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**PUBLISHER & EDITOR**

Pete Bower

email: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

**RESEARCH EDITOR**

Vanessa Bower

email: vanessa.bower@mweb.co.za

**PRODUCTION EDITOR**

Lilian Thompson

email: graphics@gautengsmallholder.co.za

**ADVERTISEMENT SALES**

Jackie Browning

Cell: 082 955-3162

email: adsales@gautengsmallholder.co.za

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**FRONT COVER**

Here's a rural decoration for your garden: An ornamental windmill. You can see a range at Garden World's Spring Festival, on now in Muldersdrift.

**COMMENT, by Pete Bower**

# The end-game



A number of authors, scientists, historians and archeologists firmly believe that our civilisation (such as it is) is not the first, nor the only, such inhabitation of our little speck of the universe. For while we still have monumental physical evidence of earlier civilisations in the form of the Pyramids of Egypt, Aztec and Inca temples in central and South America, and fossilised remains of hominids in caves and burial sites even in our own province, there are things within many of these phenomena and discoveries that we, for all our advanced scientific and didactic knowledge, can't explain.

And these are remnants of civilisations that we can still see and visit. Who's to say that the civilisations from which they came are the only ones? Why not also civilisations that have completely disappeared, and for which no evidence is yet apparent?

In this view, we are but a blip on the calendar of the planet.

Once the temperature reaches intolerable levels, the polar icecaps melt, the seas rise, vast expanses of land are flooded, the deserts expand, the groundwater is polluted, the air becomes unbreathable because of smog, crops die and we all starve to death, or die in battle, the planet will, over the next few millennia, slowly recover. As our remains, and the ruins of our civilisation slowly decay and are swallowed up by the earth and remaining insects, the overall temperature will start to drop, the seas will recover, new marine species will evolve and emerge to repopulate the land, on which new species of plants will start to thrive. And so the whole process will start again. This idea should be a comfort to anybody contemplating the inevitable demise of our race in the face of the climate change and the attendant hell and damnation that awaits us.

For, frankly, the future does not look rosy. Some scientists are calculating that unless urgent action is taken to drastically reduce carbon emissions we will reach a point of no return within twelve short years. Others are saying we're already beyond the point of no return, looking as they do to the polar icecaps where at the one end the Arctic Ocean is no longer frozen over in winter, and where at the other great chunks of the Antarctic icecap are melting away (while in between the oceans are filled with floating gyres of plastic and rubbish hundreds of square kilometers in size).

And within those twelve years, if we still have them available to us, we have the world's attention diverted by a lot of political red herrings. Europe is obsessed with its migrant crisis and resultant rising nationalism, the Brits have Boris Johnson and Brexit, the Americans have Donald Trump and China, Zimbabwe has inflation approaching 200% (again), and we have rampant unemployment, a hopeless education system, broken public healthcare, Jacob Zuma ~ and the Public Protector on a frolic of her own against President Ramaphosa.

Within this unedifying spectacle activists ~ far too few in number ~ try to drum up interest in a topic that should be top-of-mind for everybody. Namely, that "reduce, reuse and recycle" should be the mantra by which we all live; that your local authority and your government (wherever you are) is probably not doing enough, legislatively or administratively, to clean up the mess of previous generations and plan for the prevention of mess for the future; and that the best you can hope to do is to live as conservationally consciously as possible.

For, to be honest, nobody thinking clearly can see how a world with an expanding population, greater personal wealth and greatly increased mobility is actually going to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels to the extent it positively affects rising temperatures. For to do that would require the almost total cessation of air travel, with the resultant loss of tourism revenue, the almost total cessation of ocean transportation ~ at least in the sorts of ships sailing today ~ and a huge reduction in landside transportation, with whatever effect that would have on personal mobility, the work environment, distribution of food and goods etc.

Further, it would require a major reduction in the consumption of, and therefore the production of, consumer and industrial goods, with whatever effect that would have on the work environment, and the economies of towns, regions and countries.

Realistically, this is not going to happen. Realistically, too, we can now see the end-game in our not too distant future.

But before we get to Armageddon there will probably be another major war (and some would argue that it has already started), which could be over something as innocuous (but vital) as water supplies, or oil. Whatever, it won't be pretty and it will herald the demise of civilisation as we know it, and possibly the demise of mankind.



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## Veld fires: 'Bullied by my neighbour'

Sir ~ I would like to thank you for all your information about (veld fires and the National Veld & Forest Fires Act). I Googled this act and realise I (have been) bullied by my neighbour (named, a commercial enterprise ~ editor) for 20 years. They just grow bigger every year and are smothering me and my families with their noise, dust (and) smoke 24/7, 365 days of the year. I (have) a 3,5 ha plot with

three houses etc. Every year (they) set my veld on fire, like they did last night and the night before for 20 years. I went to the local police and even the station commander says I (have) an attitude and he will arrest the owner if I want him to do that and I must bear the consequences. I realised even he doesn't have a cooking clue what it entails. I went to (the) Benoni council and was sent from pillar to post and believe it or not they are a disaster, worse than

Cyclone Ida. I want to lay complaints at both entities, (but) needless to say, it would be easier to land on Mars. My two sons were so sick (from) the smoke inhalation they were crawling on the grass and vomiting, the fire got out of hand and we phoned the neighbours, because they set the veld alight and it spread over their (perimeter), which they don't maintain. One of the owners (whose) name I will not mention, politely commented (that) if I ask him nicely he will come

(and) help us, goodness gracious me. Complaints fell on deaf ears. Everybody just brushes you off as a nuisance just because they don't realise the seriousness of the situation. My grandson's sweater started burning (when) he took (it) off and hung (it) on the fence. Let me stop this bad nightmare and beg you if you can supply me with relevant info where I can put a stop to this

Continued on page 9

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# Chemical solution to PSHB scourge is nigh

While the current recommended method of

management of the rapid spread of Polyphagous Shothole Borer among trees

throughout South Africa is to destroy the infected tree, chip its wood on site and solarise

(bake) the resultant chips (Smallholder, July 2019), there is a chemical treatment, researched and perfected by scientists at a laboratory in Parys, which has been found to be effective against this pest.

However, at this stage it is not available for use by the general public and can only be bought and applied by

Continued on page 12

From page 7

and lay complaints against the people that don't have a clue why they are in those positions.

Isn't it high time that the relevant authorities give their employees training?

What will happen and who will take responsibility if someone dies.

Thanks for a very informative (magazine).

**Dan Pearson**

*Petit, (by email)*

Investigation and prosecution of a suspect in terms of an alleged offence under the National Veld & Forest Fires Act is a criminal, rather than a civil, matter. This means that (in theory) the state, through the SAPS, is obliged to open a docket, investigate the case, and pass the docket over to the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) which will take the matter to court.

Clearly, the alleged offence (this year) has now been committed, so there will be evidence aplenty for the investigators to work with, particularly if you have taken photographs.

But, before you lay a charge, and possibly get yourself involved in a matter which if nothing else will result, inevitably, in further bad blood between you and your

neighbours, are you satisfied that you yourself took all reasonable precautions to prepare your plot for the winter fire season, including cutting your veld and baling the cuttings, burning or ploughing adequate firebreaks,

## MAILBAG

and equipping your family and workers with sufficient firefighting equipment such as hoses, sprayers, firebeaters etc, with which to tackle any emergency? ~ Editor



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Sow + Boar Meal 40kg - R185.00



# NEWS

## (Weak) La Nina: Better rains ahead this year?

If all goes as is being predicted by scientists of the US National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (Noaa) it could be that the disastrous drought that has afflicted much of southern Africa in recent years, and which was the cause of a

drier-than-usual summer last season in Gauteng could be coming to an end.

That's because oceanographers are calculating that the

### PSHB

From page 9

licensed pest controllers.

According to Brett Restall of Newtown Fertilizers, the

Pacific Ocean's El Nino effect is weakening. In the next few weeks it is expected that ocean surface temperatures, which in an El Nino event are

higher-than-average, are approaching normal, a state called "Enso-neutral".

If that trend continues, which

Continued on page 13



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Johannesburg dealer supplying the product, the chemical treatment is a two-pronged attack on the beetle, and on the fungus on which it feeds. The first part of the treatment involves spraying the affected tree with a Chlorpyrifos compound, rendered more absorptive to the tree by mixing with a newly-developed oil-based carrier compound that allows for rapid and deep absorption into the wood. The chlorpyrifos, when delivered in this way, is effective in killing the *Fusarium euwallaceae* fungus which forms the staple food

of the beetle.

