



NEWSLETTER May - June 2019

President's Notes

Time seems to have passed quickly since the last newsletter, especially as I am hoping to get this one out early. We have had an enjoyable social afternoon at Michael and Judy Drake-Brockman's property in Pickering Brook in early April and been impressed with their excellent set-up for growing prize blooms. The ability to choose a good and spacious site for the plants is a major bonus, which makes the city slickers amongst us feel very envious.

The longstanding quest for a chrysanthemum register to apply throughout Australia is almost realised and it is hoped that this will be ratified at the forthcoming Australian Chrysanthemum Council meeting in Bendigo. It is difficult to convey the amount of work that has gone into this, both here and interstate. John Morvell from Bendigo has done some great work and it is amazing how many cultivar names he has added to the new historical register from the numerous records that growers have provided him with. I was recently given a copy of a 1978 WA register which is most interesting as it lists the country of origin of all the cultivars listed. We hope in time to be able to add information about many of the cultivars in the new register which will serve as an interesting historical record. Most recently, as the final task, Murray Ryall and I spent a full day updating the computer lists and checking and re-checking the details. I also left Murray a few hours of homework to do on his own, so thanks a lot Murray and thanks to Colleen for keeping us fortified with sustenance.

The next month is going to be very busy. Our second home visit will be at the end of April, this time at my home in Mount Lawley. That is only ten days before our show set up so there will be plenty of blooms to see. I have tried a few new things and some plants have run into a problem or two. I am hoping that you can all tell me where I have gone wrong. The best answer wins the opportunity to write all the cultural notes for next year.



The first weekend in May is the Gosnell's show with our WACS show starting a few days later. We will need lots of helpers at the show. I will include the Show week dates later in the newsletter and indicate the areas where assistance is required. This year we are

re-introducing prize money for many of the show classes which we hope will encourage members and any other chrysanthemum growers to bring in lots of blooms. In addition there are a number of trophies up for grabs as well as the two State Championships. A couple of weeks after the show we will be having a catered Presentation Luncheon at our meeting hall at the John McGrath Pavilion in South Perth. The cost is subsidised by the society so we look forward to a good crowd.

Thereafter feel free to amuse yourselves however you wish until it all starts again in August.

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Cultural Notes



I have been re-reading the 2018 May – June notes and wondering how they can be improved. A difficult ask, so why not re-read them now! Alternatively I have summarised them in far less satisfying dot point form below.



- Move pots under cover to protect the blooms.
- Tie pots/stakes to something immobile so they will not blow over. A rope stretched between two uprights provides a good anchor.
- Check blooms and leaves for pests. Aphids and caterpillars are the most common problem this month. Systemic insecticides like Defender Maxguard applied to the soil or Confidor sprayed on the leaves are good for aphids and Yates Success Ultra is good for caterpillars.
- Remove any old or damaged petals and ray petals from the discs of Singles as soon as you see them. Round ended tweezers are useful for pulling out petals in the middle of the bloom.
- Check the plant name tags against the blooms in case you have a mislabelled plant.
- If you have multiple pots of the same cultivar mark the pots which gave the best blooms so that you can propagate from those for next season.
- Keep a record of cultivars that were not successful so that you can discuss it with a mentor. You may need better quality cuttings from another grower or it may be an unreliable cultivar that you can stop growing.

“Remember, if you did not succeed and were dissatisfied with your results in the first season you would be about average.” Ted Elms – from *Chrysanthemum Culture in Western Australia*

Remember, if you did not succeed and were dissatisfied with your results in the first season then make sure that you do not give up and have more contact with a mentor next season.

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Gosnell's Horticultural Society Autumn Show

This will be held on the weekend of 4th and 5th May at the Addie Mills Centre, 2 Astley St, Gosnells. Entries are accepted before 8pm Thursday 2nd May by the Show Secretary, Margaret, on 93982684 or 0427981851. There is a link to their show schedule on our Facebook page. Enquiries to Jo Bungey on 93981396. Set up of exhibits is on Saturday 4th and must be completed before 11am.

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Schedule for WACS Show Week

Sunday 5th May:

WACS entries to **9272 1356** or **carl.lina.slu@gmail.com** between 3.00 and 7.00pm.

