



Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature.

Gérard de Nerval

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HAPPY 2025 TO EVERYONE!

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 3 February 2025 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

To start, there will be a short Special General Meeting to approve the increase in the membership fees for 2025.

The Committee's proposal is R240 for single membership and R390 for a family membership.

Further information is that the entrance fee for visitors will be increased to R40 per person from the March meeting.

There will also be a fee attached to any family member or friend invited to join one of our outings. The cost will be R40 per person, payable on the day.

This will only apply if the CHS members have not reached the limit requested by the host(ess).

Mr Super Plants, Morné Faulhamer, and of Fine Music Radio fame, will follow and tell us all about

POISONOUS PRETTIES: A GUIDE TO THE MOST TOXIC PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

This sounds like a talk you should not miss.

NEXT OUTING

Sat, 22 Feb at 09:15 for 09:30: Visit Japhta's Flower Farm in Constantia where Charles Japhta will give the history and a tour of the farm. Flowers will be available to buy. Limited to 20 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than 20 February.

WELCOME TO ...

... Hilary de Kok, Daniel Conradie and Cam Driver. We hope that membership of the CHS will bring them as much pleasure and knowledge as it does the rest of our members.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

While everyone else is busy easing themselves into the new year, the Sale sub-committee has been making green plans in the background, so let's talk about the **V**ery **I**mportant **P**lant sale

Our **VIP Sale** takes place on **Sunday 13 April** at 2 Dressage Close, Firgrove, Constantia.

What we want to achieve is:

- 1 R20 000 surplus to add to the coffers. That is a substantial increase from last year, but the CHS needs the money to achieve greater financial security.
- 2 A sale that everyone supports and enjoys.

As regards the plants you propagate to sell at our sale, we are just so grateful to you for your efforts. We are nothing without your lovely plants!

We are aiming to reach a **high level of plant presentation** at the sale by having

- healthy, well-developed plants. In that regard, please trim your plants to keep them bushy, and feed them with Seagro or a high-potassium fertilizer such as Hadeco bulb food. Plants must also have had enough time to grow roots well in the pot;
- potted in nursery pots or bags;
- weed free; and
- correctly labelled.

Isabella points out that there is still enough time to **divide plants** and grow them to full size, and to pot up a 6-pack from your nursery. In that regard, **herbs** are always popular and a 6-pack of thyme or rosemary, potted up now, will sell nicely in April.

House plants are also very popular right now, so whatever you can give us in this area, please do so! Then there are **bird-attracting plants and grasses** which buyers love.

Plants that will be flowering in April include **Fuchsias, Plectranthus, Hypoestes (ribbon bush), Leonotis leonurus and L ocymifolia, Tecomaria capensis (Cape honeysuckle) and Barleria of any species or variety.** Then we must remember **Strelitzia, Buchus and some Proteas.**

Any unusual plants will be greatly appreciated as we are considering how to present a **Special/Unusual Plant display** to create that buzz of interest. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Please, please, please: can we not deliver plants in yoghurt tubs! Buyers judge what's on sale, and yoghurt tubs will deflate all our attempts to raise our presentation to the next level. The buyer walks past them, then goes to the nursery and buys the same plant for 50% more - *and is happy to do so!*

We are going to sell **garden equipment** which is in a good condition: pots, tools, stakes, watering equipment, **and garden accessories** hanging baskets, bird feeders and so on. If you have such items you'd like to dispose of, put them to one side till sale time.

Lastly, it is only 8 weeks before the big day, so please start telling everyone you know that they should **diarise Sunday 13 April for the VIP Sale.**

