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**FRONT COVER**

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See page 32.

# COMMENT, by Pete Bower

## Make it leaner



By the time you read this the municipal elections will have come and gone, and you should have a newly-elected, or re-elected, councillor to look after your civic affairs. I hope you have the candidate of your choice in your ward.

By now, of course, we are all pretty-much "elected out" and heartily sick of the hot air and lies spewed by political parties in attempting to win our votes.

Now, we need to get on with the business of life, rather than allowing ourselves to be drowned in the business of politics.

For if there is one fact about South Africa above all others, it's that we have far too much government ~ certainly far more than we need. And that's putting aside the fact that a great deal of our government, at all levels, is useless and counter productive.

Yet, sadly, we have become so used to having our lives micromanaged by government that many of us now rely on handouts, freebies and legislative breaks to get by.

And here I happen to agree with commentator Peter Bruce who argues for the abolition of the provincial tier of government entirely. Collapse the provincial governments upwards into the national departments as appropriate, and downwards into the municipalities and metros, absorbing those provincial civil servants of any value as appropriate and using the exercise as an opportunity to flush out the inefficient, inept and corrupt.

But more than that, the stark fact is that an awful lot of what goes on in South Africa is unsustainable, economically unsound, unfair and inefficient.

Essentially, the government, in the form of the ANC, has not learnt, or chooses not to learn, the most very basic lesson of political economics, and that is that governments do not create wealth. Never have, never will.

It's the private sector ~ businesses, big and small and made up of the collective effort of private individuals who by making and selling things and providing services to others ~ that creates wealth.

A portion of this wealth is then syphoned off and given to the government in the form of tax revenue and it is this revenue that the government uses to provide social services and infrastructure to the country's citizens.

The government, however, easily deludes itself into believing that it creates wealth when it starts initiatives such as the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the social grant system.

In the EPWP, thousands of otherwise unemployed people are given bright orange overalls and a pair of gumboots, are taught some basic manual skills, and are then sent out on projects such as road maintenance, infrastructure rehabilitation, riverbank cleaning etc, and are paid a small wage accordingly.

The idea is that these individuals, who would otherwise be workless, now plough their wages back into the economy by buying food and other essentials, thereby stimulating the economy and, hopefully, creating wealth. The question remains: where does the money for those meagre wages come from? And the answer is clear: from the taxpayers. The jobs the government has thus created are not, therefore, proper wealth-creating jobs and rather serve to create a class of citizen who becomes reliant on the government for this sort of handout.

The same goes for the social grant system, in which millions of South Africans who would otherwise be totally indigent receive a small sum of money each month, which enables them to buy (some) basic foodstuffs and other necessities. Great idea, except that the money for this ever-increasing number of payouts comes from a very much smaller number of taxpayers, and the nett effect, again, is to make a class of individual who comes to rely on the government for his or her existence.

While we have too much state intervention we also have too much state infrastructure. Frankly, governments should not be in the business of owning airlines, ports or rail infrastructure. Nor do we need so many government departments, with their entourages of ministers, deputies, director generals etc which are nothing more than an ANC-inspired, Zuma-led jobs-for-pals scam. Only in a country as delusional as ours do we find a Ministry for Women, Children and the Disabled! Quite apart from the fact that it is very hard to find anybody who knows what the department actually does its very name is, frankly, an insult to all three categories of person supposedly "protected" by said ministry.

So, in a word, if it is to prosper, this country needs less government, less government intervention and less bureaucracy, not more.





