

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

hortinsights



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From The Editor

Welcome to HortInsights for December 2020!

Although 2020 has been an unusual year it has been a real joy and a privilege to see the horticulture and gardening sector thrive as several million Australians new to gardening found out about its rewards. We are optimistic and hopeful of a bright 2021 and everything it brings.

But first, Christmas! In this edition we take a Christmas horticulture theme with some tasty stories on offer.

Happy Christmas from all of us at AIH!

David Thompson
Engagement Manager
Australian Institute of Horticulture



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Indigenous Practice Of Cultural Burning And The Bushfires Prevention Conversation

By Lynette Russell, Professor and Director, Monash Indigenous Studies Centre

As bushfires take lives and destroy forests, animals, farms and homes across eastern and southern Australia, some are asking whether precious native habitats can be restored, and the country made safe in an era of climate change.

The Indigenous practice of cultural burning has traditionally been used as a way of rejuvenating and nurturing the land explains Professor Lynette Russell, director of the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre.

“I’m a historian,” she says, “not a fire management expert. Indigenous people are the ones who know best how fire can be used to care for country. Most people would agree that adopting these cultural burning practices would be a step forward.”

Last January, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation in central Victoria re-introduced cultural burning after a gap of almost 200 years. The ancient practice has also recently been re-introduced around Tathra and in the Shoalhaven region in southern New South Wales.

Cultural burns are carried out by people on foot who carefully monitor the fire so it doesn’t run out of control, and so the animals in the area have a means of escape.

These burns are smaller, cooler and more

labour-intensive than the more common hazard reduction burns.

Debate over fuel reduction

Since the bushfires began, a debate has arisen over the adequacy of the fuel reduction regime now in place. The wildfires began in Queensland and NSW last year, fuelled by drought during the hottest year on record. The dry and dangerous conditions inevitably reduced the number of days that were safe to conduct a controlled burn.



This has also been apparent in Victoria, where in 2010, following Black Saturday, the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that controlled burns of 385,000 hectares take place each year.

But in 2018, 74,000 hectares were burned; in 2019 that rose to 130,000.

Hazard reduction burns in remote areas are often started from the air, and are carried out during working hours in the middle of the day.

By contrast, an Indigenous cultural fire can be lit when conditions are optimal – perhaps in the late afternoon or during a morning mist.

The “cool fire” cleans out invasive understorey such as bracken, and encourages native grasses and herbs to grow. The forest canopy remains untouched.

The result on the ground is a fine-grained mosaic of different habitats, to entice a variety of animals and plants. Aerial fires cannot be as carefully managed.

Victor Steffensen, an Indigenous authority on cultural burning has been teaching the techniques to Indigenous communities around Australia for more than 20 years.

He believes traditional fire practice is “the answer to preparing our land and our community for climate change”. It helps the ecosystem “become balanced, beautiful and – most importantly – a safe place to live”, he says.

The practice isn’t a one-size-fits-all system, but must be adapted to each individual environment, taking into account the best time to burn, the breeding season of the local animals, and the types of plants in the area.

“I was in Kakadu during a burning off,” Professor Russell says. “The fire was so cool that when it went out, people were walking across the stubble. You could see the insects coming out of the ground, and the birds coming to find them. It was fascinating.”

Reclamation and rejuvenation

Last February, a study published in the journal *Human Ecology* examined how the Martu people’s hunting and fire practices influenced the ecology of the Western Desert.

The Martu people left the region after the Maralinga nuclear tests in the late 1950s to early

1960s. Soon after, the animals they hunted by burning the spinifex – the bilby, bettong and brush-tailed possum – also disappeared. Wild lightning fires raged through the landscape, and invasive predators proliferated.

In the 1980s, mining and exploration threatened their country, so the Martu returned to reclaim it.

As they hunted and burned the spinifex (below), the animals also came back – an outcome that didn’t surprise the Martu themselves. They believed the country became “sick” without people conducting burns to encourage young grass, bush tomatoes and other plants that desert animals like to eat.

“I was in Kakadu during a burning off,” Professor Russell says. “The fire was so cool that when it went out, people were walking across the stubble. You could see the insects coming out of the ground, and the birds coming to find them. It was fascinating.”

Aboriginal people must be given sufficient time and resources to become reacquainted with their traditional burning practices, Professor Russell says. Knowledge has been lost, and while the resurgence in interest is encouraging, “it’s very important that Aboriginal people are not set up to fail,” she says.

“Aboriginal communities don’t want to get this wrong. Where people have lost their knowledge, we have to be working carefully with them as they try new methods.

“What is happening now in Australia is a tragedy. Half a billion animals have been lost – it’s incomprehensible.”

Funding to maintain national parks also needs to be restored, she says, so that land is better-managed within protected areas. “We’re seeing the consequences of neglect today. It is devastating.”

