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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome to our annual September Fruit and Vegetable Display. For class listings please see our programme.

We will also be choosing 3 exhibits from each of our classes to represent us at the Coolings "Show of Shows" which, as you know, will be held next Saturday. There will be many exhibits to admire, so it will be worth a visit to Coolings at Rushmore Hill, Knockholt, Kent, TN14 7NN, even if you are not entering. If you are unable to take your exhibit along but would like to enter please arrange to give your exhibits to either Kathy Aitken or Viv Parson who can take them for you.

Spring Bulb Competition

Our society will be holding a competition to grow the best pot of Narcissi "Pipit" bulbs, to be exhibited at our Spring Flower Display next spring. The bulbs are available tonight, from our sales table, at 5 for £1.

Bulb Planting Tips:-

Select Bulbs with Care

Take time to plan your colour schemes. Often it is better to choose 2 or 3 colours or cultivars, using either striking contrasts or subtle, harmonious combinations for a calmer effect. Also consider the flowering period of all bulbs chosen so that they flower in succession or at the same time as required.

Spot Colour

Small groups of bulbs tucked among perennials, shrubs, or rocks create bright accents. Use types with large flowers such as daffodils, tulips, and alliums, and group several together so they make a strong visual statement. If planting larger areas do not plant in straight lines but scatter them gently.

Plant in Large Pots

Large containers do not dry out as quickly as smaller ones. Pots packed tightly with bulbs can be positioned strategically in the flowerbeds when the green shoots are just pushing through the surface. Don't forget to protect from squirrels and birds with chicken netting and also from slugs and snails. Remember to use a loam-based compost.

Winter Planters

When planting winter displays of pansies, cyclamen, hellebores etc. remember to plant bulbs underneath in layers. Start with the largest bulbs first and plant them deeply. Then gradually plant layers of bulbs of decreasing size, ending with the smallest bulbs such as muscari nearest the top.

Top Tips for September

- 1 Divide herbaceous perennials such as phlox and hardy geraniums.
- 2 Continue to water patio plants and hanging baskets using tomato fertiliser
- 3 Keep up dead-heading on all autumn-flowering perennials to prolong flowering
- 4 Take cuttings of tender and semi-hardy plants eg. fuchsia, pelargonium and salvia
- 5 Pick autumn-fruiting raspberries and cut down canes when fruiting has finished
- 6 Thin-out oxygenated and floating plants in ponds. Net ponds before autumn leaf fall.
- 7 Collect seed and store in dry, labelled & dated paper bags or envelopes
- 8 Select and plant out spring-flowering bulbs except tulips, which can be left until Nov.
- 9 After flowering, lift and store dahlias in a cool dry place or cut down & cover with a thick layer of garden compost and horticultural fleece to protect from frost.
- 10 Pot up some bulbs to enjoy over winter such as Narcissus Paper White. They will flower 4-6 weeks after potting.

Dates for your diary

4th-5th October RHS London Harvest Festival Show RHS Lindley Hall SW1P 2QW.

Tuesday 4th Oct. 10am-9pm & Wed 5th October 10am-5pm members free, non-members £6 in advance, £9 on the door see www.rhs.org.uk/shows

8th & 9th October Great Comp Autumn Extravaganza 11am-5pm Plants, crafts, tools etc

28th-29th October 'Shades of Autumn' Show at RHS Halls London SW1P 2QD 10-5pm

Members may take guest in free on Saturday only

27th November Joe Swift talk at Blackheath Halls 3pm £16/£18 call 0208 463 0100

There are still some gardens open for the ngs. as we go into autumn www.ngs.org.uk

RHS Horticulture Qualification Courses at Hadlow College Mottingham

Practical Horticulture(level 2) Mondays 9.30am-1.30pm or Tuesdays 1-5 pm

Practical Horticulture(level 3) Fridays 9.30am-1.30pm

Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment & Maintenance (Level 2)Friday1-4.30pm

Certificate in Plant Growth Propagation & Development (Level 2) Tuesday 6-9pm

Sign up before the end of August for 25% discount. Courses start at the end September 2016 and cost £550 for the year..

Outings

Society members are invited on a coach outing to Great Dixter on Sunday 25th September. The coach leaves from Charlton House at 9am. The cost, including admission to house and garden is £25. Please contact Doreen Dunning on 0208 8530075

Next month Jude Lawton will be speaking about her invaluable work for Plant Heritage. This is the world's leading cultivated plant conservation charity, bringing together the talents of botanists, horticulturalists and conservationists and the dedication of keen amateur and professional gardeners. Through a number of conservation projects, including the National Plant Collections and Threatened Plants Project, they are helping to safeguard our unique garden flora across Britain and Ireland.