



## August 2020: Special Edition 18

Dear Members,

My tomatoes are now producing a good crop from a wide number of varieties, and I often find myself eating them straight from the plant – so sweet; supermarket bought tomatoes are not a patch on them! Sadly, my courgettes bit the dust on the hottest day of the year. I hope you are enjoying your home grown veg.

As usual, please feel free to share your photos, comments, stories or cartoons and if you have any feedback on the Newsletter do drop me a line to [kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk).

Happy August!

**Kate Anthony Wilkinson** (Chair)

## MEMBERS GARDENS



Deryll looks like she will have a good crop of blackberries later in the season if she gets to them before the birds. The extra benefit is that these have no thorns.

## PLANT FACTS:

### EASTER/CHRISTMAS CACTUS

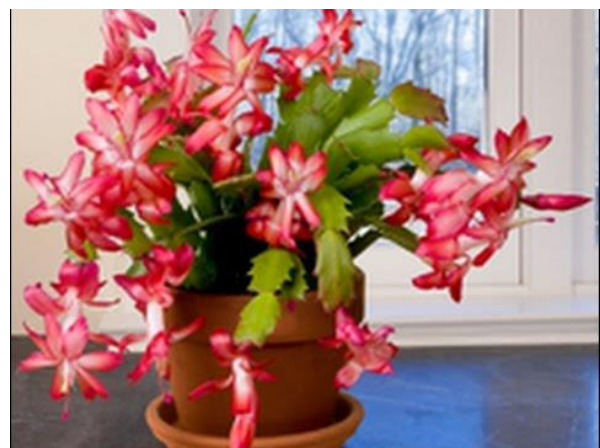
*Schlumbergera Gaertneri* is the *Easter Cactus*, not to be confused with its very similar winter-flowering cousin called

[www.lahortsoc.co.uk](http://www.lahortsoc.co.uk)

*Zygocactus Truncatus* or *Christmas Cactus*. Both are forest cactus (as opposed to the more prickly desert cacti), endemic to Brazil and to be found in their natural habitat growing in trees in the crotch of two branches.



Their stems look more like leaves and provided the plants have had the correct treatment they will send forth masses of blooms, up to 4cm long, at the appropriate season, the Christmas ones usually of a pinky-mauve colour and the Easter ones being bright red. The Easter cactus has leaves with rounded edges which are centralised on the leaf; the Christmas cactus has leaf projections which are more scalloped or tear shaped. A healthy plant can produce so many flowers that the rest of the plant is hidden. My Easter and Christmas cacti have little respect for the seasons and randomly flower at different times of the year as they wish.





Both kinds require repotting after flowering, followed by a rest period, and can be placed outside in summer. Keep them cool and on the dry side in the summer. Before the autumn starts, bring them indoors again, increase water and temperature when the flower buds begin to reappear.



Be careful not to overwater your cactus, as this will make the leaves go limp and drop off or go mushy and start to smell. If you want your cactus to be bushier than having long stems, then you can prune it after flowering.



Generally, the cacti like to be reasonably pot bound in sandy soil. Water only when the soil is completely dry but provide some humidity to the environment. Don't worry if some of the buds drop off – its natural for the plant to use a few.



## PLANT FACTS: CONFIERS

The list of conifers available for planting is endless, with every possible shape, size, colour, form, height and texture being represented. There is always room in every garden (however large or small) for one or two. Most are evergreen so there is the added bonus of winter interest.





# Long Ashton Horticultural Society

We often think of conifers as the huge leylandii hedges (below), but there are many varieties of all sizes.



The best planting times are April, May and early June, together with late August/September. Select well-grown container plants and keep them well watered for several weeks, until it can be seen that the plant has become established and have begun growing again.



If you do not have a suitable place in the garden, why not consider growing a few in large containers such as terracotta pots or stone urns and troughs. They look really good and can be moved from place to place and under planted with trailing plants in the spring. Several of the smaller *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana* group are suitable as are some of the smaller *Juniperus* (*Junipers*) and *Thujas*, such as *Thuja Occidentalis* "Rheingold" (photo below left), which grows up to about 1.5m in 20 years amongst many, many more.



Thanks to Chris Young for Conifer Facts.

## DID YOU KNOW.....?

A new wildlife garden has been created in Grenville Smyth Park in Ashton Gate to commemorate Jade Collins, a local lady who died in a car crash last year. Jade was a nature loving person with a passion for parks, trees and wildlife, who enjoyed spending time in the park. Her family and friends felt it would be a fitting tribute to develop the wildlife garden which was created by a team of volunteers with the permission and support of Bristol City Council and the Friends of Grenville Smyth Park.



## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ:

### Name the Flower

Name the garden flower which is common to all the following 8 clues.

1	Actress who appeared in the films Mamma Mia! Here we go again and Darkest Hour plus the TV programme Downton Abbey.
2	Pub on Blackboy Hill in Bristol named after the alternative name of the beautiful Emilie Charlotte Le Breton who was born in 1853.
3	National Flower of Finland.
4	The drag queen character of the TV presenter of the programmes For the Love of Dogs and Blind Date.
5	The Scaffold's No. 1 hit in 1968 about the "medicinal compound".
6	Phrase meaning lacking courage or cowardly.

7	Famous sports retailer based in Piccadilly Circus, London since 1925.
8	Australian fast bowler who, with Jeff Thomson, formed part of a formidable pace attack that terrorised English batsmen during the 1970s.

## LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: Answers- Find the Trees (below)

ALDER	FIR	PLANE
ASH	HANDKERCHIEF	POPLAR
BAY	HAWTHORN	REDWOOD
BEECH	HORNBEAM	ROWAN
BIRCH	JUNIPER	SPRUCE
BOX	LARCH	SYCAMORE
CEDAR	LINDEN	WALNUT
CHESTNUT	MAGNOLIA	WHITEBEAM
DOGWOOD	MAPLE	WILLOW
ELM	MULBERRY	YEW

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1					H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N		M	
2							U	H	C	R	I	B		A	
3	Y		F	H	A	N	D	K	E	R	C	H	I	E	F
4	A	W	H	I	T	E	B	E	A	M				B	
5	B		R	S	R	Y	R	R	E	B	L	U	M	N	
6	E		E			N	R	W	P	O	P	L	A	R	E
7	E	H	D		A		E	I						O	C
8	C		W	W		D	P	L				L		H	U
9	H		O		L	O	I	L	X	O	B	I			R
10		R	O	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	N			P
11	C		D		R	W	U	W			M	D		L	S
12		E		E	C	O	J			A		E	A		
13			D	Y	H	O			P	T	U	N	L	A	W
14		L		A	E	D		L			E			M	
15	A	S	H		R	W	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S	