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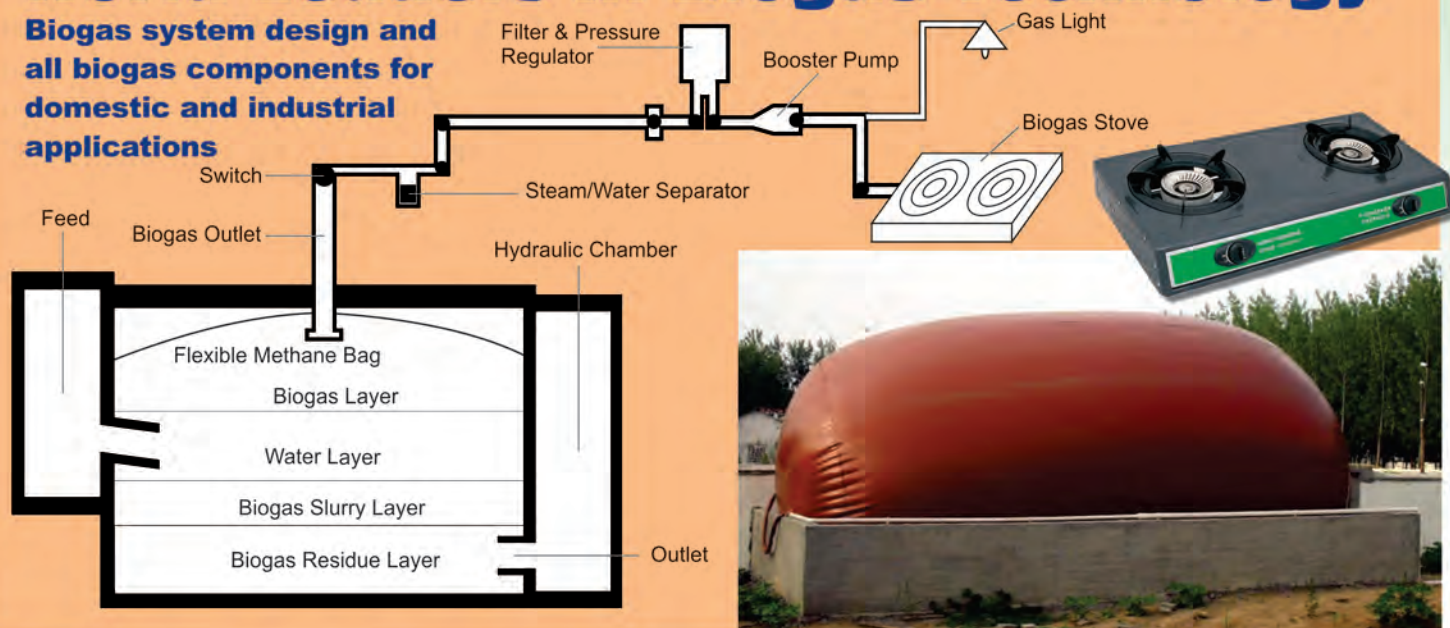
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## Tribute to a real W'ville maplotter

**S**ir ~ It was with interest and no little sadness that my sons and I read your Back Page article in the July

edition.

Rowan Roberts was a friend and neighbour (two kilometres away from our plot

but a neighbour in maplotter terms) and learning of his death a few weeks ago was an unhappy experience for

the community at large.

He and (his wife) Christine were very well known for their devotion to animals and as mentioned in the article Rowan's knowledge of steam engines was quite far reaching.

He regaled us quite a few times with stories and interesting facts and was justifiably very proud of the Sylviavale Museum.

And the Austin Princess ? It amuses me to see a large dog majestically draped across the

Continued on page 8

## On pigeons, doves and Christian rites

**S**ir ~ Congratulations on a very informative and exciting magazine.

Please permit me to answer one of your correspondents, Margaret D from Muldersdrift, on her letter (*Smallholder*, July) headed Pigeons for weddings, funerals.

The Christian world sees a white dove/pigeon as a sign of peace. Secondly, kindly consult the *Oxford Dictionary* or *Kritzinger's Woordboek* as to the difference between a dove and pigeon.

The racing pigeon is an athlete of the sky, being bred and improved for liberation purposes since the 1850s. A

highly competitive and scientific sport/hobby, paying particular attention to genetics and eugenics.

Most of the world's population is oblivious to the homing instincts and performance of a pigeon, through no fault of their own.