With the beetle's source of food destroyed, the second part of the treatment involves spraying the tree with a cypermethrin-based spray to kill the remaining beetles and their larvae.

Treatment is not a one-day affair and Restall recommends that the products must be applied weekly for six weeks to ensure full eradication. And, the sooner an infestation is identified and attacked, the greater the chances of survival of the tree.

For more information: Newtown Fertilizers, tel 011 838-9135

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# Garden World to host festival talk on weed

One of the most popular talks at this year's Spring Festival at Garden World in Muldersdrift is bound to be a double-header on Saturday 24 August entitled The Miracles of Medicinal Cannabis and the use of Blumat Watering Systems. To be presented by Southern Cape traditional healer and herbalist Sharon Price, the talk will look at the healing properties of medicinal cannabis. She will be joined by Lohan le Grange, an

irrigation and growing specialist (and cancer survivor) who will talk on the Blumat Watering System, an Austrian-designed watering device that uses no pumps, timers or chargers.

This year's festival, on now till 1 September, has the theme "See My Garden Grow."

And in a break from previous years where landscapers showcased their talents in a range of newly-built show gardens, Garden World has

opted rather to show how an existing garden can be completely revamped and changed merely by changing certain elements, such as the colour of a boundary wall or the position of a pathway. Thus, visitors to last year's festival will see many of the same gardens, but completely changed.

Says Garden World: "The emphasis in the make-over designer gardens section is on re-invent, re-decorate and re-vamp and this section will

offer plenty of inspiration for gardeners with a limited budget."

To accommodate the increased gardens, the display area has again been expanded to allow for a permanent display named "Outdoor Rooms" which will be on view all year round. Full details of the festival programme are to be found in the Diary section of this edition.

Garden World is on Beyers Naudé Drive in Muldersdrift.

## LA NINA

From page 12

is possible according to some calculations, surface temperatures should fall below average. This would herald the onset of a La Nina event, the effect for countries in the southern hemisphere of which is higher than average rainfall in its summer season.

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# Machine shop completes Genius' service range

With the recent opening of its well-equipped machine shop, Genius Landbou of Tarlton is able to offer a full spectrum of services to farmers including everything from new and used tractor sales, to parts and components, repair and refurbishment of all tractors and implements.

Started 13 years ago by brothers Bart and Evert Tjissen, Genius has thus grown to become arguably the largest dealer in agricultural machinery on the West Rand, and a formidable force in the field in Gauteng and beyond.

Indeed, what started in one warehouse on a plot alongside the N14 has now grown into a major complex of warehouses and workshops, with all the necessary safety and environmental equipment in place such as a major firefighting capability, oily water separator, parking and covered and open storage.

As far as new machinery is concerned, Genius specialises in the sale of Landini and McCormick tractors whose combined range covers every possible need from mini-tractors for greenhouse and nursery use to among the biggest machines available. Genius maintains a large spares section offering a full



Genius Landbou's complex on the N14, Tarlton

range of parts for, particularly, Landini and McCormick tractors, wear-parts for implements and consumables such as filters, lubricants, baling twine etc.

A full range of new locally-manufactured and imported implements is also available through Genius, covering

every possible application for ground working, fertilization, planting, harvesting and baling.

Genius holds agencies for

Lemken, Fella, Falcon, Jupidex, Gallignani, BPI, Kverneland and Monosem equipment and components, among other brands.

Genius also buys used tractors and implements, often as trade-ins on new machines.

These are either serviced and

refurbished for resale, or are stripped for their components.

These include all major components such as hydraulics, transmission, steering, engines etc, as well as body panels, mudguards, electrical

Continued on page 17



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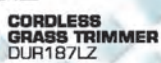
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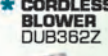
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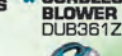
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# —SMALLHOLDERS

## Farming: 500 000 homelenders pack it in

**M**ore than half a million households in South Africa's former homelands disengaged from farming between 2011 and 2016, according to Statistics South Africa. This represents a loss of one in five crop farming households, and would appear to fly in the face of the current "land hunger" narrative playing itself out in the calls for "expropriation without compensation" being made by the ANC and EFF, among others. Researchers and academics

from a number of South African universities, including Penny Mograbi (Rhodes), Scott Drimie and Kristi Maciejewski (Stellenbosch), Timm Hoffman (Cape Town), Wayne Twine (Witwatersrand), Derick Fay (California, USA) and Paul Hebinck (Wageningen, The Netherlands) and Prof Charlie Shackleton (Rhodes) have collaborated to analyse the data collected by Stats SA in an attempt to ascertain the whys and wherefores of this trend.

Continued on page 19

## GENIUS

From page 15

components and instrumentation. Importantly, the used component stock is made up of parts from not only Landinis and McCormicks, but also other makes, and older models. Thus, running alongside the sale of new components and spares is a well-stocked used parts inventory, enabling farmers to repair their machines at a fraction of the cost of using new parts. Of particular interest to cost-conscious tractor owners is a store of used tyres and wheels. The tyres are removed from their rims and are thus available quickly and easily to farmers who need to keep their machines working in the event of a tyre failure. A comprehensive range of new tyres is also stocked. Backing up the sales activities is a fully-equipped workshop for services and repairs, staffed by six qualified mechanics, who are aided by apprentices in

training. Indeed, training has always been a focus for Genius and a younger Tijssen, Marco, has specialised in maintaining and programming the electronic wizardry found on today's more sophisticated tractors. He is thus able to help farmers in the field when they encounter issues with their microprocessor-controlled machines that would otherwise require expensive downtime awaiting a technician from the manufacturer or main dealer. Transport, both local and long-distance, is also available through Genius, for the collection and delivery of machines requiring repair, and for deliveries of new machines. In addition to its main complex in Tarlton, Genius opened a fully-stocked branch in Brits in 2009 to ensure that farmers in that area receive a high standard of service. For more information: tel 011 952-9926/7/8

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#### Quick Coupling DIY KIT 65mm

The system uses 65mm LDPE pipe. The fittings provided are enough to irrigate from 3 800 m<sup>2</sup> to 6 300 m<sup>2</sup>, based on the chosen design. The design depends on the spacing of the lines and sprinklers, which can be 12 or 18 meters.

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incl VAT excl delivery

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The price of this kit is **R 4 490.00**

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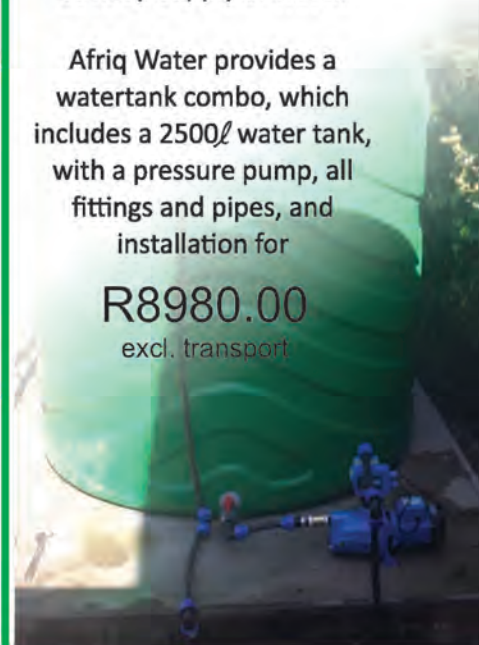
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# SMALLHOLDERS

From page 17

The former homelands were the ten areas demarcated under the previous apartheid system as places where indigenous, black South Africans were required to live along ethnic group lines. With little economic base and no government investment, underdevelopment and poverty were rife (and still are). Arable agriculture was thus an important livelihood activity of most households. The academics say, "The high number of households abandoning crop farming is disquieting given the high levels of food insecurity and

hunger in the country: one in five people is vulnerable to hunger, and about one-third of children in some provinces suffer chronic malnutrition. Why would households disengage from field cropping in the face of such high levels of hunger and malnutrition? " Regardless of methods of analysis used and locations studied, results from most of the sites showed that the planting and cultivation of fields, typically areas larger than 0,5 ha, has been abandoned on a large-scale. In some instances this has been partially compensated for by the intensification of smaller scale home-gardening.