Lynette Russell is Professor and Director, at the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre. Lynette’s research is broadly anthropological history. She’s published widely in the areas of theory, Indigenous histories, post-colonialism and representations of race, museum studies and popular culture. Republished from Monash Lens under Creative Commons.

We Looked At 35 Years Of Rainfall And Learnt How Droughts Start In The Murray-Darling Basin

By Chiara Holgate, Professor Albert Van Dijk, Professor Jason Evans

The extreme, recent drought has devastated many communities around the Murray-Darling Basin, but the processes driving drought are still not well understood.

Our new study helps to change this. We threw a weather model into reverse and ran it back for 35 years to study the natural processes leading to low rainfall during drought.

And we found the leading cause for drought in the Murray-Darling Basin was that moisture from oceans didn't reach the basin as often as normal, and produced less rain when it did.

In fact, when moisture from the ocean did reach the basin during drought, the parched land surface actually made it harder for the moisture to fall as rain, worsening the already dry conditions.

These findings can help resolve why climate models struggle to simulate drought well, and ultimately help improve our ability to predict drought. This is crucial for our communities, farmers and bushfire emergency services.

There's still a lot to learn about rain

The most recent drought was relentless. It saw

the lowest rainfall on record in the Murray-Darling Basin, reduced agricultural output, led to increased food prices, and created tinder dry conditions before the Black Summer fires.

Drought in the Murray-Darling Basin is associated with global climate phenomena that drive changes in ocean and atmospheric circulation. These climate drivers include the El Niño and La Niña cycle, the Indian Ocean Dipole and the Southern Annular Mode.

Each influences the probability of rainfall over Australia. But drivers like El Niño can only explain around 20% of Australian rainfall — they only tell part of the story.

To fully understand the physical processes causing droughts to begin, persist and end, we need to answer the question: where does Australia's rainfall come from? It may seem basic, but the answer isn't so simple.

Where does Australia's rainfall come from?

Broadly, scientists know rainfall derives from evaporation from two main sources: the ocean and the land.



A water restrictions sign at the entrance to Stanthorpe, Queensland, in October 2019. Then, the Storm King Dam water level was at just 25% AAP Image/Dan Peled

But we don't know exactly where the moisture supplying Australia's rainfall originally evaporates from, how the moisture supply changes between the seasons nor how it might have changed in the past.

To find out, we used a sophisticated model of Australia's climate that gave data on atmospheric pressure, temperature, humidity, winds, rainfall and evaporation.

We put this data into a "back-trajectory model". This traced the path of water from where it fell as rain, backwards in time through the atmosphere, to uncover where the water originally evaporated from. We did this for every day it rained over Australia between 1979 and 2013.

Not surprisingly, we found more than three-quarters of rain falling in Australia comes from evaporation from the surrounding oceans.

So what does this mean for the Murray-Darling Basin?

Up to 18% of rain in the Basin starts from the land

During the Millennium Drought and other big drought years (such as in 1982), the Murray-Darling Basin heavily relied on moisture transported from the Tasman and Coral seas for rain.

Moisture evaporated off the east coast needs easterly winds to transport it over the Great Dividing Range and into the Murray-Darling Basin, where it can form rain.

This means low rainfall during these droughts was a result of anomalies in atmospheric circulation, which prevented the easterly flow of ocean moisture. The droughts broke when moisture could once again be transported into the basin.



A lack of vegetation on the land can exacerbate drought. Shutterstock

The Murray-Darling Basin was also one of the regions in Australia where most "rainfall recycling" happens. This is when, following rainfall, high levels of evaporation from soils and plants return to the atmosphere, sometimes leading to more rain – particularly in spring and summer.

This means if we change the way we use the land or the vegetation, there is a risk we could impact rainfall.

For example, when a forest of tall trees is replaced with short grass or crops, humidity can go down and wind patterns change in the atmosphere above. Both of these affect the likelihood of rain. In the northern part of the

basin, less evaporation from the dry land surface exacerbated the low rainfall.

On the other hand, when the drought broke, more moisture evaporated from the damp land surface, adding to the already high levels of moisture coming from the ocean. This meant the region got a surplus of moisture, promoting even more rain.

This relationship was weaker in the southern part of the basin. But interestingly, rainfall there relied on moisture originating from evaporation in the northern basin, particularly during drought breaks.

This is a result we need to explore further.



Southeast Australia has been getting more rain in summer and less in winter over the past 35 years. AAP Image/Dean Lewins

Summer rain not so good for farmers

Rainfall and moisture sources for Australia and the Murray-Darling Basin are changing. In the past 35 years, the southeast of the country has been receiving less moisture in winter, and more in summer.

This is likely due to increased easterly wind flows of moisture from the Tasman Sea in summer, and reduced westerly flows of moisture from the Southern Ocean in winter.

This has important implications, particularly for agriculture and water resource management.

