

The Autumn Plot

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2009

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The penultimate At the Garden Gate with David



Very much a roller coaster start to our new year season with no rain, searing heat and then a 46°C north wind. But, the valiant true gardeners kept digging, planting, watering and fertilising and most of us have turned out a credible harvest. However, our good fortune is vastly overshadowed by the bushfires that have ravaged our state and the untold misfortune that some people have endured.

With this in mind I am so glad that Helen Jacobs and Martin Leahy came up with the suggestion of a barbecue and Farmers Market stall to raise funds for the bush fire appeal. As I write this we do not know how much will be raised but I am confident that whatever is raised will be given with our very best wishes for the recipients of this appeal. Thank you to all of you who gave vegies, helped package, transported goods or helped with sales. It is this club spirit that makes our group cohesive and strong. Special thanks to Martin and Helen for a splendid job.

I want to make special mention this time of some of our "ex"-novice gardeners. There are several near my plot and I have seen other plots further up the hill and the improvement over two seasons is phenomenal. They have asked for advice, listened to others and then applied this advice or tried things for themselves and the improvement is great. Hence I say "ex"-novices because I believe they have promoted themselves to good gardeners.

Unfortunately there are some plots that have fallen into weed gardens and **these will be reclaimed in July and offered to the people on the waiting list.** This may cause some aggravation but those few plots could have been used by others.



New blood needed in 2009/2010

I want you all to begin to think of accepting a committee role in August. Ralph and myself will be stepping down as office bearers FOR CERTAIN this year and we will need a new:-

Chairperson,
Secretary and
Treasurer.

This is not a blackmail statement, just a statement of positive intention. Discuss it with people you think would be willing and encourage them to nominate.

In the next few months plant your winter vegies while the ground is still warm and plant green manure crops of peas, lupins, oats, barley etc to keep the weeds down and at the same time improve your soil.

Good gardening to all.



Homegrown Tomatoes

Ain't nothin' in the world that I like better
Than bacon & lettuce & homegrown tomatoes
Up in the mornin' out in the garden

Get you a ripe one don't get a hard one
Plant `em in the spring eat `em in the summer
All winter with out `em's a culinary bummer
I forget all about the sweatin' & diggin'
Everytime I go out & pick me a big one

Homegrown tomatoes homegrown tomatoes
What'd life be without homegrown tomatoes
Only two things that money can't buy
That's true love & homegrown tomatoes

You can go out to eat & that's for sure
But it's nothin' a homegrown tomato won't cure
Put `em in a salad, put `em in a stew
You can make your very own tomato juice
Eat `em with eggs, eat `em with gravy
Eat `em with beans, pinto or navy
Put `em on the site put `em in the middle
Put a homegrown tomato on a hotcake griddle

If I's to change this life I lead
I'd be Johnny Tomato Seed
`Cause I know what this country needs
Homegrown tomatoes in every yard you see
When I die don't bury me
In a box in a cemetery
Out in the garden would be much better
I could be pushin' up homegrown tomatoes

Guy Clark

T ree Onions

By Helen Jacobe

A fellow gardener gave me some tree onions a few years ago and I have been keeping a careful balance between eating them and keeping some for replanting. I have a good crop this year and the best news is that little bulbils have formed on the flowers. The "bulbils" can be planted out to form new large onions.

The botanical name of these onions is *Allium cepa var. proliferum* but they are known as tree onions, walking onions, Egyptian onions or topset onions.

One onion produces up to 6-10 tender, juicy, onions at the base of the plant; and a stiff stem with 6-8 bulbils at the top. If the bulbils are allowed to develop then they will self-propagate by folding the stem to the ground so that the bulbils plant themselves.

It is important to lift the bulbs when the tops begin falling over as the growth of the bulbils may cause the ground bulbs to decrease in size if left in too long. Plant tree onions 3 cm deep and 15-20 cm apart in late spring.

For a good crop, tree onions require a rich, loam soil. Harvest the tree onions when the stalks dry, gather the bulbils and plant out straight away. Spread the bulbils on a wire screen in a cool, well-ventilated shelter to dry. Store in a cool, dry place or hang up in open weave bags.



