



Where flowers bloom so does hope.

Lady Bird Johnson

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NEXT MEETING

Monday, 1 September 2025 at **19:30** at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

CURATOR AND CRUSADER

Mike Bruton will give an illustrated and inspiring talk on the fascinating life of one of South Africa's pioneering woman museum scientists, conservationists and naturalists, Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, based on his book of the same name.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Sat, 20 September at 08:45 for 09:00 to 11:00 – visit very special Conservation Area at the Kenilworth Racecourse.

This is managed by Nature Care Fund and forms part of Nature Connect. It is a 52-hectare nature reserve, situated in the centre of Kenilworth Racecourse. Due to its location it has been left undisturbed for more than 100 years, making it now the best preserved patch of “Cape Flats Sand Fynbos.”

This outing will require the wearing of waterproof footwear and an indemnity form will have to be completed. Limited to 30 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than Wed, 17 September.

WELCOME TO ...

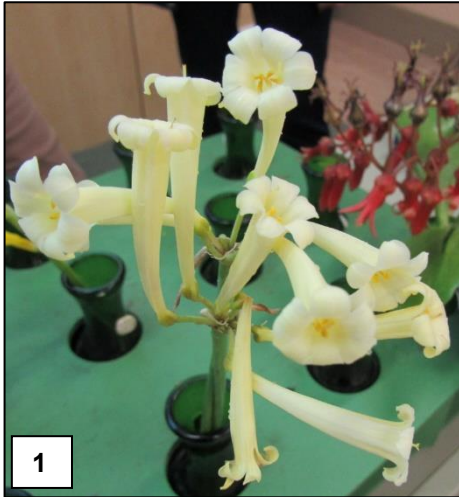
... Helena Gildenhuys, Vicky Howell, Clive Kirkwood and Johan van der Walt who recently joined the CHS. We hope that membership of the CHS will bring them as much pleasure and knowledge as it does all our members.

REPORT BACK

August Exhibits

Indigenous:

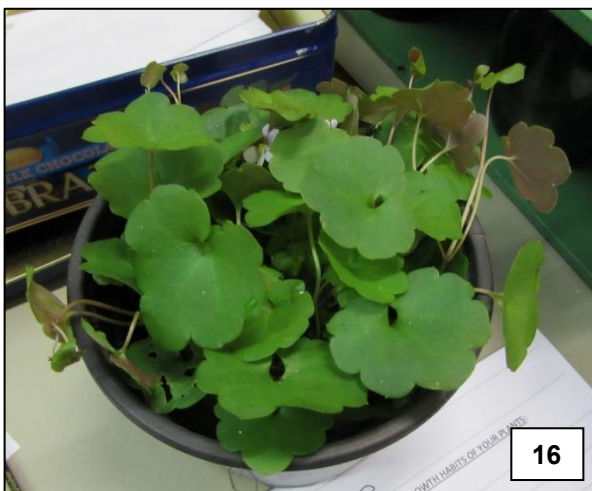
1. *Cyrthanthus mackenii* – semi-shade/morning sun; these have been in full sun and are doing well in pots.
2. *Kniphofia northiae*
3. *Lachenalia quadricolor* – doing well in semi-shade
4. *Cotyledon orbiculata* “Spoonleaf” – grown from slip; doing well; no extra water
5. *Leucospermum reflexum* – full sun; on the verge
6. *Dombeya burgessiae* – full sun; likes water; beautiful flowers
7. *Chasmanthe floribunda ducketii* – dormant all summer; no maintenance, except to remove dead foliage; sunny position



Exotics:

8. *Bletilla striata* "Chinese Ground Orchid" – likes to be kept dry in winter, so best grown in a pot; semi-shade/morning sun
9. *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* – growing well in the street hardcore in our road
10. *Ctenanthe lubbersiana* "Golden Mosaic Plant" from Brazil – shade
11. *Strobilanthes hamiltoniana* from SE Asia – shade/semi-shade
12. *Jasminum polyanthum* (pink) – trained around our front door together with the local *Jasminum multipartitum* and *Trachelospermum jasminoides* "Star Jasmine"
13. *Lavandula stoechas* – flowers all year; these bushes are 10 years old; cut back lightly in mid-summer when it grows too tall; very hardy and waterwise; attracts bees; beautiful as a cut flower, or dried; can be used in baking.
14. *Argyranthemum* "Marguerite" – full sun; grows to waist height; needs regular trimming; grows well from cuttings; not often found in nurseries
15. *Hyacinth* – mixed pot of Hyacinth and Muscari; the Dutch Hyacinths are mainly available in purple, blue, pink and white; Muscari (grape Hyacinth) are small ; not flowering yet.