For example, more rainfall in summer can be a problem for horticultural farms, as it can make crops more susceptible to fungal diseases, decreases the quality of wine grape crops and affects harvest scheduling.

Less winter rain also means less runoff into creeks and rivers — a vital process for mitigating drought risk. And this creates uncertainty for dam operators and water resource managers.

Understanding where our rainfall comes from matters, because it can improve weather forecasts, seasonal streamflow forecasts and long-term rainfall impacts of climate change.

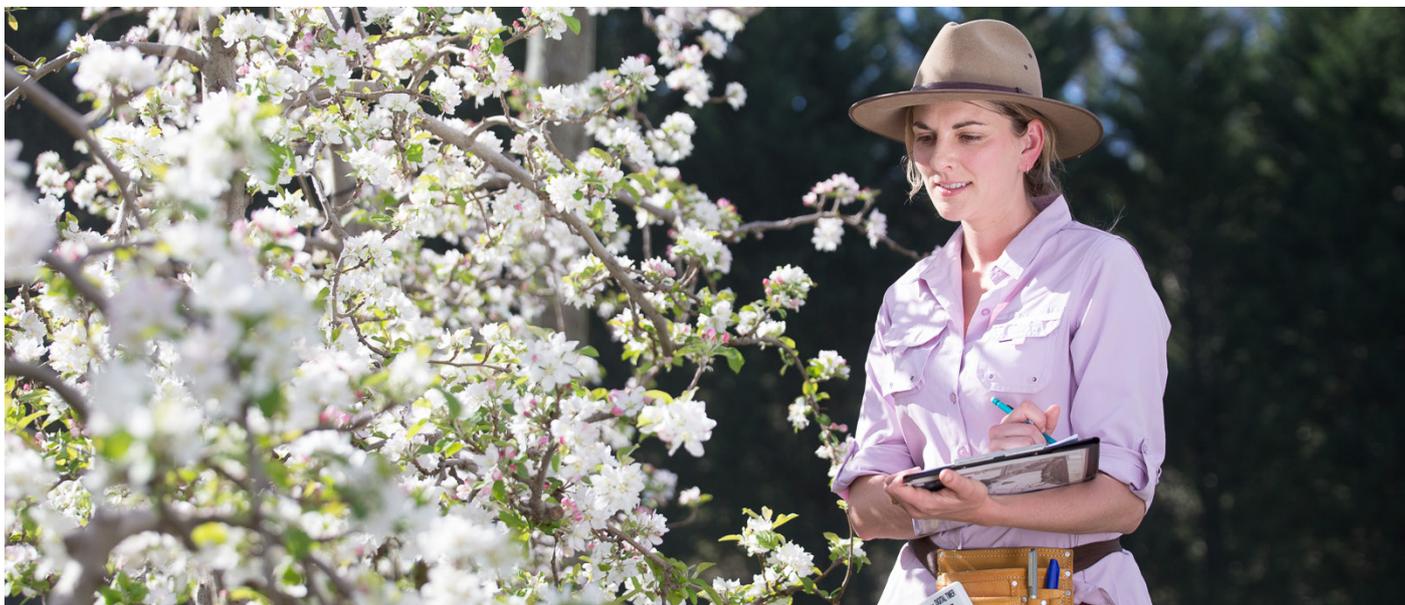
For a drought-prone country like Australia — set to worsen under a changing climate — this is more crucial than ever.

Chiara Holgate - Hydrologist & PhD Candidate, Australian National University,

Albert Van Dijk - Professor, Water and Landscape Dynamics, Fenner School of Environment & Society, Australian National University,

Jason Evans - Professor UNSW,

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Combining Crops And Native Forests Increases The Diversity Of Pollinators

By David Thompson, Engagement Manager Australian Institute of Horticulture

Research at Western Sydney University into flowering plant pollination has shown that native bees and exotic European honeybees can support plant pollination together, with different crops and plants attracting different varieties of insect pollinators.

Unlike findings in the Northern Hemisphere that showed flowering crops tend to act as a ‘magnet’ and drew pollinators away from forest species, this Australia-based study showed that a wider variety of insects interacted with both crops and forests that flowered at the same time.

“In Australia, introduced European honeybees are significant pollinators of our crops alongside native pollinators.

This research aimed to test whether planting crops near native forests tended to draw pollinators away from the forests, or whether in fact adding floral resources might attract a greater quantity of different pollinators”, said Dr Amy-Marie Gilpin, lead researcher at Western Sydney University’s Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment and previously based at the University of Wollongong.

“Instead we found that pollinators tend to specialise around their favourite plant species, and that increasing the flowering plant diversity also increases the range of pollinators present in the ecosystem.

This provides good evidence for the planting of different flowering plant types and means that crops are not taking pollinators away from native

plants or forests,” Amy said.