Tuesday 7th May:

6.00pm - Set up display, fill bottles etc. **(Volunteers Required)**

Display flowers and pots etc. to be at Shopping Centre at 6.00pm. Please note that potted plants, charms and cascades entered in the show must also be brought in to the centre on Tuesday Night.

Wednesday 8th May:

4.00pm - Show Secretary and Chief Steward prepare the show benches.

6.00 to 9.30pm - Exhibitors set up their entries. Earlier access to the set up room will be possible by notifying the Show Secretary who will be in attendance at the shopping centre.

Thursday 9th May:

7.00 to 8.30am - Exhibitors finish setting up.

9.00am - Judges, Stewards and Runners report to the Show Secretary for judging.

9.00am - Show open and members on roster duty. **(Volunteers Required)**

Friday 10th May:

Show open and members on roster duty. **(Volunteers Required)**

11.00am - Official Opening of Show.

Saturday 11th May:

Show open and members on roster duty. **(Volunteers Required)**

2.30pm - Members assist with bunching and wrapping and selling of flowers. Pack up equipment and clear show area. As many members as possible needed from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. **(Volunteers Required)**

Bloom Heights for Exhibition (Measuring sticks will be available at the show set up, but don't beat yourself up over it.)

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 (Show) and 10 – **55cm**

Sections 6 – **42cm** (*with the exception of the Forrestfield Championship which is 55cm*)

Section 8 (Blooms) – **35cm**

Sections 7 (Cuts), 8 (Cuts) and 9 – no set height. A few centimetres only between the top of the bottle and the origin of the lowest pedicel looks attractive. Sections 7 and 9 are staged in large bottles and Section 8 in small bottles.

ANZAC Memorial Vase

This class is in our Show Schedule and requires five blooms of New Zealand origin. They can be five of the same or a mix of cultivars. Eligible cultivars are all the Mechen and Cloverlea Anemones as well as the Singles Glad Eye and Eileen Dobie. Another NZ Single available interstate is Dorothy which I do not think is in WA.

Keeping Blooms in Show Condition

With our show being later in May than in an average year you may find that some of your blooms are likely to be at their best prior to the show. What is to be done? I have an old NCS (UK) Manual which addresses the subject. Things to try –

1. Retarding development. When blooms are approaching full bloom the pots can be moved to a location having a cool, dry atmosphere and partly excluded light. Only water when essential to prevent the leaves and petals from flagging.
2. Keeping blooms in water. Blooms may be kept for ten days or so if they are cut early in the morning when two thirds open. The lower leaves should be removed and the stems kept in deep cool water. The container should be kept in a cool location and the blooms and foliage misted occasionally with cool water. The vase water should be changed and the end of the stem recut daily. A commercial flower preservative such as Chrysal added to the water is effective or a home brew of Milton ½ teaspoon, Alum ½ teaspoon and Sugar 4 teaspoons per 2 litres can be used, in which case the water does not need to be changed.
3. Refrigeration. Blooms may be kept fresh at a temperature of 2 degrees.

This is reprinted from last year's newsletter. I had good success moving pots to a spare room in the house with curtains almost closed (technique 1.) and successfully held blooms for up to ten days. Maybe they were not all at the peak of their perfection but good enough to show. This is especially valuable if needing an extra cultivar for a multi-bloom entry, such as a State or WACS Championship.

Too Much Time on My Hands (Part 1)

One of the many reasons that the combined Australian register has been so time consuming to develop is that there are discrepancies between various records that exist. In order to resolve them I have spent time trawling the internet for clues. I came across an old chrysanthemum text that describes a respected classification system for chrysanthemums from the 1830s devised by Mr Hamworth. He evidently came up with six Sections –

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ranunculus-flowered | China-Aster-flowered |
| Ranunculus-flowered, incurved | Marigold-flowered |
| Tasseled-flowered | Tasseled-flowered, double |

I am not sure which of these Section we would put each of our modern blooms into.

You may have noted in older registers that anemone cultivars were divided into two sub-sections – Formal and Informal. I could never work out why the distinction was significant. The same text has the following descriptions which provides the explanation.