Many of the so called "animal cruelty" activists would like to

see a total ban on pigeon racing/liberation.

However if your reference is to the few Neanderthals that do commit such acts of cruelty, I fully agree.

I have been a racing pigeon fancier in excess of 50 years and the people I know that release pigeons at such events

Continued on page 8

The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary.

Senders' names and addresses must be included.

Afrikaans letters will be translated.

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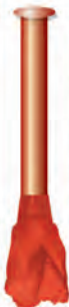
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Its objectives include:

- Supporting and encouraging the community to make efficient, productive and sustainable use of available

space on their smallholdings.

- Identifying and sharing business opportunities among small-scale growers and

producers, and end-user buyers.

- Providing a product and service offering platform

through which consumers are able to source directly from the WFPN's members.

Continued on page 12

## MAILBAG: ROWAN ROBERTS

From page 7

bonnet basking in the morning sunshine and the odd chicken perched here and there upon its quietly decaying bodywork. Its restoration was a bite too far, but Rowan kept the Princess, perhaps looking

forward to the time when, during his retirement, he would at last begin work on that mighty project.

Our condolences to Christine and the family, and thank you for telling the maplotter world outside of Walker's Fruit

Farms about Rowan, just one of the many beloved and esteemed characters we are privileged to call friends here in the deep, deep South.

**Sarah Clark**

*Walker's Fruit Farms*

## MAILBAG: PIGEONS

From page 7

are all committed pigeon men.

**Billy M.**

*Pretoria*

Firstly, this letter has been edited to remove comments I deemed unnecessarily rude to our correspondent.

Secondly, I happen to know of non-denominational

wedding and funeral celebrants, both here and overseas, who refuse to allow the release of birds at their ceremonies precisely because of their concerns that they cannot guarantee that the providers of such birds are ethical in their training of homing instincts.

Thirdly, racing pigeons or

homing pigeons (and the multimillion rand industry that they involve) are a completely different kettle of fish (mixed metaphor intended) to a flock of nondescript white doves released from a box at a wedding or a funeral for the amusement or comfort of the attendants. ~ Editor

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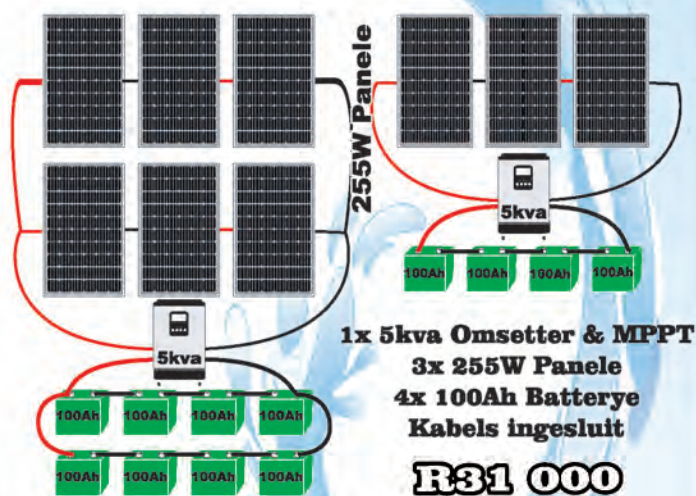




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## NEWS

# Build a cheap farm dam

**ARC publishes a guide to making a low-cost, DIY storage dam**

The recent drought has highlighted the importance of being able to store water on your smallholding, whether it is used for drinking water for human and livestock consumption, irrigation of commercial crops or vegetable gardens, fish farming, processing or any other purpose.

However, the cost of a dam or dams for the collection of water is usually prohibitive for many plot dwellers.

But help is at hand. The ARC-Institute for Agricultural Engineering examined alternative and cheaper ways of collecting water. A dam was erected on the premises

of the institute for this purpose and was evaluated for a period of three years.

The structure is a round dam of welded wire mesh, with a lining of polyester cloth painted with a waterproofing substance. The whole structure is secured with a number of timber poles planted into the ground, with the wire mesh secured to it.