One of the species assessed is *Echium plantagineum*, commonly known as ‘Paterson’s Curse’. This prolific flowering species is usually considered a weed but is a rich source of pollen and nectar for honeybees.

The research found that a higher presence of Paterson’s Curse tended to attract more honeybees but this also did not detract from the successful pollinator visitation of either native or exotic plant species adjacent to the weeds.

“There is a clear case for allowing and encouraging plant and floral diversity even in managed ecosystems and this research shows that floral diversity enhances the diversity and variety of pollinators,” said Amy.

The research is published in *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*.

“Healthy bee populations for sustainable pollination in horticulture” (PH15001) is funded by the Hort Frontiers Pollination Fund, part of the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Western Sydney University, Bayer CropScience, Syngenta Asia-Pacific and Greening Australia, and contributions from the Australian Government. This article was originally published by Western Sydney University.

Karen Smith MAIH

Horticulturist & Editor of Hort Journal



Life's Diverse Connections Are Wattle Bring You Success

By David Thompson, Engagement Manager Australian Institute of Horticulture

In this edition's Member Spotlight, we chat with Karen Smith MAIH, editor of the renowned horticultural industry magazine, Hort Journal, and our 2020 Golden Wattle awardee in recognition of her services to Australian horticulture.

Karen's passion and experience as a horticulturist shines through every month when we receive the Hort Journal in the post or in our inboxes.

With a horticultural career spanning decades and a positive approach to life and work, Karen is an inspiration to horticulturists across Australia.

Networking and people create opportunity

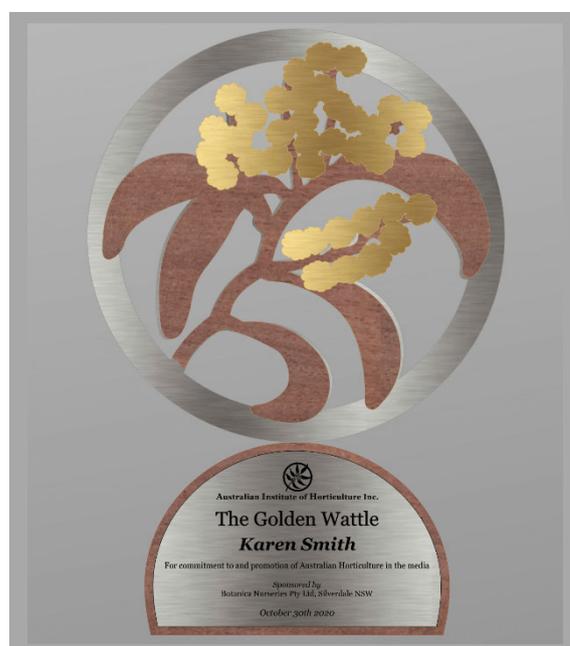
Almost thirty years ago after a career in the travel industry, Karen decided to study horticulture and began her career in a retail nursery before joining Yates offering consumers help with the endless task of support and advice and the occasional complaint.

Karen's enthusiasm and drive to help would-be gardeners find success meant that her role grew in size and scope.

"It was very much a role that centred around helping gardeners succeed and to feel confident they could reach a successful result with seeds, plant protection products and fertilisers", says Karen.

Around that time, Yates established its home garden care franchises to take advice and care services out to Australian gardeners.

It was then that Karen started as a technical trainer, offering the franchisees support and advice on best-practice horticulture and effective safe use of Yates' product range.



Rendezvous in Business

Karen is a natural and enthusiastic networker and she partnered with a group of women to form the women's networking organisation, Rendezvous in Business.

Designed to create and foster opportunities for women to succeed in their businesses with like-minded advice and support, the organisation raised more than \$70,000 in charitable donations for cancer research over six years.

Karen has been the NSW technical trainer for Yates since 2004, nearly sixteen years. It is a role that combines her love and knowledge of horticulture with travel across Australia.

"I help gardeners choose the products that will help them get a good result in the garden. But many customers aren't sure about differences between herbicides and fungicides, for example, so it really helps them to understand the right product for the right use", Karen explains.

The role sees Karen travel extensively which complements her work as the editor of the Hort Journal Australia magazine and allows her to explore her interests in regional gardens and places.

"I love meeting people and hearing their stories – that's really what gives me energy!" Karen says.

Networking into a magazine opportunity

Hort Journal Australia started life in 2008 with the need for a technical but accessible horticultural industry publication that offered more than consumer gardening.

"The advertisers and the readers needed a magazine that brought them new products, a blend of technical, business and people-oriented stories in a format that was enjoyable to read", Karen says.

When Judy Horton (MAIH, Retired) suggested the role of editor to a new industry magazine was opening up Karen (successfully) jumped at the opportunity. Karen approached the role with the view that connecting ideas and people would serve the publication well.

Twelve years later **Hort Journal** is the go-to publication covering everything from new pests, green life and urban greening updates, scientific and technical content and practical advice for horticultural business owners, supported by longstanding and committed advertising.