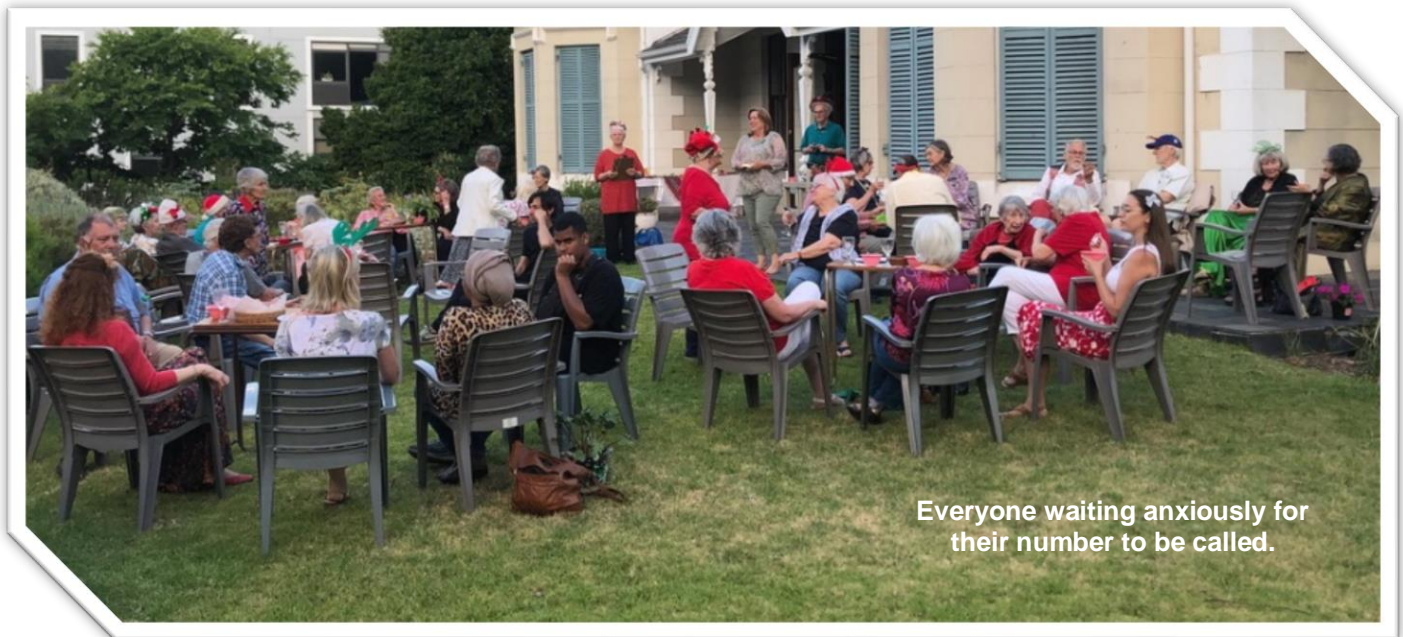
REPORT BACK

End of year get-together

Another year, another great party. There was plenty of food to eat, music in the background and loads of prizes to be had in the lucky draw. Anne very cleverly made a Christmas cracker for everyone with the lucky number inside.



There was a great assortment of prizes, thanks to the committee and other members. The majority of members went home with something – be it big or small. By all the compliments received, the work put in by everyone was greatly appreciated.



Everyone waiting anxiously for their number to be called.

Social Media

Our attempts at informing the public what the CHS does ‘for fun’, seem to be paying off. A number of members have joined the CHS via the new-look website’s home page. Don’t forget, if you have any interesting photographs (preferably with an explanation) you would like to share with others, send them via email to Jenny Liedtke at jennyliedtke@gmail.com. She will do posting of photos and interesting information once a week on Instagram, which automatically uploads to Facebook. Jenny is waiting to hear from you.

THE DREADED PSHB

This infection has reached the trees of Pinelands!! On 14 January, a neighbour told me she suspected PSHB in her Plane Tree. An urgent call and e-mail went out and members of the Invasive Species Unit were there the next day. The Plane tree wasn’t too serious, but the English Oak next to it was also infected. For the moment they will be monitoring this tree.

My neighbour received this from the Invasive Species Unit:

This follows our inspection conducted on the 15/01/2025 at house/property number 6 Stellenberg Road, Pinelands for potential Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) infection on trees. This email serves to inform you that the two trees inspected (English Oak and London Plane) were found to be infected by the PSHB. The PSHB is an invasive beetle from South-east Asia that carries plant pathogen or fungi called “*Fusarium euwallaceae*”. Both the beetle and the fungi cause severe harm to the trees they infect leading to complete death of trees. This relationship between the beetle and the fungi make the control of PSHB very challenging as one is still as problematic without the other once having found its way into a tree. At this point there’s no effective control method or treatment that works on both the beetle and fungi and the recommended management strategy is to manage the population size and movement of the beetle. This is doable through cautious removal/felling of infected trees and handling/disposal of the plant material from the tree, what we usually call biomass. Scientists and researcher have however indicated that not every single tree that shows PSHB symptoms needs to be removed. They have thus classified host trees into three categories based on how these trees respond to PSHB attack and how they contribute to population increase and spread of the beetle. These categories are;

