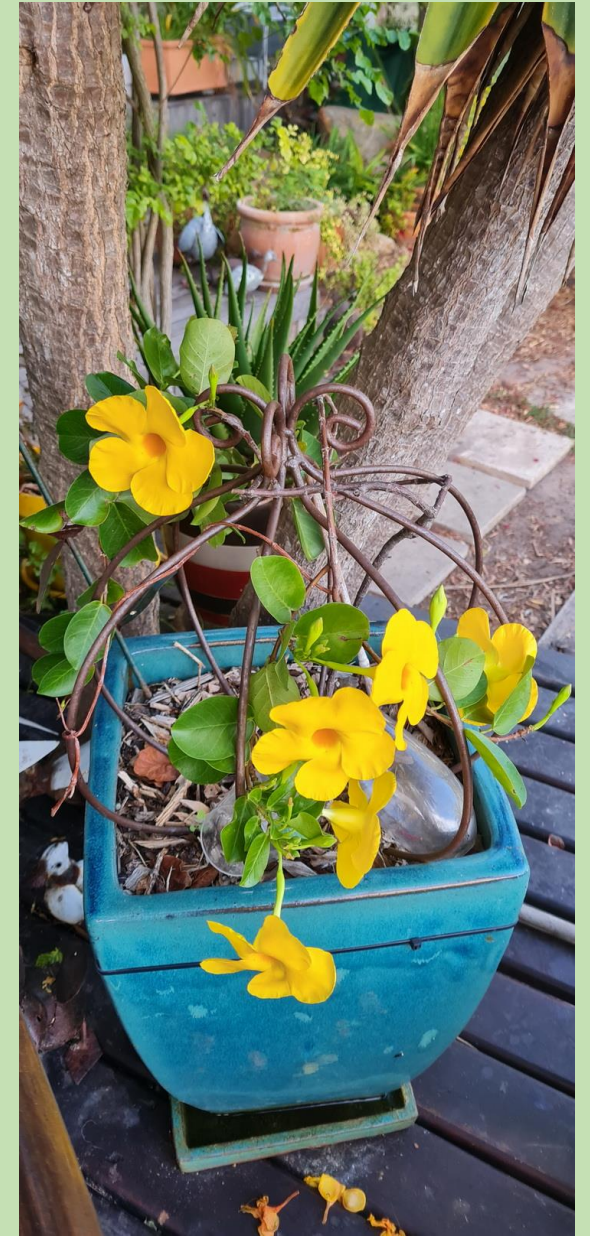
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More Streps from Linda: *Streptocarpus* “Harlequin Delft” and “Myfanwy”

Peppy’s *Amaryllis*

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Left to right: Belinda's Petunias , two lovely *Hemerocallis* blooms and Dipladenia

**A selection of plants sent in as extras because it was too difficult to decide which plants to choose for the 3 categories.**



Left: Linda's spectacular *Brugmansia* (from a Kefalonian cutting) and (below) Peppy's display of Strels and many other plants.



**A big THANK YOU to all the contributors, especially the regulars, who have helped to fill the "plant table" pages since December 2020.**