Love for plants and industry

Karen's interests and experiences have all worked together around a deep love for plants and horticulture.

Karen sees the value of joining organisations because she genuinely believes that being involved projects you to another level.

She has been an active in many associations over the years including a committee member of the Hort Media Association NSW, A selector for the Australian Open Gardens, and currently President of the interior Plantscape Association.

"These associations connect you with other like-minded people and opportunities arise from them", Karen says. "I am privileged to work in a beautiful industry that has shown its colours during the pandemic of 2020 as people flocked to their gardens for solace and for access to somewhere they can find peace and life".

"From my early days in the nursery to working at Yates and running my own business, all of these experiences have helped me come to appreciate the joy and the beauty of horticulture in Australia."

"We are a fortunate industry where people are turning to us for inspiration and for that positive sense of wellbeing we all get along plants and nature".

The Australian Institute of Horticulture commends Karen on her Golden Wattle Award and we are proud to count Karen as a supportive, generous and committed member.



Plant Profiles: Top Aussie Christmas Plants

By David Thompson, Engagement Manager Australian Institute of Horticulture

People have used plants for festive celebrations for thousands of years. As Christmas draws closer, we show you a few favourites a few less-common species that you can look up for a decorative and horticulturally-interesting Christmas look.

Poinsettia

One of the most popular Christmas plants is the Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima* – pulcherrima is Latin for ‘most beautiful’), a tropical plant native to Mexico.

In Mexico it flowers naturally in winter at Christmas, but in Australia professional growers force it into flower by modifying the daylength using black sheeting to block light.

With its flowery bracts and bright red or creamy-yellow leaves it is a popular choice for the decorative Christmas dinner table.

Poinsettia was originally named after the U.S Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, in 1825, a skilled and passionate botanist.

When visiting the country side in the city of Taxco, Mexico he discovered this beautiful, but unknown, red-leaved plant and shipped it back to America. From there, he began to cultivate it in his greenhouse.

Although not an Australian native, the Red Poinsettia was chosen as the floral emblem of the City of Brisbane by the Horticultural Society of Queensland and formally adopted at a ceremony at City Hall on 16 June 1930.



Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

NSW Christmas Bush

The NSW Christmas Bush *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* is a tall shrub or small tree. Around November to December the sepals turn a vibrant red/pink as the creamy-white flowers fade, giving it a long-lasting and showy floral transition that peaks in early to mid-December.

Use as a feature shrub/tree or in soft screenings or bordering hedges where it thrives in a sunny position with well-drained soil with regular moisture. It provides nectar and is a protective habitat for birds to hide in.



NSW Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) Image/ John Tann, Wikimedia Commons.

Western Australian Christmas Tree

The WA Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) is the only plant in the mistletoe family whose seeds are wind-dispersed.

The seeds have wings on them but because the seeds are quite large they often land just a few metres from the parent tree. The majority of seeds are eaten by ants and other creatures, or they are not able to germinate due to the circumstances not being ideal for germination.

Nuytsia can be a bit feisty with sharp bladed root tips that can punch through cables.

As they are parasitic they rely on access to root sap so the sharp tips enable them to pierce roots and take their fill from the host plant. Wrapping around roots it forms a collar that can girdle host roots more than 150m away!

The flowers are a rich source of nectar birds and insects attracted to their showy yellow flowers that bloom in mid to late-December. Certainly a plant to talk about over the festive table!



WA Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) Image/ Graeme Churchard, Wikimedia Commons.



How Science Explains The Colours Of Our Christmas Food

By David Thompson, Engagement Manager Australian Institute of Horticulture

When we think of Christmas, what colour comes to mind? For most people, that colour is probably red. Even Santa himself is red. Red is a colour reminiscent of family, good food, Santa and his gifts, and festive holidays. The Christmas table is laid-out with fresh crab, the vibrant red of holly berries and the delicate pinks and intense reds of Poinsettia.

Christmas red actually dates back to Roman times when celebrations used holly berries for decoration, picked as one of the few spots of colour in an otherwise winter-bare landscape.

In modern times, we've adopted all things bright and red, pink, orange and yellow to showcase the colour of Christmas celebrations.

According to leading plant science researcher, Dr Chris Cazzonelli at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, these colours originate from the natural plant pigments called carotenoids.

Carotenoid pigments are made only in plants, bacteria, fungi and some insects like aphids and mites.

Animals such as crustaceans (lobsters, crayfish and prawns) have to obtain these pigments as a food source from organic matter in the same way humans need to eat fruits and vegetables.

These pigments serve various organisms by attracting pollinating insects to plants, enticing

beneficial fungi to make healthier soils, warning predators due to their toxicity, and even providing vibrant colours to a bird's feathers to attract attraction.

For humans, these colours represent beauty, nutrition and health, which is why we are so drawn to them in times of celebration.