- Highly susceptible reproductive host trees are those in which both the beetles and the fungus establish, and where the beetle successfully reproduces. Typically die within a few years of PSHB attack. These species amplify the PSHB population and increase the risk to surrounding trees and should be removed once PSHB is detected.
- Reproductive host trees are those in which both the beetles and the fungus establish, and where the beetles successfully reproduce. Susceptible reproductive hosts may eventually be killed by combined impacts of the beetle and the fungus. These trees must be monitored and should be removed based on how badly they are infected. Other aspects such as possibility of infecting nearby trees, safety to human life & property etc. must also be considered when whether to remove these trees or not.
- Non-reproductive host trees are attacked by the beetle and the fungus establishes, but the beetle does not successfully breed. The fungus may or may not cause disease but is unlikely to kill the tree. These trees must be monitored and should there be a need to remove based on how badly they are infected, possibility of infecting nearby trees, safety to human life and property etc, then they must be removed.

Recommendation

The English Oak is one of the “Highly susceptible reproductive host” and we therefore recommend that this tree be removed as it has a potential to facilitate further spread of PSHB to nearby trees in your property and neighbouring properties. The second tree “London Plane” is part of “Reproductive host trees” we usually recommend continuous monitoring of infection on these trees. However, should you also wish to have this tree removed sooner rather than later, that is an option you can consider.

As indicated above, cautious felling and removal of an infected tree is of paramount importance and not everyone is recommended to do this kind of work. Over the last 2 years the City has been providing free PSHB management and handling training to contractors and general members of the public. We have attached a list of trained contractors (separate attachment) who are eligible to assist you with the removal operation and appropriate handling of biomass.

To read and learn more about PSHB and to report other sightings please visit our website using the link below

<https://www.capetown.gov.za/City-Connect/Activities-and-programmes/Nature-and-environment/invasive-species-programme#Heading1>

You can also visit the FABI website using the link: PSHB Home (up.ac.za).

Aviwe Homani

Invasive Species Unit: Conservation Officer

Biodiversity, Environmental Management, Spatial Planning and Environmental

021-400-5543 / 078-307-6004 / AviweNadine.Homani@capetown.gov.za

Westlake Conservation Centre, Steenberg Road, Tokai 7945

Top priority list:

- English Oak
- Box elder maple
- Weeping willow
- Castor bean

A list of recommended trees to replace any that may have been removed, is attached separately.

Glenda Thorpe



THE UNFORTUNATE PLANT HUNTER

David Douglas was probably the most unfortunate Plant Hunter ever. Everything he did ended up with him either starving, freezing or injured and he had a terrible death while still a young man. He was born in Scone, Scotland, in 1799 and started a 7-year apprenticeship as a gardener at Scone Palace at the age of 11. He was keen to learn and was taught Botany by the staff there. Moving on to Fife, the owner of the gardens allowed him to use his library to teach himself Maths and the Sciences. In 1820 he was hired by the Botanical Gardens in Glasgow. At the same time William Hooker arrived to teach at Glasgow University. He started revitalising the Botanical Gardens, then met Douglas who helped him find material for his *Flora Scotica*.

Three years later Hooker recommended him to the RHS as a plant hunter. He was sent to New England, on the East coast of North America. After an appalling journey, he set off on a 4-month long journey to Buffalo and Lake Erie. He collected seed from *Veronicas*, *Eupatoriums*, *Helianthemums*, *Liatris*, *Solidago* and *Asters*. His perennial bad luck then started. His horse bolted as it only understood French. His cart driver stole all his possessions and money and he was left stranded and penniless. Finally, on the trip back to Buffalo, his boat almost sank in a storm. He found *Astragalus* and *Viola* near Niagara Falls, then travelled to Philadelphia. He returned to Britain with his finds, including several ornamental species and a range of new fruit varieties.

His next trip took over 8 months, via Madeira, Rio and the Galapagos islands, around Cape Horn, then to the Washington/Oregon border. The weather was terrible, rain and thick mists, but his first exciting find near the beach was *Gaultheria shallon*. He spent two years at the Hudson Bay Co. base on the Columbia River, living most of the time in a tent. He collected the *Mahonia* (or Oregon Grape) and found a fallen Douglas Fir that measured 39 feet in circumference and 190 feet high.