The construction of the dam is simple and can easily be built using plot labour in a very short time, without any specialised knowledge.

The cost of erecting this dam is less than half of the cost of a round concrete dam and less than a quarter of the cost

Continued on page 13

## NETWORK

From page 8

☐ Progressively developing its client base and accessing emerging opportunities.

☐ Exchanging information of relevance to members.

☐ Engaging government and private participation in sustainable agricultural projects of benefit to the community and key stakeholders.

The WFPN has been a regular stallholder at the weekly Walkerville Agricultural Market (Wam) in Walkerville since the market's inception in April.

The stall functions as a co-operative physical outlet for small-scale local growers and producers of fresh farm produce to showcase and sell their produce to the public at large.

Produce on offer varies weekly and includes seasonal fresh farm vegetables and

fruit, free range chicken, free range eggs, raw honey, jams, syrups, preserves, mushrooms and more.

Suppliers to the stall are members of the WFPN and adopt natural methods in their farming practices.

The result is an offering of fresh, healthy, quality produce at cost-efficient prices for consumers.

"With consistency and sustainable growth, we envision dedicated physical channels marrying growers with end-users," says a WFPN spokesperson.

The network welcomes new members to its Facebook group: Walkerville Farm Produce Network – Gauteng, South Africa.

For more information or to participate in the WFPN, call Izetta de Sá 072 736-0389 or E-mail: izettad@gmail.com.



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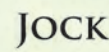
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# GARDEN WORLD FESTIVAL



The Spring Festival at Garden World is now open, and runs until 4 September. Among the attractions are a re-creation of the award winning South African exhibit at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, as well as a host of innovative and imaginative designer gardens which will inspire gardeners and homeowners alike. Here is a small selection of what you will see. For more information call Magriet at Garden World, tel 011 957-2545

## D-I-Y RESERVOIR



The ARC's home-built water storage reservoir

From page 10

of a commercial, prefabricated dam after installation. The ARC has published a DIY manual on how to erect the dam, available from the institute for a mere R20. The manual is simple and easy to use. It covers a description of the dam, size, list of materials, construction in terms of preparation of the terrain, measuring of the dam, planting of timber poles, installation of the outlet pipe, erection of the wire mesh, placing of the lining, application of the sealant, application

of paint to the exterior and also maintenance of the dam. The manual is also available in Afrikaans.

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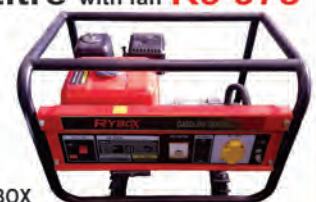
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# GARDEN WORLD FESTIVAL



A selection of the detail in the many professionally-designed gardens on show at this year's Spring Festival at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Also on show is a reconstruction of the award-winning SA entry at this year's Chelsea Flower Show in London.



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## A shipwreck, some pigs & a flower show

When, on January 6, 1778, the 738 ton English East Indiaman *Colebrooke* loaded a cargo destined for the Far East at Blackwall on the River Thames in London's East India Docks, she set in motion a train of events that

**How an ancient shipwreck became the focus of an award-winning flower exhibit and, possibly, gave its name to a breed of SA pig**

possibly leads to a South African "indigenous" pig breed and definitely to an international flower show. Under the command of Capt

Arthur Morris, the *Colebrooke* moved down the Thames to Gravesend to complete loading, setting sail with a ship's complement of 212 in the company of a small fleet of Far East-bound ships in early February.

Calling at Madeira, she loaded wine and stores, and it is unclear whether it was here, rather than at Gravesend, that she took on board a consignment of porkers. What is clear, however, is that they were probably intended for use as ship's victuals rather than for sale in the Far East, as the trade in pigs in those days was still largely in the other direction, ie, Far East to

Europe.