- 16. *Cymbalaria muralis* "Ivy-leaved toadflax" – a low, spreading, trailing plant with small purple flowers, native to rocky habitats in southern Europe. It belongs to the plantain family (Plantaginaceae) and is introduced and naturalised in many other temperate locations. The flower stalk is unusual for seeking light until it is fertilized, after which it grows away from the light. Other names include Coliseum Ivy, Kenilworth Ivy, Mother of Thousands, Oxford Ivy, and Wandering Sailor.
- 17. Anne brought some "Ocean: Magical Hydrangeas" to a meeting in summer (CHS News – May 2025) to show how they changed from pinks to green. Now you can see the rust-coloured winter flowers. The leaves are spectacular.



August Outing

Some of our members visited Shadowlands Wholesale Nursery for our monthly outing. The nursery is in Kulsriver and it felt like we were in the country, with sheep grazing nearby.

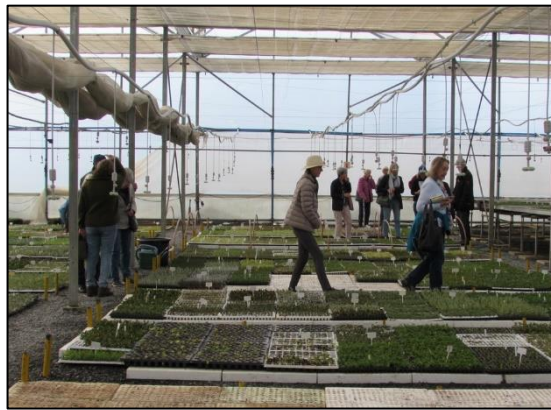
Jenny Liedtke, a CHS member and one of three horticulturists at the Nursery, showed us around. Shadowlands sell 50% of their plants to retail stores and 50% to landscapers. There are numerous tunnels and sheds housing seedlings, as well as those more established. Some are grown from seed using peat and perlite, while others are cuttings that were propagated from mother plants grown around the nursery grounds. For their seedlings they try to keep humidity at 70% with regular misting with the perfect temperature being between 22° and 25°. The small seedlings are then moved to larger 6-packs, or pots, and hardened off in another area.

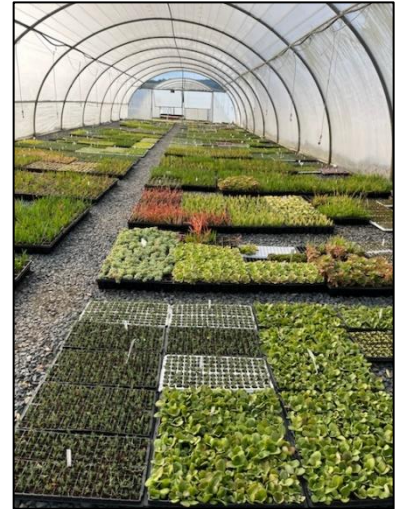
We saw how the soil is made up for the potting mix using 60% coir and 40% bark. The fine and coarse coir is mixed with water in drums together with Multicote 8 slow-release fertiliser (top, left) and then mixed with milled bark which is done for them off premises by Red Tractor.

They employ 80 staff, some of them showing their expertise as they dealt gently with the tiny seedlings (centre, right, planting *Helichrysum* seedlings). The staff work on an incentive basis to keep them motivated about the number of trays they fill.

All the plants looked glowingly healthy and well cared for and we were able to purchase some after our tour. It made us more aware of how precious the plants are that we purchase considering the long and loving process involved to get a plant to this final stage.

Anne Gleeson





- Our photographers entranced by the beautiful succulents.
- Jenny with the beginning of our many trolley loads of purchases.
- Anne thanking Jenny
- A welcome cuppa after a long morning.
- A succulent ball, spectacular Rosemary and a colourful Coleus.



GROWING CLIVIA FROM SEED



1. Clivia seed heads which are ripe and ready to harvest.



2. **Open the seed heads** and remove the seeds. Some growers recommend washing the seeds in a solution of water and dishwashing liquid, as it can help prevent fungal disease.



3. Press seeds halfway into the sowing medium.

Sowing medium - coarse river sand (rinse the sand the get rid of any fine particles) or a seedling mix of finely milled pine bark.



4. Keep in a well-lit environment and water as needed to keep the sowing medium damp.



5. Roots will appear from 4 to 6 weeks after planting followed by the first leaf.



6. Once there are 2 or 3 new leaves pot up into individual 12mm pots. Or plant several seedlings into a slightly larger pot (15cm).

7. It can take 4 years for a seedling to grow to flowering size. The colour of the base of the flower stem that can indicate which will produce yellow flowers or orange flowers.



Some growers say seeds can be placed in damp cotton wool and tucked into a plastic bag (don't close the top of the bag). Keep the medium damp but not too wet.

Remember to feed them every two weeks or so (in the warmer months only) with a weak solution of Seagrow or similar.

A loose, well-drained potting soil works well; Perlite can be added to make the medium lighter and improve drainage. Avoid adding too much compost as it retains water, and clivias do not like wet feet.

Submitted by Marianne Alexander

Photos: A Gleeson, M Alexander, A & G Thorpe