He collected seed of the *Ribes*, the flowering currant, *Lupinus* and *Clarkia*. He also took a canoe trip up the Columbia River to Grand Rapids and Great Falls. Most days he was exhausted, fighting deep gullies, thick forests, barren plains, with hardly any food. Arriving back at the fort, he packed up his botanical collection and left for the mouth of the Columbia River to catch the next ship leaving for Britain, but he arrived an hour after the ship had set sail. He took a short trip while waiting for the next ship, where, as usual, his food rations ran out and he had to live on roots and berries. In 8 months he had travelled over 2000 miles by foot, horse and canoe and the next year he travelled nearly 4000 miles. Among his finds were a *Lilium*, *Erythronium grandiflorum*, *Penstemon*, *Paeonia*, *Lupinaster*, *Trifolium*, *Phlox* and *Pinus ponderosa*.

He was the first European to climb the Blue Mountain, though a storm of lightning, thunder, hail and wind caught him at the summit. Snow blindness and dust caused him trouble with his sight, which did not improve. Finally, he decided he had to return his finds to Britain and sent it off in August 1826. He then joined an expedition in the hope of finding the Sugar Pine. It rained all the time and as usual, the food was scarce. A horrific storm caused his tent to blow down and he spent the night curled up in the cold, wet canvas. His horses were terrified and surrounded him, hanging their heads and neighing. The next day he found the Pines and tried to bring down the cones by firing at them. This brought out the local and very unfriendly Native Americans who eventually exchanged the cones for tobacco. The next day he was forced to shoot two Grizzly bears who had attacked his guide.

In 1827 he joined a 995-mile transcontinental trek, but after 25 days his sore feet meant he had to transfer to a canoe. They reached the Rockies 6 weeks later and Hudson Bay 4 months later, having walked 40 miles a day.

He returned to Britain in October 1827 but could not settle and left for West America 2 years later. He collected and sent back 3 chests of Pine seeds found around the Columbia River. He left for San Francisco and then Monterey in California, where he found the Monterey Pine. He also found 360 new species and 20 new genera. He sent 670 plant species to Britain in August 1832 before sailing back to the Columbus River.

In March 1833 he nearly died in a whirlpool and lost all his possessions, his collection and his journal. He decided to sail to Hawaii, now blind in one eye, and climbed a couple of mountains before setting off on another short trip. He met a man who trapped cattle for a living by digging a deep pit and covering it with branches. Although Douglas was warned, he somehow fell in, joining a bullock who was already inside. His gored and trampled body was found later – he was sadly only 35 years old.

Few people realise that, although Britain has only 3 native conifers, the spectacular Conifers and Pines in Britain's landscapes came from the unceasing travels of this one man. His collecting trips were paid for by the Horticultural Society and the wealthy members who received a portion of his seeds and plants. Gardens were popular in those times and had he survived and been able to settle down and become a landscape gardener again, he would have been wealthy. Sadly, that was not to be.

Submitted by Jean Fillis

HOW TO WATER PLANTS EFFECTIVELY

Gardeners can be uncertain when, how – and how much – to water their plants.

- **Know your plants:** the amount of water plants need depends on the environment in which they evolved. Cacti, from semi-arid areas, need moderate water in spring and summer, but little in winter. Rainforest plants need abundant moisture year-round.
- **Observe, to learn when to water:** few plants tolerate continuously wet soils. After watering, leave the soil until it has become almost dry before watering again. Push a finger 2.5cm (1in) into a pot's compost, or dig down 5-8cm (2-3in) in a border with a trowel, to test the underlying moisture content.
- **How much to water:** thoroughly soak the potting compost of plants in pots, and water borders deeply. Really dry media may need large quantities of water to re-wet them. Do not sit container plants in saucers of water for long as this can cause root rots.

HOW TO APPLY WATER:

- **Hoses** help to water lots of pots or large borders, but indiscriminate use wastes a lot of water. A gun attachment helps regulate water flow- un regulated water from a hose can be too strong for small plants and seedlings.
- **Automatic irrigation**, especially with a timer, can help for holidays, but using such systems risks overly-wet soil and root-rot diseases.
- **Watering cans** are great to give liquid feed selectively, or to water only a few plants, but laborious for large areas.
- **Immersing pots versus watering from above:** both methods are good, but immersion is best to re-wet potting compost in bone-dry containers or to water plants that prefer their crowns kept dry.