Finally, on 26 May, she and her small accompanying fleet set sail southwards, arriving off the Cape of Storms three months later, in late August. Mindful of the nor'westerly gales that often decimated shipping in Table Bay in winter, Capt Morris decided rather to call at Simonstown in False Bay to revictual. This was common practice at the

Continued on page 19



18th Century shipping in Table Bay. It was common practice then for ships to avoid the Cape winter storms by sailing on and entering False Bay.

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# HISTORY

From page 17

time: sail south for a further day, then turn hard a'port at Cape Point and sail up the other side of the spit of land that separates the Atlantic from the Indian Ocean, to the shelter of Simon's Bay and its inviting (even in those days) little maritime settlement. Sadly for Capt Morris, he turned a little too early, and

ran his ship on to a submerged rock which we now know as Anvil Rock. With a few of her hull timbers stove in by the collision, Capt Morris ordered members of the Colebrooke's company below deck to man the pumps, which they successfully did, while he set a course for Simonstown. However, after an hour, he

received word from below that the battle was being lost, particularly as further timbers had given way. Realising his peril, Capt Morris abandoned his attempt to reach Simonstown and rather set off with a following wind diagonally across False Bay towards Gordon's Bay. When this, too, appeared a "bridge too far" he turned to starboard and headed directly towards an inviting strip of white sand that he could make out through his telescope, just north of present-day Betty's Bay. Here, five hours after hitting Anvil Rock, the Colebrooke hit the

reef 200m offshore that protects the beach, and broke up in heavy seas six days later. While only seven members of the ship's complement drowned while attempting to reach the shore, a number of the consignment of pigs also made it ashore and, presumably relieved at the ending of their ordeal confined for three months aboard ship, and then being shipwrecked, made their escape into the nearby mountains. Legend has it that here, over the ensuing centuries, they mated with local porkers to produce a small, strong, mottled,

Continued on page 20



Descendents of the pigs washed ashore from the Colebrooke? These Kolbroek piglets were bred by *Smallholder* reader Sally Giebelmann on Zenzele Farm, Hartbeespoort.

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# HISTORY

From page 19

"indigenous" breed of pigs named the Colebrook. (A more prosaic origin of the Colebrook breed is that they were introduced by Portuguese traders in the 15th Century, having been brought to the Cape from China). If one follows the shipwreck version, here a quirk of translation creeps in: "Cole" in middle English, means cabbage (as in coleslaw = cabbage salad). So when the name was translated into Afrikaans it should, directly,

have been Koolspruit (a brook being a small stream or spruit). However, it became Kolbroek, which translates back into English as "spotpants".

But back to the False Bay seaside of yesteryear: Collecting whatever flotsam they could from the wreck, the survivors set off up the coast towards Gordon's Bay, and then directly across the Cape Flats, on foot, towards Cape Town, at the time under Dutch control.

Learning that the ship had been carrying, in part, military cargo, the Dutch authorities launched a salvage party, naming (in a fit of spectacular linguistic misunderstanding) the spot where the Colebrooke had foundered "Kogel Baai". In time, the area of the Hottentots-Holland Mountains immediately behind the beach became known as the Kogelberg and, being a region

of rich, unspoiled, floristic diversity it has been preserved for posterity as the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

Within this area is the Harold Porter Nature Reserve and it is the flora and scenery of this reserve that features in the Sanbi-Kirstenbosch exhibit this year, that won a Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London.

Residents of Gauteng are lucky enough to get a chance to see this colourful effort, as well as many other exciting and innovative garden ideas, at the Spring Festival on now until early

September at Garden World on Beyers Naude Dr in Muldersdrift.

(Information on the Colebrooke wreck from Al J Venter's book, *Shipwreck Stories*, Protea 2014



Detail of the SA exhibit at Chelsea featuring the flora of the Harold Porter Reserve in the Kogelberg.