"Such a decline in cropping makes rural households, most of whom are poor, more reliant on food purchases, and at the mercy of price hikes. Such food is often of a lower diversity and nutritional quality. Additionally, the

decline undermines the household and national food security and self-sufficiency. While this dynamic is not unique to South Africa, it has received little attention in the national debates around land and about agriculture. "

The abandonment of crop farming fields isn't new, say the researchers. "But some researchers have argued that it's accelerated in the last two decades. Irrespective, one wonders what might be the causes of such a loss of skills, knowledge, labour and land

out of cropping. "

The answer is that there is unlikely to be a single cause. The interplay of specific drivers behind the change varies from place to place, and from household to household, even in the same village.

Nonetheless, there are several, often interrelated, causes mentioned more often than others by rural villagers themselves. These include:

- ☐ Insufficient funds to buy inputs;

Continued on page 21

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From page 19

- ☐ Increasing incomes from other sources (mostly social grants), making it possible to buy food from shops;
- ☐ Environmental change such as climate change or declining soil fertility;
- ☐ Recurring damage to crops by livestock that are not herded because children are in school;
- ☐ Socio-cultural change, such as a decline in patriarchy, with many female-headed households, and youth who do not wish to follow in their father's footsteps.
- ☐ Aspirations for urban

livelihoods leading to some young people not seeing a future in farming; and

- ☐ Inadequate direct and policy support from the government.

Understanding the relative contributions of these different causes can contribute towards more informed decision-making, at local and national levels.

"The effects and implications of the change are also worth examining. These span social, economic and ecological spheres.

"Socially, there is loss of identity as farming communities. That's because more young people increasingly aspire to a future in less physically demanding, and more financially rewarding, jobs. The decline of field cropping means that the people who used to work the fields (including household labour) are either now unemployed or have moved to other sectors. "

Another consequence is that food security may be compromised. For example, Dr Gamuchirai Chakona, an environmental science researcher at Rhodes University, has found that farming households have higher dietary diversity. And, Mike Rogan, a professor of labour studies at Rhodes University, has reported that farming households experience less hunger, even though they may be poorer in terms of income.

Economically, idle arable land in the context of a growing national population jeopardises national food security and requires increases in food imports.

Ecologically, there may be both pros and cons. Abandoned fields provide other products, such as firewood, that are useful to local communities or general society. Increased biodiversity in deactivated fields increases carbon absorption, and helps

mitigate the effects of climate change. But such changes will also alter fire regimes and make some old fields susceptible to invasive species.

"Only a small proportion of households in the former homelands are full-time farmers. This number is declining, as is the area of land being cultivated. Government support for cultivators in the communal areas is quite limited,

Continued on page 23

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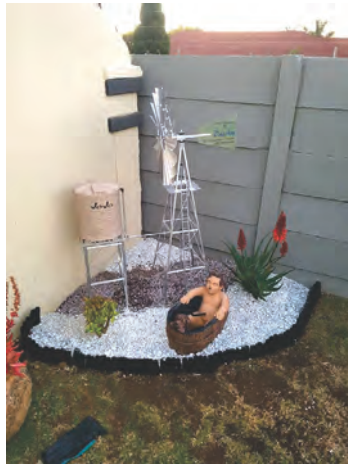
Available in a range from the tabletop model that has a total height of 54cm and wheel diameter of 20cm to a 4m high model with a wheel

## LAND-USE

From page 21

and focused on a small fraction that is capable of selling surplus produce to the formal market. "Policies and interventions that promote the value and image of agriculture, and which strive for food security for all are limited. On the other hand, having unused land means it could be reactivated, as a safety net during adverse times, such as the loss of a job or loss of a breadwinner.

"There is a clear need to understand this ongoing decline in crop farming. There is also a need to debate the implications for the use of the abandoned land. To find appropriate policy responses, such debates should take place across sectors and involve households, the villages, districts and country."



Miniature ornamental windmill size of 1,5m. There is a choice of fully functional or ornamental, on the larger models, although all models intended for ornamental use, pumping water to or from a

water feature, rather than extracting it from a borehole. According to the developer, Arthur Bibbey, the windmills are made of aluminium. The wheels are running on ball bearings so that even the mildest puff of breeze will turn them.

Small watertanks with tank stands and dams are also available to complete the real farmlike scene.

The smaller models are assembled using rivets while the larger ones are bolted together.

Prices range from as little as R480 for the tabletop model, with the range including models measuring 1,54m, 2,3m, 3,2m and 4,0m.

Buyers can arrange to collect their chosen model or delivery can be arranged by courier, says Bibbey.

For more information: Arthur or Daleen Bibbey, 082 561-9010 or Facebook Page: DalArt

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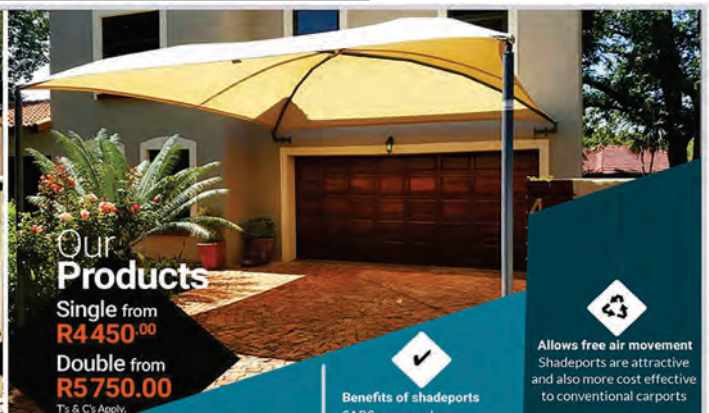
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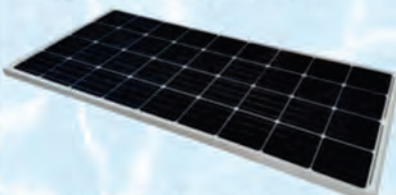
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## Manto's spud: No AIDS cure, but it's still good

The "African wild potato" (*Hypoxis hemerocallidea*) first rose to fame ~ or was it infamy? ~ in 1997 when now-departed health minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang recommended its immune strengthening properties to patients with HIV and AIDS (along with beetroot and lemon juice...). It turns out that the African wild potato was misnamed as it is a corm, which is compressed underground stem developing vertically, and not a tuber, which is a swollen stem, like the potato, developing horizontally. Whatever its name the plant is extremely popular with traditional healers, so smallholders might consider growing it for this trade. Back in 2007, it was estimated that between 62 000 to 170 000 individual bulbs are sold annually in the Witwatersrand markets alone. Land transformation and habitat loss in Gauteng is also a threat to the species. It is a beautiful tuberous perennial, synonymous with the grasslands, where its yellow flowers herald the arrival of spring and summer rains. It is a hardy garden plant and originates from Southern Africa. It occurs in a wide range of habitats, including sandy hills on the margins of dune forests, open, rocky grassland, dry, stony, grassy slopes, mountain slopes and plateaus. It is a tuberous perennial with straplike leaves and yellow star-shaped flowers. The leaves are up to 400 mm long, neatly arranged one above the other in 3 ranks, broad, stiff and arching outwards with prominent ribs and tapering towards the tips. The lower surface of the leaves is densely hairy with white hairs. Leaves appear above ground

in spring before the flowers. It flowers from very early spring to midsummer ie, August to April. Seeds are hard, black, smooth and glossy. The fruit is a capsule that splits across its diameter to expose the small black seeds.

*Hypoxis hemerocallidea* arises from a large dark brown corm which is covered with bristly hairs. The corm is bright yellow when freshly cut and has an unpleasant bitter taste.

The plant prefers full sunlight and well-drained soil. Propagation of the plants is done from seed, tissue cultures and bulbs. If you already have the plant growing on your plot, seeds should be collected just before the capsules open. Remove old flowering stalks to encourage flowering. Seeds can be treated with fungicide and boiling water before planting into compost-rich

soil. Germination can take up to a year. Seedlings should be left for a year before transplanting. For best results, seeds should be kept cold for six to eight weeks (mixed with vermiculite in the refrigerator) before sowing in well prepared seed boxes.

Seeds should be sown in early spring and should be planted 1mm deep and covered with

Continued on page 27



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# WILDFLOWERS



Left: African Potato corm cut to reveal bright yellow flesh. Below: Evenly spaced leaves and yellow flower.

From page 25

fine grass compost.

Seeds are occasionally available from indigenous nurseries.