Source: RHS The Garden, April 2017

EASY CUTTINGS

Author Charlotte Rodick, RHS Horticultural Advisor

By choosing the correct method, it is simple to raise cuttings from garden shrubs, using minimal equipment.

Little beats the satisfaction of raising home-grown plants, and for gardeners wishing to increase their stock there is a range of ways to do this, without the need for special equipment or skills.

The preferred method for propagating shrubs is to take cuttings, as it creates larger plants in a shorter time than those grown from seed. Plants grown from cuttings are exact copies of the parent plant, so desirable characteristics such as variegation can be preserved, and much-loved but hard-to-come-by selections easily multiplied.

There are several techniques for taking cuttings from shrubs throughout the year. The easiest and most successful are semi-ripe cuttings taken from late summer to early autumn, or hardwood cuttings taken in mid-autumn to late winter. Semi-ripe cuttings are quick to produce roots because plants are in active growth and less prone to rot than cuttings taken earlier in the growing season. This method is suitable for many evergreen shrubs including *Daphne*, *Hebe* and *Ceanothus*, as well as deciduous shrubs *Spiraea*, *Potentilla* and *Buddleja*.

Hardwood cuttings require more patience as they are slower to root but, as wood is older and more robust, they require less aftercare and can be rooted reliably outdoors. This method is ideal for propagating a range of deciduous shrubs including *Salix*,

Forsythia and *Philadelphus*, as well as evergreens such as *Ilex* and *Skimmia*.

Whichever method is used, good hygiene is essential: ensure cutting tools are sterile and sharp, and equipment and surfaces are clean. Always select healthy parent plants to prevent the transmission of pests and disease to cuttings, and promptly remove those showing signs of rot. Support new growth from cuttings by ensuring soil is kept moist, and protect cuttings from excessive temperatures, direct sunlight, strong winds and hard frosts.

To be cont...

Source: RHS The Garden, April 2017

LUNAR PLANTING – FEBRUARY

Submitted by
Cherise Viljoen

LUNAR Gardening Guide

Seasoned lunar gardeners report better propagation of leaf and herb seedlings when planted only on days marked "leaf", as these varieties are at risk of burning and/or bolting in the late summer. Note that the last "leaf" day of the month suits the sowing of legume seeds, for an early Autumn harvest. Weekend gardeners can enjoy the most fertile planting day of the month for all edibles on Sunday 9th. Use the "very barren" days before the Dark moon to remove trees, prune bushes and mow overgrown lawns.

By Ilona Thorndike

BEST DAYS FOR FEBRUARY

SAT 1			MON 17		
SUN 2			TUE 18		
MON 3			WED 19		
TUE 4			THU 20		LAST QTR 19:32
WED 5		ST QTR 10:02	FRI 21		
THU 6			SAT 22		
FRI 7			SUN 23		
SAT 8			MON 24		
SUN 9			TUE 25		
MON 10			WED 26		
TUE 11			THU 27		
WED 12		FULL 15:54	FRI 28		DARK 02:45
THU 13			<p>For more information on gardening by the moon, by phase and by sign please visit our updated website at www.moontime.co.za. Moonlight Calendar 2025, the annual poster calendar, is also available on the order page.</p>		
FRI 14					
SAT 15					
SUN 16			<p>■ Fertile ■ Semi-fertile ■ Very barren ■ Indicates change ■ Barren</p>		

Sow/plant FRUIT	WEEDING
Sow/plant LEAVES	Mow LAWN to increase growth
Sow/plant ROOTS	Mow LAWN to decrease growth
Sow/plant VINE VEG	SOIL PREPARATION
Sow/plant GRAINS	HARVESTING
Sow/plant HOT VEG	TRIM plants to increase growth
Sow/plant FLOWERS / SHRUBS	TRIM plants to decrease growth
REPOT / TRANSPLANT	COMPOST and MULCHING
WATERING / FERTILISING	CUTTINGS
PEST control	GRAFTINGS