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13mm x 13mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	3mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre

### Galvanised BEFORE welding

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
25mm x 25mm	2.5	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	3.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	1.60	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	3.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 100mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 100mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
100mm x 100mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
100mm x 100mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre

### Green Plastic Coated Mesh

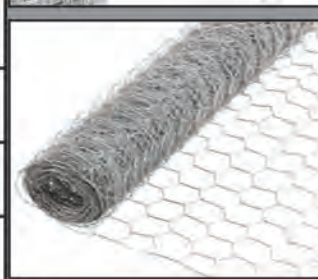
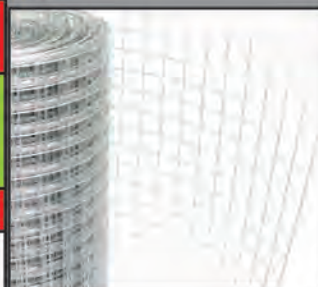
Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
13mm x 13mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre

## HEXAGONAL MESH

915mm  
AVAILABLE WIDTHS: 1220mm  
1830mm

### Fully Galvanised BEFORE Weaving

Block Size	Block Size	Block Size	Block Size	QTY
13mm	25mm	75mm	90mm	
width available	900mm	900mm	900mm	50m roll / per metre
width available	1220mm	1220mm	1220mm	50m roll / per metre
width available	1830mm	1830mm	1830mm	50m roll / per metre



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A18 rings per 500	R 125.00
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1.2 X 2.4 X 0.4	R 315.00

### ROUND TUBING

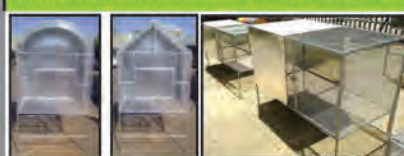
16mm x 1.6mm x 6m	R 60
19mm x 1.6mm x 6m	R 70
25mm x 1.6mm x 6m	R 80

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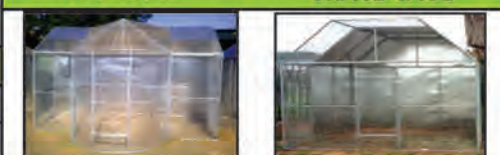


### HEXAGON AVIARIES, OVAL AVIARIES



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## FEEDING BOWLS AND COOP CUPS

### Standard Feeding Bowls

200ml	11.5cm	R11
350ml	14cm	R15
700ml	16.5cm	R20
1600ml	21cm	R31



### Coop cup with hanger hook

130ml	7.5cm	R15
290ml	9.5cm	R24
5250ml	12.5cm	R33
845ml	15cm	R45



### Coop cup with nut clamp

130ml	7.5cm	R20
290ml	9.5cm	R28
5250ml	12.5cm	R35
845ml	15cm	R46





# BEEKEEPING

## The beekeeper's tasks for August

Spring cleaning is that essential annual process to prepare the colony for the following spring and summer honey seasons. In our households it is the time and process of dusting out the winter blues, the cobwebs and a lick of paint here and there to freshen up the home. So, too, the bee colonies need freshening up and riddance of useless and old combs.

At the beginning of the winter as the inflow of the food supply reduces, the queen reduces her daily egg laying area, and the bees move honey from the super chambers to these reduced brood rearing cells to insulate the small brood area. The extent of this honey can cover six brood frames with only a small patch on the remaining four brood frames of the

**Essential spring cleaning around your hives, and how to merge a weak swarm with a stronger one, another in our series on beekeeping by Peter Clark of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association**

nesting area in the centre of the brood chamber.

August heralds the beginning of spring, the shortest day six weeks past, the sun is much warmer, the days are lengthening and there is plenty of pollen about. This sudden change of events urges the queen to increase her egg laying duties. She needs space and the beekeeper is driven by the demands of Her Majesty! He has one month to visit all his hives to avert a mass swarm off of his hives by the beginning of October. At his apiary he starts at the farthest hive from his vehicle and works through all hives on the site. In this method he

does not pass any hives that he has just serviced that could possibly interfere with him.

He smokes the hive with gentle cool white smoke (blue smoke is hot smoke and burns the bees).

He gently removes the well-glued-down super and lid and into the brood chamber he proceeds. He has to replace two brood frames with two frames of full foundation wax.