Dr Cazzonelli said these carotenoid pigments are essential to the healthy functioning of our bodies.

“Vitamin A is a classic beta-carotenoid-derived plant pigment that humans cannot produce themselves, so we have to ingest it from the foods we eat,” he said.

“We need beta-carotene and a yellow coloured carotenoid lutein for the health of our eyes.

We can get these carotenoids from eggs (that beautiful yellow of a yolk is a carotenoid that chickens take in from their grain-based diet) and from eating carrots, oranges, leafy greens and other brightly-coloured vegetables and fruits.

“We need another pink coloured carotenoid lycopene for our skin, which we can get lots of from watermelons and tomatoes.

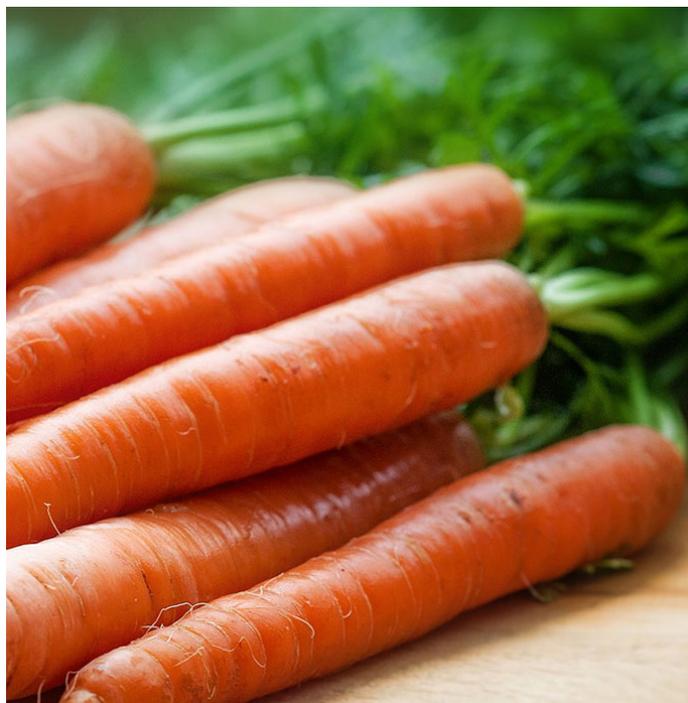
We also need our antioxidants such as the carotenoid astaxanthin, which you can get from lobsters and salmon.

“Finally, if you need to spice your Christmas foods add the orange carotenoid saffron, which has claimed health benefits in traditional medicine.”

This Christmas, celebrate the colour of good health – drink, eat and be naturally Merry!

Dr Chris Cazzonelli is based at Western Sydney University Hawkesbury. For this article, he drew on his own research paper called ‘Carotenoids in nature: insights from plants and beyond’, published in the journal ‘Functional Plant Biology’.

Originally published in the Hawkesbury Gazette.





Butchart Gardens

By David Thompson, Engagement Manager Australian Institute of Horticulture

The Butchart Gardens in Brentwood Bay, BC, Canada is a haven for all kinds of garden lovers! Over many decades, the land has been transformed from a limestone quarry to a paradise of millions of bedding plants. With more than 900 varieties on five acres of gardens, comprising six gardens in total, the Gardens were declared a National Historic site of Canada in 2004.



Jennie Butchart Image/Butchart Gardens

The story behind this extensive garden begins with Jennie Butchart in 1904, when she and her husband moved to Vancouver Island from Ontario to start a cement plant on a rich limestone deposit at Tod Inlet.

As the limestone deposits for the cement plant were depleted, Jennie started envisioning a better use of the space, and decided to build a beautiful garden.

Soil was transported by horse and cart and the land was gradually transformed into the spectacular Sunken Gardens. It's still possible to see remnants of the old cement plant when wandering through the gardens.

From 1906 to 1929 the gardens were extended, adding the Japanese Garden, Italian Garden and a fragrant, floriferous Rose Garden.



Butchart Rose Garden Image/Butchart Gardens

Many other additions have been made to the gardens since then, such as outdoor concerts, Night Lighting in summer and the Magic of Christmas in winter, plus an annual fireworks show, a children's pavilion and a menagerie carousel.

The Magic of Christmas is an exciting time at the Gardens and a major attraction.



Image/Butchart Gardens

Take a stroll through the festive Twelve Days of Christmas light display. Get into the holiday spirit with the beautiful wreaths and Christmas decorations. Go ice skating and listen to traditional carolers.



Image/Butchart Gardens

The Butchart Gardens is a beautiful destination with a fascinating history.

As soon as travel is back on the agenda, this is a place well worth considering when looking for your next overseas horticultural adventure.