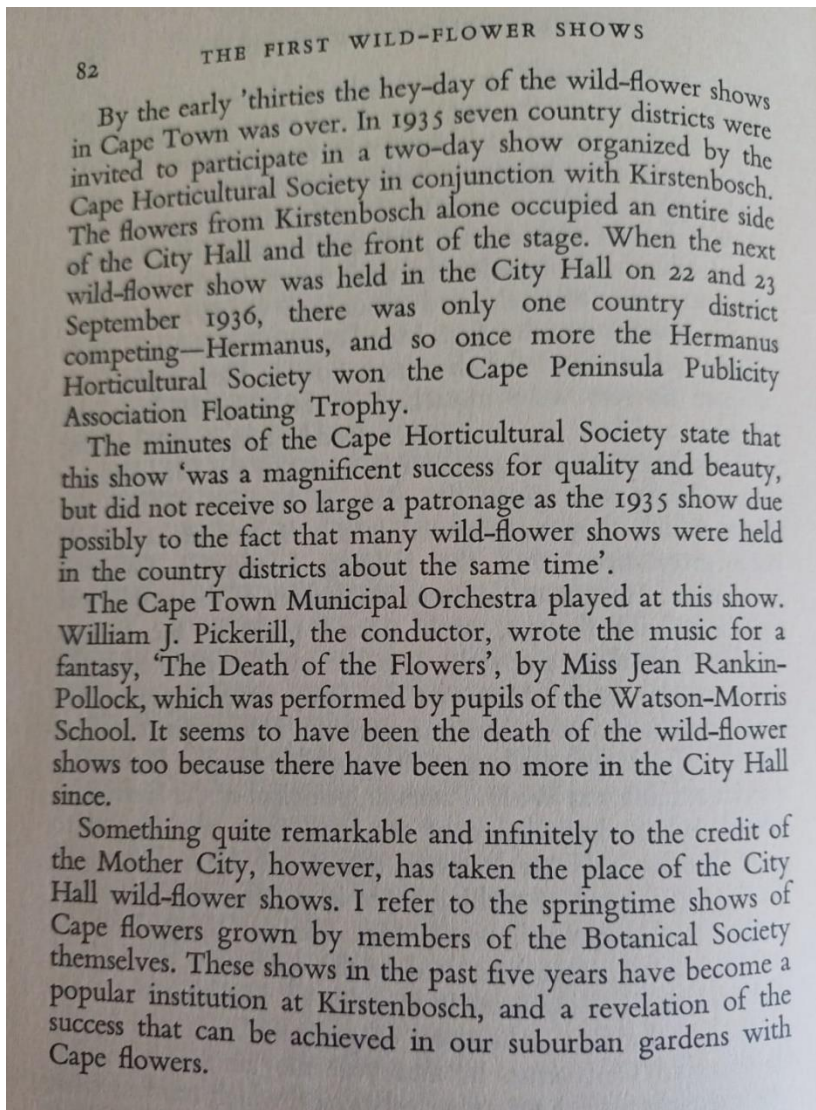
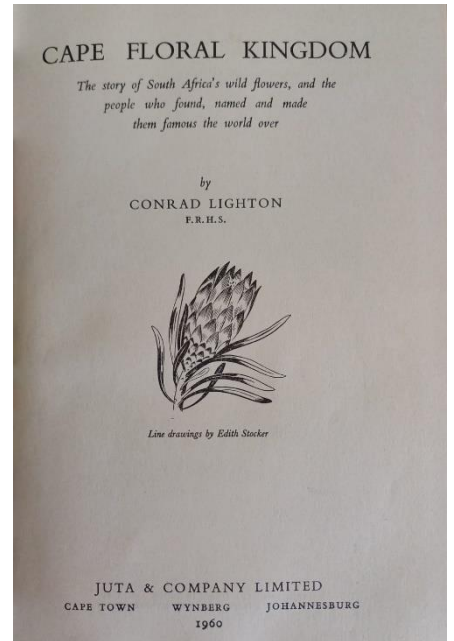
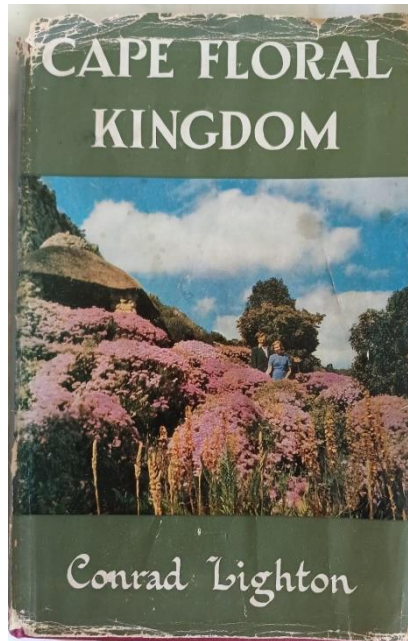
AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

Marianne found this book *Cape Floral Kingdom*, published in 1960.