He removes frames Nos 1 and 2 and sets them aside outside the brood chamber. He ruffles through the remaining eight frames to select the two worst frames. The frame with a large number of the large drone

cells is the first to be eliminated, and next, one of the outside frames filled with honey. Should there not be that drone cell frame, then the other outside frame, No 10 from where he started, must go.

He now arranges the remaining eight frames and places the two new frames with the full foundation into the centre of the brood chamber. Whilst riffling through the frames it is good practice to remove those patches of drone brood comb.

He replaces the super and lid and, job complete, moves on to the next hive, advancing steadily towards his vehicle until all hives in the apiary have been visited. Fifteen hives would take about an hour and a half to complete.

Continued on page 23



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## IN THE GARDEN

# Go for heirlooms ~ they taste better

They may look funny, be smaller, and in some cases they are less convenient to prepare, but there's no doubt that heir-

loom fruits and vegetables have a far superior taste, with more intense flavours and often better textures, than modern hybrid varieties.

For, modern hybrids are bred with factors other than flavour in mind. Factors that are bred into modern hybrids which set them apart from their

older cousins range from heat, drought or frost resistance, through uniformity of shape and size (for easier harvesting

Continued on page 25

## BEEKEEPING

From page 22

During this operation he may come across a weak swarm with obviously an old and failing queen. It is futile to spring clean such a swarm. It is a waste of time and two costly frames of foundation wax. The only answer is to unite this swarm to another hive ~ quite a simple procedure. Select a receiving hive, perhaps the one immediately next to this weak hive, smoke first, then remove the lid and super off the weak hive, smoke the receiving hive, remove the queen

excluder should there be one as the queens need to fight to kill the weaker one, place a sheet of newspaper over the receiving super and invert the weak brood chamber over the receiving hive. After a week return and remove the inverted brood chamber and shake any bees into the receiving hive's super. Return to the honey house to deal with all the brood frames collected from the hives. Select the lighter combs and cut out the honey from the frames and dump into a drum to be heated in a double

boiler not exceeding 70°C. Do not mix dark frames with light frames as all the honey will be dark and undesirable. The mixture will melt and after cooling the wax and muck will form a solid pack above the honey. The wax can be lifted off and melted and cast into moulds for trading for future foundation sheets. The honey is then tapped off and collected. The black combs can be returned to another apiary and placed about 50 m from the hive for the bees to clean

out. These empty black combs are then cut out from the frames and burnt or discarded on the rubbish heap. They make excellent hot fires. All the frames thus collected must be cleaned and rewired to receive foundation wax sheets for the future. By Peter Clark, author of Tales of an African Beekeeper and chairman for 2016 of Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association, tel 011 362-2904, assisted by secretary Mike Alter, tel 011 965-6040.



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## IN THE GARDEN

From page 23

and marketing), to uniform ripening times (making harvesting easier and cheaper), smooth shapes (easier for cleaning and cooking), disease and pest resistance, and colour appeal. Modern canning tomatoes, for example, are bred to contain very much less fluid, and their shape is almost rectangular. Less fluid means

that their pulp inside is almost floury and certainly not pleasing for eating raw. And their rectangular shape makes them less prone to bruising and spoilage after harvesting. They are also bred so that their plants are strong and uniform, making them suitable for mechanical harvesting and processing. Heirloom tomato varieties, by contrast, of

which there are many, produce fruits of different colours, from yellow to green, a variety of different sizes, even from the same plant, ripening at different times

(making them more suitable for the home gardener who is not faced with a glut of fruit all ripe and the same time followed by a famine.)

In the kitchen the shapes and textures can sometimes pose a challenge. Some have deep, large pithy bits where the fruits attach to the plant, which need cutting out before use. Some have deeply scored skins making cleaning more of a process and peeling more of a challenge.

And so on.



Heirloom carrot varieties ... multicoloured and sometimes oddly-shaped.