Corm division is a more rapid and successful method of propagating the plants. It is suggested that the field should be ploughed into long rows of mounds.

One-year-old corms need less space to be planted (10 cm apart in rows and 20 cm between the rows). If the intention is to leave them to grow for more than three years, the spacing should be increased (20 cm apart in rows with 50 cm between rows) to accommodate the large size.

It is not necessary to use chemical fertiliser, however, as the corms will remain in place for some time, enrich the soil with compost or mulch a couple of times a year.

The soil should be kept moist but not wet, with good ventilation and low humidity. The plants should be irrigated weekly. Give the plants 25 mm of water per week for the first three months. In cool climates the plants must be kept dry during winter. The plant is extremely hardy and drought-resistant.

Unfortunately it is quite popular with termites and other pests such as American bollworm, spotted maize beetle, stink bug and grasshopper. Porcupines dig up the corms and centipedes eat the outer covering. Application of registered pesticides is recommended

for most of the abovementioned pests. African potato can be harvested in summer when the plants are actively growing. Harvesting them takes place throughout the year once the corms have reached a weight of 250 gm. A handpick method is used to harvest the plant.

*Hypoxis hemerocallidea* is fire-tolerant, and occurs widely in grassland where fire is part of the ecological regime. It is dormant during the fire season and re-sprouts after fire. The fibres protect the corm against fire damage. Fire promotes the growth of new leaves. Seeds are also stimulated to germinate by fire.

The flowers are visited by bees and other pollinators. Although it is not known to be favoured as food by browsing herbivores, livestock will eat the leaves and flowers of plants found growing naturally in pasture, especially when the pasture is overgrazed.

The African potato is a very important medicinal plant that is used extensively in both traditional and western medicine.

Traditional healers use it to treat delirium, 'bad blood' (in diabetes), PMS and as a parasiticide.

Conventional uses include application of a deep penetrating ointment to treat symptoms associated with arthritis, psoriasis and fibromyalgia. It is also beneficial against skin conditions such as eczema,



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# SOIL HEALTH

## Lime and its uses in your soil

**A**lthough not technically a 'fertiliser', the role of lime in managing soil fertility is very important. It is regarded as the 'master variable' in soil fertility because it affects so many of the biological and chemical functions of the soil.

Lime is an inorganic substance that contains calcium that is made from crushed limestone or chalk.

Agricultural lime is calcium carbonate, while dolomitic lime is a compound of roughly equal quantities of

calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate. Dolomitic lime is slightly less soluble than agricultural lime, but its neutralising effect is about 10% more effective. Slaked or building lime can be cheaper, but it absorbs moisture and is caustic and unpleasant to handle. It could also delay germination. Applying lime to acid soils will:

- ☐ Increase microbial activity;
- ☐ Help improve soil structure;
- ☐ Increase the availability of

nitrogen and phosphorus;

- ☐ Decrease the availability of copper, zinc, cobalt and boron;

- ☐ Reduce toxicity of manganese and aluminium.
- Having the incorrect soil pH can increase the risk of

## FLOWERS

From page 27

acne, scars, burns, rashes, bed sores, warts, stretch marks, sunburn, insect bites and dry skin.

However *Hypoxis* also contains toxic substances in the raw form, and has not been registered with the Medicines Control Council (MCC) for that reason. Smallholders be warned: the raw products can be toxic and must be used with caution. It is recommended to use a shelf product as a safe alternative.

diseases and compromise the availability of nutrients in the soil. Both macro and micro-nutrients available to plants are affected by the soil pH. You can carry out a simple test for acidity. This is particularly important on soil that has been worked for many years, ie, in established beds, and for certain plants such as strawberries, artichokes etc which prefer acidic soils.

The measurement of acidity/alkalinity is done according to a 14-point pH reading, where

Continued on page 31

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# SOIL HEALTH

From page 3021

where 14 is deeply alkaline, 1 extremely acidic and 7 neutral. Thus, soils that register between 7 and 1 are progressively acid, while those between 7 and 14 are progressively alkaline.

Simple testing is done by inserting a probe into damp soil and reading off a meter. The testing devices are available at garden shops and nurseries.

However there are more accurate testing kits which you can buy from your local garden centre or online to test your soil. It will contain liquids and equipment to



Spreading lime

conduct tests not only for pH, but also for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash (N, P, K) content.

There is another simple DIY test using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

Collect a cup of soil from

different parts of your garden and put two spoonfuls into separate containers.

Add half a cup of vinegar to the soil. If it fizzes, you have alkaline soil, with a pH

between 7 and 8. The chemical reaction that you're seeing occurs when an acid (the vinegar) comes into contact with something alkaline (the soil).

If it doesn't fizz after doing the vinegar test, then add half a cup of water to the other container and mix. Add half a cup of bicarbonate of soda from your kitchen cupboard. If it fizzes you have acidic soil, most likely with a pH between 5 and 6. The reaction you're seeing is the result of acidic soil coming into contact with an alkaline

substance (the bicarbonate of soda).

If your soil doesn't react at all it is neutral with a pH of 7 and you are very lucky.

The ideal pH depends on the plant species, as they vary greatly in pH tolerance.

For most pasture plants, slightly below neutral (5.8-6.0) is preferred.

Over-liming soils, so they are consistently above pH 6.0 is not good practice. If soil is

Continued on page 33

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# SOIL HEALTH

From page 31

too alkaline, nutrients such as iron, manganese, zinc and phosphorus become inaccessible to the crop.

The rate at which lime affects soil pH depends on several factors, including particle size, soil conditions, application rate and whether the lime is incorporated into the soil or left on the surface. However the process usually takes one to two years. Although you can raise soil pH faster or slower, doing so more quickly often has risks for plants.

Soils become acidic over time as a result of a number of natural and agricultural processes. These include:

- ☐ Applying nitrogen fertiliser;
- ☐ Decomposition of organic matter;

- ☐ Leaching, particularly in high rainfall areas, and,
- ☐ Nitrogen fixing by plants such as legumes.

Even plants taking up nutrients will cause acidification.

It's not an exact science but an application of good lime should last for at least three years. So if you test every fourth year, you'll know if you need to reapply.

Smaller particles react more quickly in the soil, so choose an agricultural lime that is finely ground.

Apply lime at any time of the year, but preferably immediately before ploughing.

Unlike fertiliser, lime reacts slowly in the soil, which is why it should be applied at least six to eight weeks before

planting or sowing.

In some situations, you can spread lime and fertiliser at the same time with no negative effects. In general, fertilisers will not react with lime in a way that makes either material less effective. But this approach is only advisable if you do not currently have a serious pH problem ~ for example, if you are applying lime simply to maintain proper pH rather than to correct excessive acidity.

If your pH is currently below 6.0, a fertiliser application will not have the full effect because the supplemental nutrients will be less available in this acidic soil. In this case, you should apply lime first and wait until the pH is at

least partially improved before applying fertiliser.

However, if too much lime is mixed with fertiliser containing ammonia, a chemical reaction will take place that could cause ammonia loss. This problem is usually eliminated if dolomitic lime is used.

Lime promotes the activity of earthworms and nitrogen-fixing bacteria as well as the breakdown of organic material that releases nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur and micro-elements, so it can be applied at the same time as compost.

Whether liming to maintain or recover soil pH, surface application (at appropriate rates) is currently the recommended method.

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# IN THE FIELD

## Simple sums: How to measure your field

To be able to apply lime, manure, compost or fertiliser at the recommended rates (amount of manure etc per unit area of land), you need to know the area of your bed or field. You can estimate the size of your bed or field fairly accurately by pacing the length and width. One purposeful pace is about the same length as a metre, but it is more accurate to measure a metre in soft soil and test the length of your pace against it.

Determine the length of your field by counting the number of paces it takes you to walk from one side of the field to the other along the length of the field (the longest side of the field).

Do not forget to record the number of paces, so take along a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.

The same procedure is followed to determine the width of the field (the shortest side of the field). You count the number of paces while walking from one corner of the field to the opposite corner along the short side of the field and record the number of paces it took you to get there.

If you are satisfied that the length of your pace is almost exactly 1m, to determine the area of the field, you multiply the number of paces obtained for the length of the

field with the number of paces counted for the width of the field. This will give you the approximate area of your field in square metre ( $m^2$ ). If, however, your pace is shorter than a metre, say only 75 cm, multiply the number of paces by the decimal fraction of 1m to obtain the length in metres. Thus, if you counted 100 paces, and your pace is 75cm, multiply 100 x

.75 (= 75m).