Does anyone know who Conrad Lighton is/was? We have a Flower Show trophy inscribed:

FLOATING TROPHY - CHS
PRESENTED BY ELSIE LIGHTON

Could this be his wife, his mother or a sister (-in-law)?



An extract from one of the chapters.

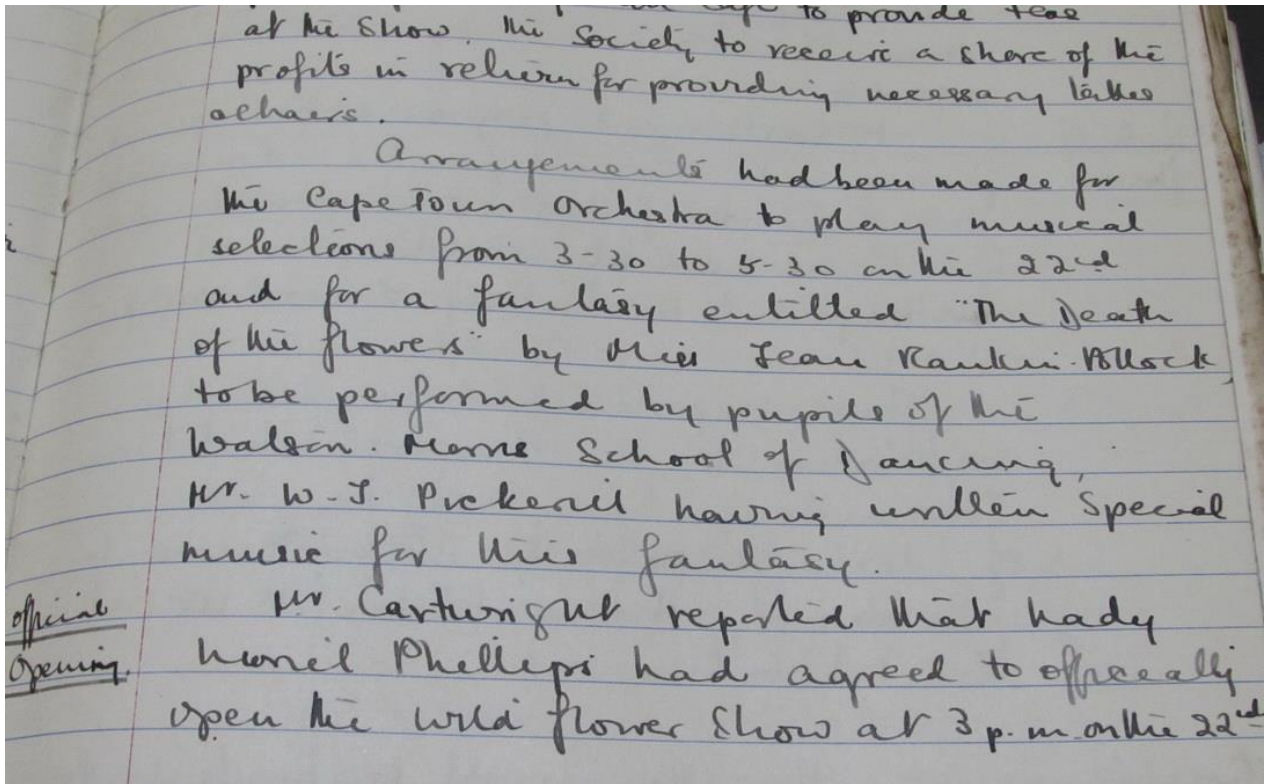
Mr Lighton must have been reading another set of Minutes regarding the number of visitors to the Show (left).

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15 September 1936 did not record this fact.

It did record, though, that the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra played at this Show (overleaf).

Elsie Lighton's name does not appear anywhere in the Minute Book. She was obviously not a Committee Member.