Making Life For Aged Care Residents Cooler

Life in aged care could become a whole lot cooler thanks to an innovative new research project led by University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and Griffith University. Researchers will investigate the impacts of greenery, like shrubs and trees, on aged care facilities and their residents, and use this information to develop a model for Queensland's aged care industry.

Lead investigators Professor Claudia Baldwin (USC) and Dr Tony Matthews (Griffith University) will use a \$127,493 Queensland Department of Environment and Science grant – part of the Strategic Adaptation Priorities Program – for a joint research project named Green Infrastructure for Mitigating Heat Stress in Aged Care Facilities.

Landscape architects Dr Chris Boulton from Griffith and Dr Sylvia Tavares from USC are also involved in the project.

The team will conduct research and develop heat adaptation plans for industry partner UnitingCare's Queensland facilities, something Dr Matthews said had been largely overlooked by the aged care sector.

"Heatwaves have killed more Australians than fires, floods and all other natural disasters combined," Dr Matthews said.

"Remarkably, very little attention has been paid to the role of urban greenery in reducing heat stress for seniors.

"This innovative new research will tackle this crucial issue, with direct benefit for some of our most vulnerable populations."



Prof. Claudia Baldwin (USC) and Dr Tony Matthews (Griffith University)

Dr Matthews, from Griffith's Cities Research Institute, said adding greenery, like shrubs and trees, to reduce heat loads in aged care facilities would be the key focus of the study.

Professor Baldwin said smart technology would be deployed to record baseline heat loads, target areas for heat reduction and to track improvements in greenery and heat stress over time.

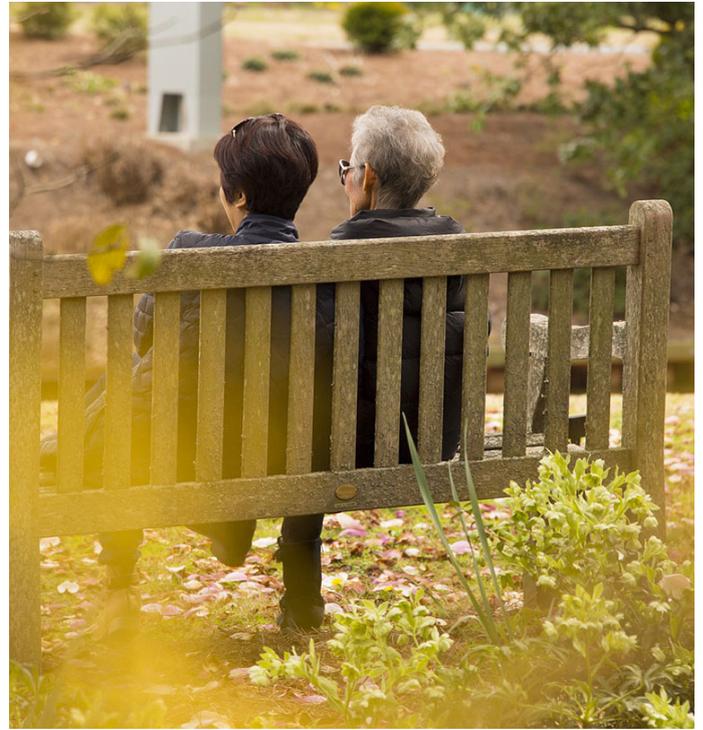
"This project involves providing leadership and capacity building for climate change adaptation in the aged care sector," she said.

“Reducing heat in aged care facilities will have multiple benefits for health, economic and social benefits for aged care providers, residents, staff and visitors, as well as contribute to biodiversity.”

UnitingCare welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with USC and Griffith University in taking a lead role to address the impacts of climate change through the first evidence-based heat adaption plans within the aged care sector in Queensland.

The project team will also conduct sector-wide workshops across Queensland to determine whether heat adaptation plans could benefit other aged care facilities.

Republished from the Griffith University newsroom.



5 Smart New Ways To Prevent Your Tools From Being Stolen

This article was republished with permission from Fitzpatrick Insurance Brokers.

One of the most common insurance claims we are seeing are stolen tools from either job-sites, back of utes, or even being mistakenly taken by another contractor.

Not only is having your tools stolen a considerable inconvenience, there is a financial impact on both replacing the tools and also the difficulty for you to complete current jobs and pick up new ones.

If your business relies on tools of your trade, we have 5 ways to protect your tools from being stolen, help you recover them, and potentially reduce your insurance premium.

We also recommend keeping an up-to-date inventory of all your hand-tools and power-tools, it may well be a case of “you don’t know what you’ve got ’til it’s gone”

1

Smart padlocks

If you don’t want to carry another key on your already full key-rings and you get sick of remembering your padlock code, there are several Bluetooth enabled padlock providers now, including MasterLock, Noke, Dog&Bone and AirBolt.

You simply attach them like a traditional padlock and then use your mobile device to lock, unlock, and track your property.