The same principle applies to the width.

If the shape of the land is irregular you can still determine its area. Start by drawing a rough sketch of its shape on a piece of paper, and mark off the obvious rectangles and squares. Measure these individually and add their areas together to reach the total area.

If you finish up with a triangular piece a rough guide to its area can be achieved by measuring the length of the flat side opposite the apex point, then the length from the flat side to the apex point, multiplying these together as you would for a rectangular area, and dividing the answer by 2.

A more accurate answer can

Continued on page 37



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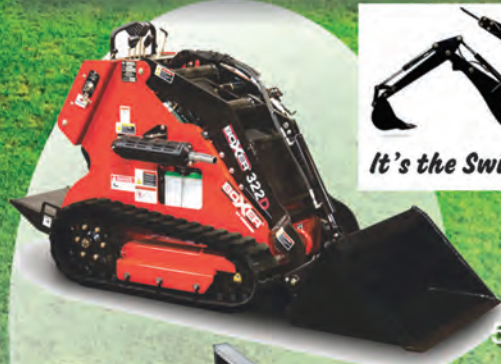


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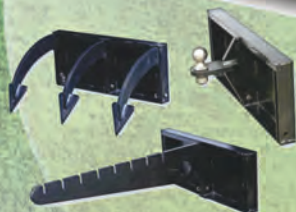


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## Leg & foot problems in chickens

**W**hen you do your frequent health checks of your poultry, an examination of their feet, claws and legs is



Sore-footed chicken

important, as problems there will prevent the fowls from leading a healthy and active life.

Generally, if any bird has been bred from healthy stock, was hatched with no incubator problems, is fed correctly and incurs no injuries, it should remain clear of any leg problems. If an issue does arise it is usually easier to treat if caught early enough.

At the slightest hint that a bird is not comfortable on its legs, it should be thoroughly examined. Like all animals, chickens will try to cover up any weakness so as not to appear to be vulnerable to

predators or to fellow members of the flock who might attack it.

If you spot slight lameness the following need to be answered:

- ☐ Is the bird holding up the foot and clenching the toes?
- ☐ Is the bird lame in both legs or just one?
- ☐ Is there any swelling or heat in part of the leg that is lame?
- ☐ Are there any noticeable wounds?
- ☐ Is there muscle weakness in the leg or thigh?

☐ Is the bird using its wings to balance?

☐ Does the bird have any deformity in the legs or feet?

☐ Is the bird still eating and drinking?

☐ Is the bird showing an overall listlessness?

Staphylococcal infection, caused by *S aureus*, is a major cause of lameness in chickens. Clinical signs of this disease include lameness, with swollen joints and foot pads. *Staphylococcus aureus* (Staph) is a common bacte-

Continued on page 39

## FIELD

From page 35

be achieved by applying some schoolboy geometry formulae but dividing by 2 will be close enough for

smallholder use.

To convert the area of your field to hectares, divide the area in square metres (m<sup>2</sup>) by 10 000.

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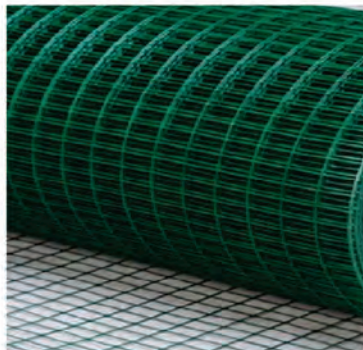
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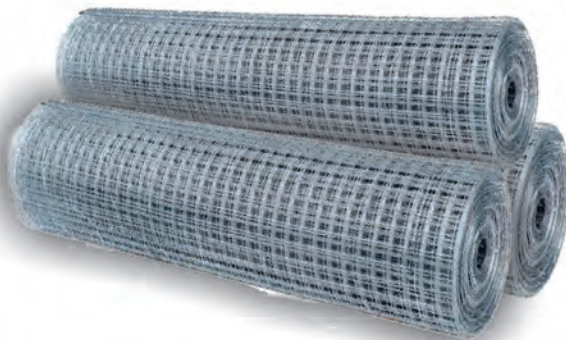
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From page 37

rium found in every poultry house. Stress or injury provides the opportunity this bacteria needs to enter the bird's body and cause an infection.

If there are no obvious injuries to the legs, examine the bottom of the foot. A cut on the pad or bottom of the foot can cause

Staphylococcus bacteria to infect the foot and the pad to swell, causing lameness. This swollen pad is sometimes called Bumblefoot. When squeezed, pus might come out of it.

Since open injuries are the main route of entry, removal of all sharp edges within the chicken house and run is essential. If the birds brush by these edges, causing a small abrasion, infection is almost inevitable.

Sometimes the core of the wound can be removed and an antibiotic sprayed into the cavity. Antibiotics can be used in the feed or water, which may clear up the infection, but any damage to the feet and legs of the bird may be permanent.

Another bacterial infection should be suspected if the hock joint and legs feel hot and look swollen or are painful to touch, as the cause could be *Mycoplasma synoviae*, which can sometimes be serious. It is best to visit your vet so that he can examine the bird and provide a course of antibiotics if appropriate.

If there is a bleeding wound on a leg or foot of your chicken, it should be cleaned with a mild antiseptic and

then treated with wound powder or antibiotic spray. Bleeding needs to be stopped by applying sterile a bandage or dressing. The chicken should be removed from the flock otherwise the others might peck at it.

Check daily to see if all the claws and toes are fit so that any damage can be treated immediately. If a claw has been broken through some mishap there will be evidence of blood on the bird's perch.

A broken toe may be bandaged to set it but if the break is too great it might require veterinary attention. Any open wound should be cleaned with a mild antiseptic and then treated with wound powder or antibiotic spray. The bird should then recuperate in an area with only clean shavings, which will mean picking up faeces whenever you check on it.

Viral infections that might cause lameness are viral arthritis and Marek's disease. Other symptoms of Marek's disease are unilateral paralysis of the wing or leg,

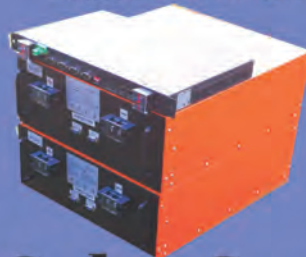
Continued on page 41



Bumblefoot

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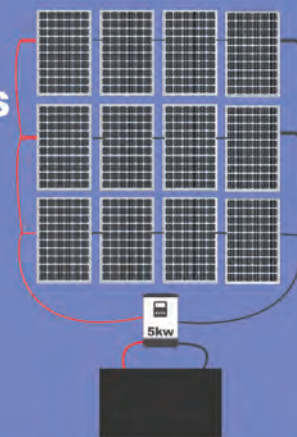
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Having a pond on your plot can bring a real sense of serenity and relaxation but it certainly

comes with its fair share of upkeep. Seasonal changes, fish population and a balanced eco-life are all

factors that need to be considered when maintaining a healthy pond which, clearly, includes ensuring it is leak-

free.

Aqua Plastech, an eco-friendly, DIY product range

Continued on page 43

From page 39

unthriftiness, grey eyes and blindness. Prevention entails vaccinating chickens on day one with virus vaccine. Unfortunately there is no treatment for the disease. Scaly leg is a mite infestation of the shank and if left to deteriorate can eventually cause lameness. The mite burrows under the scales and it will cause irritation. This condition can be treated by



Riboflavin deficiency in a chick

dipping the legs in an acaricide or a pour-on treatment from the vet can be used. It is placed on the base of the neck and will be absorbed and then excreted by the skin, killing the mites from inside. You can also use petroleum jelly to suffocate the mites but do not pull off the protruding scales as this would be very painful. Nutrition is immensely important for building strong bones and muscle and if poultry are not provided with the appropriate feed then there will be risk of leg problems as the birds grow. Curled toe paralysis is a condition that may be seen in

chicks if their feed has been low in vitamin B2. The toes frequently curl inward and they may be unable to stand. In early cases giving vitamin B2 in water leads to a rapid recovery. Consult your veterinarian on which one to use and dosage.

Food sources of vitamin B2 include rapidly growing green leafy vegetables and forages, such as lucern, eggs and organic beef liver. (The liver stores chemicals and toxins, so only use organic products.) Another problem caused by nutritional deficiency is rickets, which is caused by a deficiency in calcium, phosphorus and/or vitamin

D3 or imbalances in the ratio of these nutrients. Chickens with rickets walk with difficulty and have soft bones and beaks.