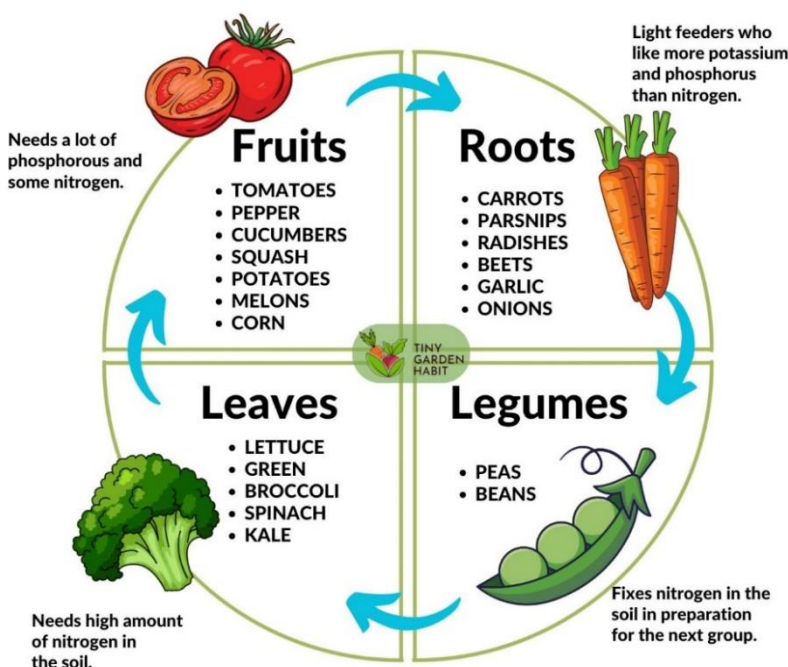
Nor does her name appear on the list of trophy winners we have in our archives.



- ❖ Find Cherise Viljoen (Cherise Plants) and Sue Kingma's (Nuno Plants) plants on sale at Elderflower Nursery, 53 Constantia Main Road (entrance in Whitby Road), Plumstead.

Crop Rotation 101

- ✔ Prevent Disease
- ✔ Interrupt pest cycle
- ✔ Reduce soil depletion



Wilma sent in a lovely diagram (left) for those who grow veggies. You may already know this, but for those who do not, here's a chance to learn about rotating your crops. It seems to be advantageous in a number of ways.

Give it a try.

To continue with vegetables, she also submitted this chart (overleaf) of the number of plants to grow for one person that needs feeding.

You will probably have to extend your veggie boxes or patches.

GARDENING FUNDAMENTALS

Grow Enough Food!

How Much to Plant in a Vegetable Garden

CROP	NUMBER OF PLANTS TO GROW
Artichoke	1 to 2 per person
Arugula	5 per person
Asparagus	5 to 10 person
Bean (bush)	5 to 10 per person
Bean (fava)	4 to 8 per person
Bean (pole)	3 to 5 per person
Beet	5 to 10 per person
Bok choy	1 to 3 per person
Broccoli	2 to 4 person
Brussels sprouts	1 to 2 per person
Cabbage	2 to 4 per person
Carrot	10 to 20 per person
Cauliflower	2 to 4 per person
Celery	2 to 6 per person
Chard	2 to 3 per person
Collard	2 to 3 per person
Corn (sweet)	6 to 12 per person
Cucumber	2 to 4 per person
Daikon	3 to 6 per person
Eggplant	1 to 2 per person
Garlic	10 to 15 per person
Kale	3 to 5 per person
Kohlrabi	4 to 8 per person
Leek	10 per person
Lettuce	5 per person
Melon	2 to 3 per person
Mustard green	5 to 10 per person
Okra	2 to 3 per person
Onion (bulb)	10 to 20 per person
Onion (scallion)	15 to 25 person
Onion (shallot)	10 to 20 per person
Parsnip	5 to 10 per person
Pea (shelling)	15 to 30 person
Pea (snap or snow)	3 to 5 per person

CROP	NUMBER OF PLANTS TO GROW
Pepper (sweet)	3 to 5 per person
Pepper (hot)	1 to 2 per person
Potato	5 to 10 per person
Radish (spring)	15 to 25 per person
Radish (winter)	5 to 10 per person
Rhubarb	1 to 2 per person
Spinach	5 to 10 per person
Squash (summer)	1 to 2 per person
Squash (winter)	1 to 2 per person
Sweet potato	5 per person
Tomatillo	1 to 2 per person
Tomato (cherry)	1 per person
Tomato (slicing)	2 to 4 per person
Turnip	5 to 10 per person

NOTE

All amounts are based on fresh eating, so adjust accordingly if you plan to preserve any of your harvests or you have an extra long growing season.

Read the full article at gardenbetty.com/grow-enough

GARDEN BETTY

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Source: Garden Betty