An Overseas Overview



"Hanging around" in the New York Botanical Gardens



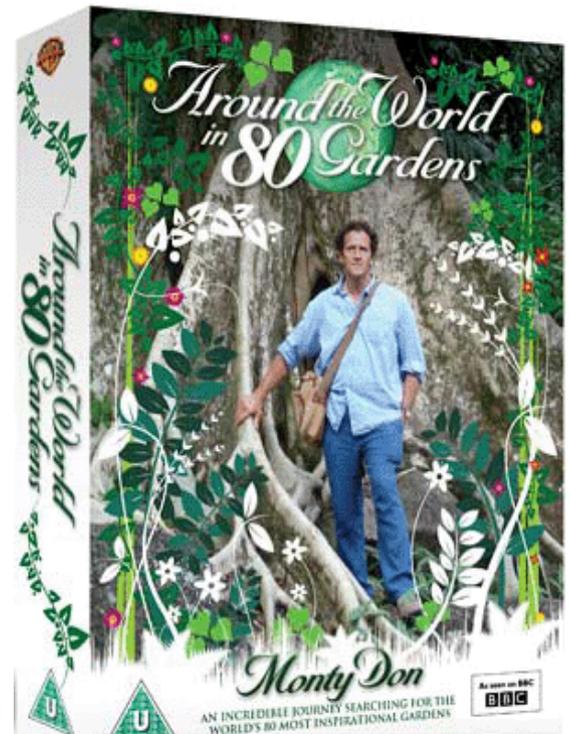
The Swiss always so do it well!



Some things are universal - New York Botanical Gardens



The Cloisters potager garden - New York



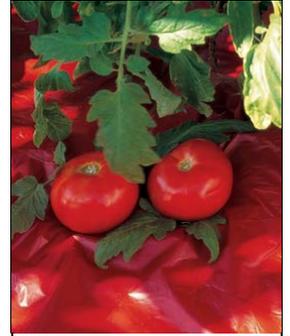
And... For the armchair traveller....

In a visually stunning jaunt BBC Two's resident gardening expert, Monty Don, sets off on an enchanting journey visiting several of the world's most fascinating gardens, both large and small, in locations including Mexico and Cuba, Australia and New Zealand, India, South America, The United States, China and Japan, The Mediterranean, South Africa, Northern Europe and South-East Asia.



Ringwood Community Garden Annual General Meeting Tuesday August 18th

Sauté green beans with bell peppers, tomatoes, celery, and a pinch of cayenne pepper for a spicy side dish.



Red mulch benefits tomatoes!

The red mulch stimulates stem strength and fruit production in tomatoes. Tests show that plants using red mulch bear tomatoes weighing an average of 46 percent more than others!



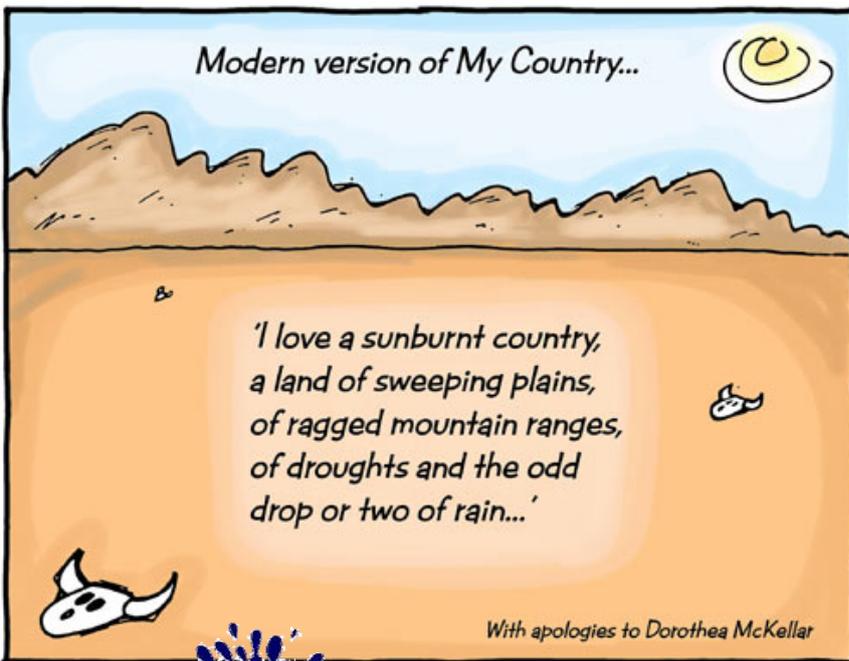
Dear Members,

I am always looking for ideas, information, articles, suggestions etc to improve this newsletter.

My thanks to those people who have already provided articles and suggestions in the past.

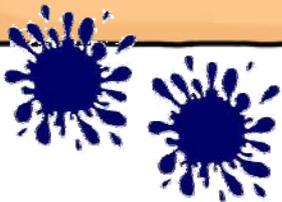
I am happy to continue collating and titivating "The Plot" in the future but my creative juices have run their course so it's over to all members to submit items for future editions.

Ralph

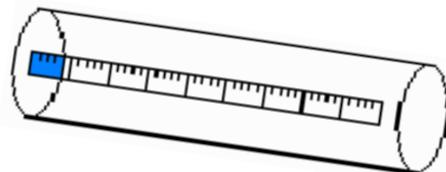


1/09 2006-5/10 © John Ditchburn

Thanks to your support, Ringwood Community Garden has raised \$794.05



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Ooooby

Out of our own back yards.

A network of people who understand the importance of growing their own food and eating locally grown and produced foods.