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## IN THE GARDEN

From page 41

for sealing leaks in dams and ponds offers some tips for pond owners on how to keep their ponds in good shape.

❑ Avoid over populating with fish. A pond volume of between 1 000 to 10 000 plus litres is suitable for holding fish. A good water ratio to fish is 1 cm of fish for 20 litres of water. If you are specifically holding koi fish in your pond, a healthy water environment needs to consider pheromones and toxin control, the advised ratio is one koi fish to 1 000 litres of water.

❑ Maintain healthy water flow and aeration. Keeping water cool and oxygen rich is imperative for a clean pond and a healthy water environment for fish. More oxygen equals a healthier eco-system that enhances reproduction of good bacteria to counter-act toxins. As a general standard it is advisable that pond owners circulate water



every hour and install an aerator to pump a good amount of oxygen into the pond.

❑ Filter size and function. A good filter, correctly sized for the pond is the foundation for a healthy ecosystem. A larger filter is necessary for ponds housing more fish and aids in keeping the water clean.

❑ Plant life. Adding plant life to your pond is a good supplement to filtration and doubles as an ecosystem protector by providing added oxygen via aquatic photosynthesis (itself an important deterrent to algae). Be careful not to over-populate your pond with plant life as this could have a negative impact

on the oxygen flow of the pond, by emitting too much carbon dioxide. Aim for approximately 50% of the surface area to be covered or shaded by plants.

❑ Clean debris before it decays. An excess of debris from fish waste, decaying leaves and excess fish food can cause an imbalance in the ammonia levels of the water. Regular cleaning is critical for a healthy pond. It

is also important that pond owners add beneficial bacteria (microbes) to restore the balance of the eco-system.

❑ Prevent leaks. Pond leaks can occur around pond banks or on the pond or dam from tree roots. These leaks can be prevented by removing trees from the pond or dam. In older ponds, leaks sometimes develop from outlet pipes that rust and leak below the water surface.

Traditionally repairing a leak in your pond could mean total drainage (water loss) and heavy repair costs.

Preventing and repairing leaks is now possible through the

Continued on page 4536

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Southern Africa, few people have access to such publications, especially in the heat of the moment.

With this in mind, author and herpetologist Johan Marais and the team at the African Snakebite Institute have put together information that

covers the essentials of first aid treatment for snakebite. The advice is concise and simple to follow. It also includes emergency contact numbers for snakebite incidents.

The medical treatment of snakebite is also covered and gives medical doctors quick and easy access to the published snakebite treatment protocols.

These publications cover the diagnosis and treatment of snakebite including the use of antivenom.

☐ Snake removal. For

Continued on page 47

## PONDS

From page 43

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# BOOKSHELF

## African frogs & amphibians

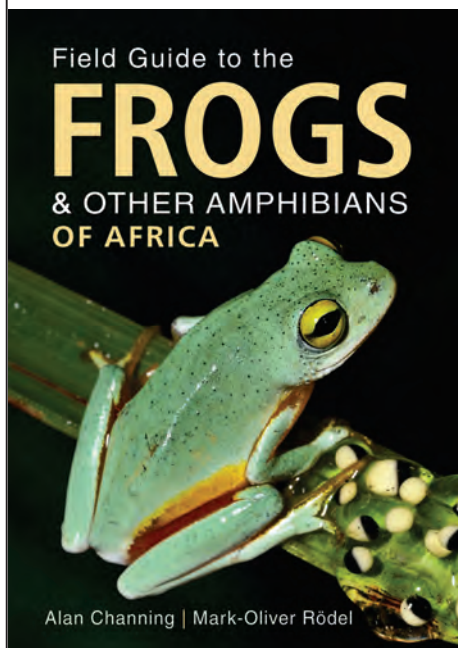
Nature lovers, tour guides, students and scientists will welcome the recent release of *Field Guide to the Frogs & Other Amphibians of Africa*, published by Penguin Random House and retailing for R400.

Africa is home to at least 815 species of amphibians ~ 788 species of frogs, 23 caecilians and four salamanders ~ and this is the first guide ever to cover all these species.

Authoritative and pioneering, the book features a brief introduction with tips for

handling and identifying amphibians.

A useful illustrated guide to each family group serves as a first step towards species ID. Species accounts describe physical features, distribution, habitat, biology, advertisement calls and conservation status, and are supported by colour photographs and up-to-date distribution maps.



## SNAKES

From page 45

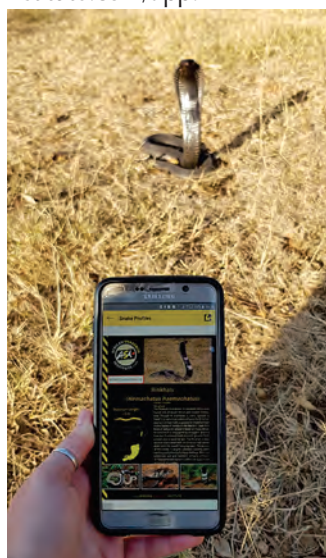
gardens and business premises the app lists over 500 snake removers country wide.

☐ Snake identification.

Should anyone encounter a snake and need to identify it, a feature allows app users to quickly submit a photograph for positive identification.

And there is also a section where you can see the local snake species in your area, which aids in identification.

☐ Snake and scorpion profiles. The app also has snake and scorpion profiles of common species in Southern Africa – each profile has colour photographs, a distribution map and a short section on a species to assist



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## Why does your dog roll in smelly stuff?

**Y**ou know how this story goes: you are out in your field and you look around for your faithful hound ~ only to spy said dog rolling enthusiastically in something on the ground. You call him and when he reaches you, your worst fears are confirmed. He has been gleefully rubbing his whole body in something extremely smelly! In fact, he stinks. The question is: why do dogs do this?

It seems that the experts of canid behaviour are not really sure why an animal would deliberately give itself such a strong odour and there are a few theories.

One is that the dogs do this as a form of camouflage.

Wolves, from whom dogs are descended, are known to do the same thing and it has

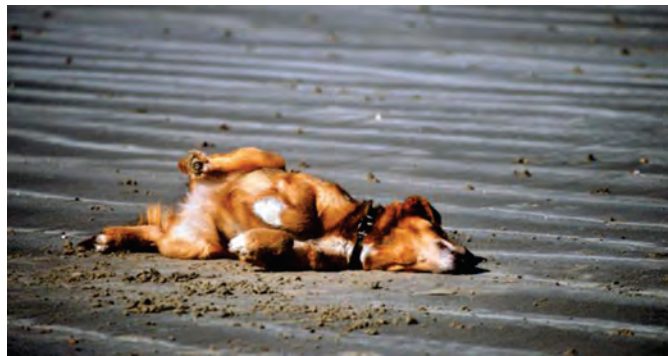
### Short answer: Nobody knows...

been suggested that they are trying to hide their own scent. However wolves tend to chase down their prey, rather than creep up on them, so this camouflage would not be necessary.

Another suggestion is that rather than taking on a smell, the animals are actually

depositing their own smell.

You have probably seen how your dog rubs the side of her mouth and neck across the offending mess. Foxes have scent glands in their lips and they have been observed to rub their snouts on all sorts of objects. This could be a form of marking a territory.



Happiness! A roll in the poo.

Your pet dog however is seldom content with just rubbing her snout in excrement or a rotting carcass. She usually needs to rub her whole body in it.

When hyenas do this they receive a great deal of attention from others in their pack, giving rise to the idea that they are letting the others know that there is food to be had and where it can be found. That makes sense when it is carrion, but it doesn't explain why your dog rolls in foul smelling poo.

There is also the suggestion that they do it to get rid of parasites. This doesn't seem to work though, as fleas, ticks or mites don't seem to be very fussy about the personal hygiene of their hosts and other parasites will actually be

Continued on page 50

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# ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

From page 49

attracted by a scent that is redolent with decaying organic matter.

An even less convincing theory is that the oils of the poo might help to waterproof their coats, which seems really unlikely.

In the wild, smaller canids have been known to roll in strong smelling urine deposits of larger predators and it is thought that this is to camouflage them from bigger animals who might prey on them. That's understandable, but it's unlikely to be your Fido's reason, as hopefully he is not threatened by larger



Rolling its cheeks in something awful

predators.