LARGE ANEMONES.

The distinctive characteristic of the flowers of this class is their large size, high, neatly formed centers and regularly shaped ray florets. The Large Anemones have two distinct kinds of florets, one the quill, forming the center or disc ; and the other flat and more or less horizontally arranged, forming the border or ray florets. In the flowers which most nearly approach perfection, we have broad ray florets, so regularly arranged as to form a circle, and the center hemispherical, with no trace of hollowness.

JAPANESE ANEMONES.

'The flowers of the varieties constituting this group are remarkable for their large size and fantastic form. The disc is more or less regular in form, but the ray florets vary considerably in length, breadth and arrangement; in some flowers they are narrow and much twisted, in others they are broad and curled, and in some instances the ray florets droop and form an elegant fringe.



Too Much Time on My Hands (Part 2)

Spray cultivars have one of two basic forms

- Broad oval - where blooms are all in an approximately horizontal plane.
- Columnar or tapering column - where blooms spiral upwards to the apex.



I have grown the pink spray (Section 9) cultivar Enbee Wedding for the last three years. In the UK it is registered as an Early Flowering (September) Spray. You will note that the form is of a broad oval and the pedicels are long with multiple small leaves. What I have found is when Enbee Wedding flowers early for me in April it has the same form as shown (unfortunately not the same quality). However, when it flowers in May it has columnar form, more flowers on the stem, shorter pedicels and the pedicels of the top few flowers are leafless. Basically this is the same

form as my Ryski and Yellow Ryski spray cultivars which are registered in the UK as Late Flowering (November) Sprays. So why the difference? My explanation is as follows, and may not be correct.

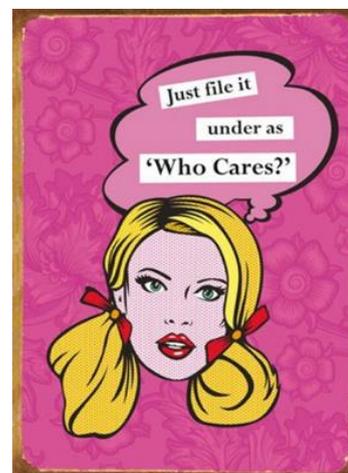


Both late and early flowering chrysanthemums can produce buds in long or short days. However, the early buds of late flowerers will not progress to flowering and will be bypassed with new growth. Flowering will not occur until the onset of short days. On the other hand, early flowerers are induced to flower by a range of factors additional to day length which allows them to flower earlier.

As a result the late columnar spray is formed from buds induced in short days and comprises the terminal bud cluster and buds from the

axillary nodes below them, whereas the early broad oval spray is formed from buds produced in long days and is akin to a group of crown buds arising from a stopped lateral; hence the equal length, longer and leafy branches of the early spray.

Note to novice growers – The early flowering UK cultivars are generally disappointing in WA due to our summer heat. The late flowering cultivars can give excellent results but, apart from the Ryskis, we do not seem to have any of them available in WA.



Editor's Notes

Knowing how keen you all are on grammar, judging by feedback to previous Newsletters, I would like to share with you this thought attributed to F. Scott Fitzgerald.

One should never use exclamation points in writing. It is like laughing at your own joke.

Believe it or not, it wasn't until 1970 that the exclamation point had its own key on the keyboard! (*Ha-ha – Pres.*)

Mentors

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Forthcoming Events

Social Day – Sunday 28th April from 1pm at Carl and Lina Slusarczyk's home, 6 Regent St West, Mount Lawley. Followed by Committee meeting.

WACS Annual Show – Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th May at Hawaiian Forrestfield, 20 Strelitzia Ave, Forrestfield (corner of Hale Road)

WACS Presentation Function - Tuesday 28th May at 11:30am for 12 noon. Luncheon at John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Road, South Perth

WACS Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 10th September, John McGrath Pavilion at 12 noon.

Garden Clubs and Societies Fair – 8th – 9th September 2018 at South Perth Civic Centre

Distribution Day - Sunday 27th October 2018 at John McGrath Pavilion at 1:30pm

Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Facebook Page

Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society

www.facebook.com/groups/chrysanthemumwa/