

WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY PLANT SHOW AND TELL 7 February 2022



Nelumbo nucifera – 'Lotus flower' about to open in Stellenbosch Botanical Garden

Lotus flower



Bud, leaf and seed pod



Cherry tells us that Stellenbosch Botanical Garden (SBG) is struggling financially. They receive little help from the University and little co-operation from the municipality. Also, all the boreholes the residents installed during the drought have caused the water table to drop alarmingly so water from the University borehole is drastically reduced. Consequently, water-thirsty trees like their magnificent Sequoias may not survive. SBG needs our support.

Streptocarpus hybrid



Watered twice a week in summer in the garden and every third day when brought onto the stoep while flowering.

Elwyn's (L)
and Wilma's
(R) gardens

Euphorbia
ferox



From around Graaff-Reinet, the stems are about 120mm tall with sharp 20-30mm spines along the stem edges. Flowers (left) in November.



Andrew's garden
Crinum asiaticum var
pedunculatum

From 5 to 19 December 2021





From 19 to 22 December 2021





Jean's garden

This Rose is a common miniature but starts out with a pink bud, then becomes peach-orange, and fades to yellow.

This is the most flowers it has ever had, thanks to some feeding. It normally flowers several times a year. It gets some morning shade but hot West sun.

Although the buds are pale pink and the flowers pure white, this is probably *Crinum moorei*. There is apparently a white form.

This should be late summer to autumn flowering but is flowering now, at the end of January.

The leaves are also beginning to die off which is correct for *C moorei*.

It is in a large wide pot in shade under trees, with many smaller bulbs spread around the main one, though only the centre one is flowering at present.





This *Scadoxus multiflorus*?? must be 18 years old and grows in a large pot. It flowered a few weeks ago although the books say it should flower in Spring – maybe late because it is in deep shade? It fortunately survives our wet winters as it should not be overwatered when dormant.

Aloe cooperi is a grass Aloe from KZN, Swaziland and Mpumalanga but seems to survive our wet winters.

The flowers are a beautiful peachy colour with green tips and the leaves are practically thorn-free and much softer than other Aloes.





Jenny's garden

Turraea obtusifolia – small shrub from Transkei (Eastern Cape) and Natal (KwaZulu Natal) Coastal forest.

This has been in flower for months now.

Marianne's garden

3 flowering shrubs from summer rainfall areas

Turraea obtusiflora

Marianne tells us: "They are free standing shrubs but in shade may be more of a scrambler; mine took quite a while to get going but now is well established. The flowers are so delicate looking but sadly, not as you would expect, fragrant like those of its sister *T floribunda*. They are moth-pollinated and produce the most amazing pumpkin-like seedpods in autumn. When these ripen they split open to reveal vivid red seeds. Occasionally I find seedlings underneath."



According to PlantZAfrica, *Turraea obtusiflora* is a very floriferous shrub to 2m, with small, neat but lush-looking leaves, which contain 'chemical compounds known as limonoids', like those found in the neem tree, which can be used as an insect repellent.





Justicia adhatodoides (formerly *Duvernoia adhatodoides*)
'Pistol bush'

"This bush, about 20 years old, grows in a west facing bed so it only gets afternoon sun for a few hours until shaded by the shadow of the house.

It grew fast to about 3 meters – so makes a good background plant; I have cut it back so it stands just above the precast wall. These spikes of magnificent flowers, which are just starting to open, show up against the large leaves; some may have a scent. It is named for its seed pods which, when they burst open on hot days, explode making a sound like a pistol going off.

Its sister with smaller flowers, *J. aconitiflora*, is daintier with smaller leaves and pale lemony flowers and can be used as a hedge."

You can see a distinct similarity between the flowers of these *Justicia* and those of other members of the Acanthaceae, family like – *Mackaya bella* (forest bell bush) and *Hypoestes aristata*.

“Bought at Kirstenbosch many years ago, this *Ruspolia* – or the hybrid *X Ruttyruspolia* ‘Phyllis van Heerden’ (can anyone positively ID it?) just keeps ticking along as it sprawls over the trunk of a *Schotia brachypetala* tree needing little more than a trim just before spring.

It loses its leaves briefly and is easy to grow from slips. It gets a bit more sun in early spring when the *Schotia* has lost its leaves, seems to tolerate competition from nearby trees’ roots and, being tucked at the back of the bed, doesn't get as much water as other shrubs.”



Cherry's garden

Crassula perfoliata var *falcata* – 'propeller plant'

In the rockery above the driveway in full sun;
tough; watered irregularly.

Planted about 3-4 years ago.

This is the first time it has flowered.





Protea "Sheila" grows in the inside rockery.

Probably about 10 years old.

Watered, at most, once weekly.

Sun for most of the day.

Covered in flowers and buds.

Started flowering in Dec.