Scientists studying the behaviour of wolves also speculate that there is some social function for the scent-

rolling. They have noted that the lead animal tended to be the first to roll in a strong scent, followed by the others. This then creates a group odour, creating a sense of belonging, a stinking team-building exercise.

Among African wild dogs, a female will roll in the urine of the males in a group to which she would like to belong. Similarly, dogs in a pack will regularly rub against each other's scent glands to pick up each other's scent.

A more outlandish theory is that they use this stench in the same way that humans use perfume. Indeed, animal behaviour specialist Michael Fox (how appropriate is that name?) suggests that owners should spray their dogs with perfume in order to discourage them from rolling in smelly stuff.

Finally, there is the idea that dogs do it because it's fun. There might have been some evolutionary reason long ago, which has become lost over the centuries, but dogs have discovered that it is an extremely pleasurable thing to do, so they will do it whenever they can.

Of course we smallholders often don't need to take our dogs for a walk for them to find something undesirable to roll in, as we often have sheep, cow or horse manure to choose from, as well as the odd dead bird, rat or wild hare carcass for good

Continued on page 51

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25 x 25	R103.90
32 x 32	R147.50
38 x 38	R176.70
50 x 50	R235.00
76 x 76	R353.30
100 x 100	R623.00

## Lip Channel

6m	9.1m
75 x 50 x 20 x 2	R306.80
100 x 50 x 20 x 2	R327.60
125 x 50 x 20 x 2	R371.30
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200 x 50 x 20 x 2	R487.80

## Square Bar 6m

8mm	10mm	12mm
R66.60	R68.50	R95.20

## Flat Bar 6m

20 x 3	20 x 5	25 x 3	25 x 5	30 x 3	30 x 5	40 x 3	40 x 5	50 x 3	50 x 5
R43.60	R67.50	R54.10	R80.60	R65.40	R100.30	R86.30	R132.00	R108.20	R171.60

## Round Bar 6m

6mm	8mm	10mm	12mm	16mm	20mm
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## DETERRENTS

# How (not) to rid your plot of thieving pigeons

**A**re you growing tired of feeding all the wild birds in your neighbourhood with food that is actually intended to feed your chickens or horses?

Apart from the cost involved in providing extra feed for the birds there is also the concern that wild birds might carry diseases that could affect, especially, your free-ranging chickens.

Is there an effective long-term deterrent?

Taking a leaf out of the book of those who designed those shiny, wind-driven contraptions one sees atop buildings to deter birds from nesting, what would be a low-cost maplotter version? The answer: Old CDs.

Birds do not go near shiny objects, so one can string up a number of old CDs at different heights near the

feeding container. These move as the breeze catches them and they flash as the light catches them.

In an experiment on a plot on the East Rand, a large flock of pigeons feasting daily on chicken food, when exposed to wind-driven CDs, sat in a nearby tree observing this new bit of exterior decoration. After a few hours, however, they had worked out that, although the shiny discs move, they don't appear to present any danger so they were soon flying in for their

daily rations.

So a further deterrent was necessary: noise. The CDs were joined by two cow-bells, themselves attached to wind-vanes to ensure maximum ringing.

One of the bells was moved by two large cardboard discs while the second, smaller bell was attached to a large piece of polystyrene ~ light enough to move in even the slightest breeze.

The combined effect of CDs, bells, cardboard and polystyrene also worked for no more

than a few hours.

Besides the visual pollution of the items hanging on old baling string above the chicken house, the entire experiment has proved unsuccessful.

But musical maplotters might enjoy the tinkling of the bells.



Pigeon deterrent? Not so much.

## DOGS

From page 50

measure.

None of this will be much consolation for dog owners whose pets choose to rub themselves in particularly pungent poo just before

important guests arrive.

Of course, the most simple reason for this behaviour is that they do it because they are poo-ches (how droll is that, arf arf...).

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Classified advertisement in this section cost R105 VAT included for up to 50 words. To place your advertisement in the next edition call 011 979-5088 for our bank details or email [gautengsmallholder@gmail.com](mailto:gautengsmallholder@gmail.com)

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# DIARY

**ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC:** If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

**NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS.** For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 55. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

Every Sunday  
SA Lipizzaners weekly display at 10h30. SA Lipizzaner Centre, Dahlia Rd, Kyalami. Go to [www.lipizzaners.co.za](http://www.lipizzaners.co.za) / call Lizelle on 079 716 4792 for details of special shows. Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180 / visit <http://www.diamondxranh.co.za>, R500 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 012 651-5509 or Gail 072 477-0708, a small community who worship together. We have a Youth and Children's church.

Premier Mine Presbyterian Church, Lower Oak Ave, Cullinan. Garden of Remembrance (Columbarium), 079 060-9990 or 012 734-1640, Worship and Sunday school. Holy Communion for all on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Every Monday  
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, NG Kerk, 8 Canadair Ave, Impala Park, Boksburg, call Warren 082 335 0049 or Tony 082 443 4425, if you want to drink – that's your problem! If you want to stop – that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

## 2019

### August

1: New Moon  
3: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332  
3: Garden World's Spring Festival: Pot

Painting & Planting for the Children, 09h30 for 10h00. Join JJ Jansen van Rensburg and Garden World for a fun morning of painting and planting your Spring pots. R60 per child includes the pot, paint, plant and prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

3: Vaalbank Country Market, next to Wet Nose on the R104 near Rayton, 09:00 - 15:00. Wide variety of community stalls, even art classes. Karen 081 271 2300  
8-10: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Estate, Rayton district, Pretoria. Call 087 231-1644  
9: National Womens' Day

11: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-

bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12:00. Proceeds of the market are donated to various charities in the Vereeniging area. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378-0715

12-16: Introductory Course in Small Stock Management, ARC Irene Campus. R3 200. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

12-23: Farm planning (agricultural land-use planning) course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R9 950. For reservations email [courses@alut.co.za](mailto:courses@alut.co.za)

15: Full Moon  
17: Garden World's Spring Festival: Mother & Child Fun Day with a flower arranging course with Interflora, 09h30 for 10h00.

Create your own beautiful flower arrangement, the perfect workshop for Mother & Child! R140 per child includes the workshop, everything you will need to make your arrangement, a goodie bag & prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

20-23: Dairy Processing Course: Cheese, ARC Irene Campus. R5 000. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

24: Garden World's Spring Festival: Vertical Garden Wall Workshop with John Sauer of Ngena Succulents, 09h30 for 10h00. Join Efékto and John Sauer as he will show you how to plant a vertical garden wall. R350 per person includes the workshop, all the products and plants for the vertical wall, a goodie bag & prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

24: Garden World's Spring Festival: The Miracles of Medicinal Cannabis & the Use

of Blumat Watering Systems with Sharon Price & Lohan le Grange, 13h00 for 13h30.

Join the Southern Cape traditional healer and herbalist Sharon Price who will share her knowledge on the healing properties of Medicinal Cannabis, and Lohan le Grange, an irrigation and growing specialist for his talk on the Blumat Watering Systems which use no pumps, timers, charging or complex timers! R120 per person includes the talks, a goodie bag, refreshments & prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

26-27: Artificial Insemination Course, ARC Irene Campus. R2 500. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

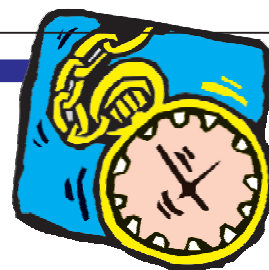
30 New Moon  
31: Garden World's Spring Festival: Planning Your Spring Garden for your Pantry with Sandy Roberts of the Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre, 09h30 for 10h00. Join Roberts and MayFord Seeds for her talk on growing herbs and edible flowers in your garden with recipes an samples to taste, also a light luncheon thereafter. R180 per person includes the talk, recipes, samples to taste, light luncheon, a goodie bag & prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

31: Garden World's Spring Festival: In Tune with Nature with Tanya Visser & Richard Cock, 13h00 for 13h30. Join MayFord Seeds for an afternoon of gardening advice from gardening editor Tanya Visser, paired with music and song brought to you by SA maestro Richard Cock and featuring Erin Beck & Burgerd Botha. R120 per person includes the event, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Booking essential on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

### September

4-5: Dairy Processing Course: Yoghurt & Maas, ARC Irene Campus. R3 500. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

6-15: Permaculture Design Course, Muldersdrift. Cost: R5 000 (incl course materials, catering, manual, facilitation). You will learn about water, soil and waste management solutions: sustainable, organic and ethical ways to grow fruits and vegetables, raise animals and repair ecosystems; sustainable building and energy solutions. To register go to <https://www.sapermaculture.com/calandar>. For more info email



[grow@sapermaculture.com](mailto:grow@sapermaculture.com) or contact Raquel 084 782-3230 or see SA Permaculture or Unity Farm's Facebook page.