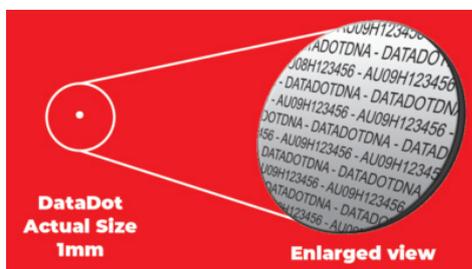
2

Microscopic labeling with DataDots

Labeling or engraving your tools can help you recover them if they’re stolen. But you’ve got to take the time to do it properly and there is limited room on the tools to include all your details.

Another solution is microscopic labelling technology. You simply pick up an aerosol can and spray hundreds of tiny dots – called DataDots – onto your property.

Each dot displays a unique code that is stored on the National Equipment Register database, and can verify ownership, assist in your insurance claims and provide evidence to prove theft.



3

Motion Sensing Camera

A motion sensor camera will help you catch the crook red-handed, it's also a deterrent if the thief sees this measure of security.



4

GPS Tracking

With GPS tracking, you can quickly and easily track down your tools if they're stolen.

There are plenty of technology providers with various solutions, but essentially they involve attaching a long-range, low-power GPS tracking chip onto each piece of equipment you wish to keep tabs on.

You then install the associated app on your smart device and start receiving real-time location updates.

Take care with the type of tracker you're purchasing - Bluetooth solutions are useful for locating things you've misplaced, like your keys, but less so for stolen items.



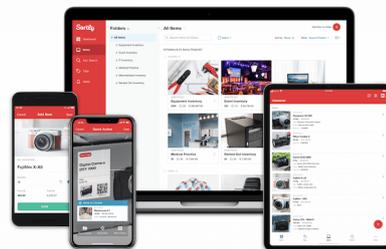
5

Digital Inventory

It can be difficult to know exactly what you have if you haven't kept an inventory of all your tools & equipment, it will be an even greater challenge at claim time to provide your Insurer a list of what has been stolen if you don't have any records.

This is where a high-tech, user-friendly inventory platform, such as Sortly Pro, can be invaluable. There are plenty of smart new ways to protect your tools from theft, but it's just as important to exercise some common sense – don't leave them unattended, lock them up at night and store them out of sight.

And don't overlook a good Business Insurance solution – whilst it will set you back the cost of the premium each year, this would be a fraction of the cost of replacing your tools and can allow you to get on with the job more quickly if all your tools are stolen.



MAGICAL LEMON LIME®

Nandina domestica alba 'LemLim' ♂

YEAR ROUND LIME GREEN FOLIAGE



Selected for its easy care, low maintenance and high impact foliage. This stunning evergreen plant has lush lime green foliage year round. The new foliage creates an explosion of lemon tones fading to lime green as they age. The compact habit means there is no pruning required to maintain the neat natural shape. This breakthrough plant is a must for any garden.

FEATURES & USES

- Compact, evergreen form with tight habit
- Extremely versatile and tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions
- Single garden specimens for small gardens
- Colour accent against dark green foliage
- Decorative containers for decks and patios
- Informal hedging and mass planting

CARE

Water requirements are medium once established. Prefers a moist, well drained soil. No pruning required.



FULL SUN



PART SHADE



FROST TOLERANT



CONTAINERS



HEIGHT 70-90CM
SPREAD 70-90CM

ORIGIN: USA // **SPECIES:** *domestica* // **PROTECTION STATUS:** PBR Applied : Nandina 'LemLim'

Business Sponsors



Evergreen Infrastructure

Evergreen Infrastructure specialises in green infrastructure solutions for the urban and built environment. Our work is steeped in a commitment to respond to global environmental issues by reimagining more sustainable lifestyles in both private and public spaces.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



Magnetic Media Productions

We are visual storytellers. We offer exceptional video production and photography to help capture your business' story and tell it to the world. We craft targeted social media campaigns with our visual content at the centre of the message.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Write for AIH

We welcome contributions to HortInsights from professionals, members and students in the horticulture industries.

Writing for the Institute offers an excellent way to share your views, knowledge and expertise with a passionate audience and you can be attributed CPD points

While we are unable to pay for content submissions, our editorial promise is that if your submission is accepted for publishing, we will endeavor to repurpose it widely, for our website, social media or other public media channels.

These Guidelines Will Help You Provide The Right Format To Be Published:

- Articles should be a maximum of 500-600 words. A more concise article with a definite aim and strong take-home messages will help our audience use your expert information well.
- Please provide sources and references if you cite or refer to others' information in your article.
- Please provide 1-2 quality images. Photographs must be large enough to be used in a range of publications with a file size of between 1 and 5 MB (megabytes).

We reserve the right to make editorial, grammatical and stylistic changes to text and images.

HortInsights is published six times per year.

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hortinsights

 aih.org.au

 members@aih.org.au

 (02) 8001 6198

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