7: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

7: Vaalbank Country Market, next to Wet Nose on R104 near Rayton, 09:00 - 15:00. Wide variety of community stalls, even art classes. Karen 081 271 2300

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14: Full Moon  
17-20: Meat Processing Course, ARC Irene Campus. R5 000. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

23: Spring Equinox  
24: Heritage Day  
28: New Moon

28-29: Gauteng Rabbit Breeders' Association Spring Show, Walkerville Showground's, Walkerville. Rabbit Judging on 28 September, sales and rabbit jumping on 29 September. For enquiries contact Jens 082 447-5080

October

1 – 4: Dairy Processing Course: Cheese, ARC Irene Campus. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

5: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8-10: Control of problem plants course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email [courses@alut.co.za](mailto:courses@alut.co.za)

## LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS



**Bronkhorstspuit - Every Tuesday**

**Belfast - Wednesdays**  
**Ermelo - Thursdays**  
**Standerton - Fridays**

**Gys Taute 083 253 6906**

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# Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held weekly. Markets held less frequently (eg 1st Saturday of each month) are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest. We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included. Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information. We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised? Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to [gautengsmallholder@gmail.com](mailto:gautengsmallholder@gmail.com)

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Thursday					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 – 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	011 706 3671 <a href="mailto:enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
Saturday					
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 – 09:30	Moreleta Street entrance, Krige Street ext, Silverton	012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025	Fresh produce, traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap & boerewors rolls.
	The Fresh Co-op Weekly Farmers Market Halfway House, Gauteng	07:00 – 10:30	204 Allan Road, Glen Austin	<a href="mailto:Info.freshproducecoop@gmail.com">Info.freshproducecoop@gmail.com</a> 082 369 7755	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves, home industry, arts & crafts, food, etc.
	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 – 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, Cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie St, Menlo Park, Pretoria	078 593 7716 <a href="http://www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za">www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce straight from the producer, coffee, eats on sale.
	Waenhuiskrans Plaas / Farmers	08:00 – 13:00	Cor of Veda & Enkeldoorn Ave Market opposite Montana Traders and next to Kollonade Centre	Marius 084 505 3393 or office 012 567 6076 to book a stall	Stalls: Food, arts and crafts, fresh produce, eggs, chicken, meat, fruit & veg, Kiosk, Maders pies, coffee.
	Glenfresh Farmers Market Midrand	08:00 – 12:30	28 Olifantsfontein Rd (opposite RMM Builders), Glen Austin (Cor Allan & Olifantsfontein Rds)	Stefan: 082 829 0185 <a href="mailto:market@glenfresh.co.za">market@glenfresh.co.za</a>	Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong.
	Bapsfontein Farmers Market	09:00 – 14:00	Edith Street, Bapsfontein	Charlene: 082 892 4304 / Paul: 083 296 8006	Fresh produce, Livestock Sales, Flea Market, handcrafts, food stalls, great outdoor vibe that is pet and child friendly & live entertainment.
	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 – 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	011 706 3671 <a href="mailto:enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 – 15:00	Waterfall Estate, Waterfall Cor Midrand	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food, etc. Enquire about stall prices.
	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 – 15:00	Walkerville Country Market @ the Showgrounds	Ivan 084 590 2312 <a href="mailto:market@walkervillesa.co.za">market@walkervillesa.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, play area, pet friendly.
	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	08:00 – 14:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553 2846	Outdoor country experience working farm cattle, sheep, and pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs, poultry, and craft beer.
	Midrand Circles Market	09:00 - 15:00	118 Allan Road, Glen Austin	Margaret 079 394 5054	Freshly locally grown produce, raw honey, indigenous flowers & trees, food stalls, fresh meat stalls, cheese, eggs, coffee, books, Gallery, and Paint Your Own Ceramics.
Last Saturday	Windpomp Handwerk Market	08:00 – 14:00	Broodblanke & Koffiepit Pretoria Road between Petit and Bapsfontein	Adele 083 445 1608	Pet friendly, Hand crafts, food, music, coffee, kids' play area, preserves, goat's milk products biltong, pap & kailings.
Sunday					
Every Sunday	Waterfall Market	10:00 – 17:00	Waterfall Park, Magwa Cres, Halfway House, Midrand	064 759 6154	Live entertainment, fresh artisanal tastes & flavours, craft beverages, kid's play area & plastic-free zone.
	Fourways Farmers Market	09:00 – 16:00	Cor Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0877 <a href="http://www.ffmarket.co.za">www.ffmarket.co.za</a>	Get your groceries...in the garden!



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## Dumb and dumber

There's a video clip that has made its way on to Facebook showing two workers on a building site shoveling sand into a wheelbarrow. When the barrow is full one of the workers picks up the handles, moves the barrow, literally, 30cm forward, and empties it out. Then he pulls the barrow back to its original position and the two start filling it anew.

Needless to say, this seemingly stupid act caused great mirth among the commentariat, and the two workers being men of colour, it brought on a rash of racist comments and insults. Which was unfair, and showed no more than the ignorance of the commentators. For, if you have ever mixed cement mortar, or concrete, by hand, you will know that it is important to be pretty exact as to the proportions of the various ingredients. Too much sand and the mortar is weak, too much stone and the concrete is difficult to work and lay, too much water and the mixture will crack etc. (And, as one inevitably learns to one's cost, one wheelbarrow equates to two 50kg pockets of cement, not one ~ that piece of knowledge I give you for free...)

So, assuming the two workers were about to mix mortar (the video was shot on a building site, after all) they were merely being careful to ensure the right proportions in their mix. Not so stupid after all, hey?

Which is not to say that all workers are geniuses. Or, indeed, that today's workers are any dumber than those who have gone before.

My late mother-in-law, who was able to add up columns of numbers in the old sterling currency days (pounds, shillings and pence) just by running her eye down the page, once asked a Post Office counterhand for ten 10c stamps. This resulted in a laborious sum involving paper, a pencil and multiplication.

I always thought ma-in-law was taking the Mickey, she herself having started her working career before World War 2 in the Post Office, until the other day the counterhand at my local Post Office had to whip out her calculator to work out how much 100 stamps of R11-10 would cost.

The more things change, the more they stay the same (although the intervening years between my mother-in-law's incident and mine does quite starkly illustrate the effects of inflation, not to mention the benefits of modern electronic technology).

But sometimes it's not the advanced mathematics, nor some arcane knowledge of the properties of materials, that is at issue. Sometimes it is, indeed, rank stupidity.

Not long ago a relative needed some additional crockery for a

large function. The plates were thus hired from a local hiring company, on a collect and return basis.

In such a case the deal is that the hirer is responsible for washing and drying the items, packing them into their containers and returning them. The hirer then receives the deposit paid on collection, less the cost of any breakages or losses.

To calculate how much deposit to pay back, therefore, the hiring company needs to count the crockery, piece by piece, on its return.

So after the function the relative returned to the hiring shop and unloaded the boxes from her car.

An important looking gent in a khaki dust coat then took up a seat on a high stool at an impressive counter while another worker opened the first box, lifted out a stack of plates and placed them in front of the more senior man.

Starting from the bottom of the pile Mr Dustcoat began counting off the plates, using his fingers, spider like, to climb up the stack, plate by plate. "One, two, three, four..."

Before he'd finished the first stack, however, the second worker had retrieved another stack of plates from the box, which he placed on top of the first stack, in the process of being counted. This caused a halt to the counting process and Mr Dustcoat's spider-like fingers descended to the bottom of the pile. And started counting once again. "...one, two, three, four..."

A third pile was added to the stack, which resulted in yet another descent of the fingers and a full recount. "...one, two, three, four..."

The concentration with which Mr Dustcoat went about his task meant that my relative was reluctant to break his train of thought with the obvious suggestion the Mr Box-Emptier rather place the plates in different, smaller stacks on the counter, on which there was plenty of space.

Besides, watching this spectacle, as it unfolded for the fourth time, on a now precariously high stack of plates, was likely to result in her being able to tell a mirthfully tall tale.





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