But there is simply no comparison in the flavour of an heirloom tomato compared to a shop-bought so-called "English", mass-

Continued on page 28



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# IN THE GARDEN

From page 25

produced tomato.

Another interesting vegetable that has a number of heirloom varieties is the humble carrot. Modern housewives know of carrots as being orange in colour (with cruel schoolchildren even referring to red-heads in their classes as "carrot-tops"). The orange colour of the "modern" carrot was, however, bred into it by Dutch horticulturists wishing to ingratiate themselves to the Dutch royal household of yore (the Dutch national colour being, now, orange). In their natural state, carrots (native to South America) are found in a variety of colours from black to brown to purple to pale yellow, and in a variety of shapes.

Another South American native, maize, also has multi-coloured heirloom varieties, going beyond the modern choice of yellow and white to

cobs that have black, white, yellow and red pits mixed up at random.

With the modern movement towards growing one's own food, and with consumers becoming more adventurous interest in, and consequently demand for, heirloom vegetable seeds and seedlings has boomed in recent years. From one specialist supplier of seed a few years ago, the market has grown to include many seedsmen, who can often be found selling their wares at farmers markets and craft fairs. By the same token, large commercial seed merchants have recognised this growing market and have introduced their own ranges of heirloom seeds.

In some cases, growing heirloom varieties at home can be more of a challenge than growing hybrids simply because the plants can be more finicky, prone to disease

etc. Also, in some cases the yield from heirloom varieties can be less, and less uniform, than the yield from modern hybrids.

But the results, on your plate, will far outweigh any disappointment in the growing thereof.

Being old-fashioned, heirloom seeds are open pollinated, meaning that if you harvest seeds from your vegetables this

season, you will have the makings of next season's vegetable garden at your fingertips without having to buy new seed.

If you

travel overseas you might also see seeds that take your fancy and slip them into your luggage for use locally. Be aware that phytosanitary regulations in many countries makes such importation illegal and you can be fined if caught and, of course, have the seeds confiscated.

☐ **Win a hamper of heirloom vegetable seeds with Garden World. See page 32!**



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## A beginner's guide to equines

**T**he family *Equidae* comprises horses, donkeys, mules and zebras and here is a beginner's guide to the difference between a mule and a donkey or between a pony and a miniature horse or a horse.

It is thought that the genus originated in North America and soon spread throughout the world.

### All you need to know about the difference between horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras and quaggas ~ but are too shy to ask

Przewalski's horse is the only true breed of wild horse in existence. These horses were never domesticated. They originated in Mongolia, where they died out, but were reintroduced in the late 1980s to two reserves. Recent genetic studies indicate that

Przewalski's horse is not an ancestor to modern domesticated horses. It is an endangered species. But what of the famous wild white horses of the Camargue immortalised by Durban-born poet Roy Campbell in his eponymous poem, or the Namib Desert horses, the brumbies of Australia or the mustangs of North America? These herds are actually domesticated horses that have escaped or been chased into the wild. They are feral or untamed, rather than wild in the biological sense of having no domesticated ancestors. Human activities have threatened wild equine populations and out of the seven living species, only the

plains zebra remains widespread and abundant. So how is a zebra different from a horse?

The word 'zebra' is derived from an Old Portuguese term "zevra" which means wild ass. Zebras are, of course, famous for their white and black stripes. Their patterns and shapes are unique to individual zebras. The zebras are social animals and are found in large herds or small harems. Although many attempts have

Continued on page 31



A zebra flanked by two horses.

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# HORSEMANSHIP

From page 29

been made to use them as carriage animals, notably by Zeederberg's Coaches in the old Transvaal Republic, zebras have never been successfully domesticated. Three species of zebras are found. In South Africa we have Burchell's zebra, which is portly and plentiful, while the Cape mountain zebra is retiring and rare.

There are a lot of distinguishing features between a horse and zebra.

A zebra has a striped coat, while a horse can have various colours and markings but is never naturally striped. The stripe pattern on each zebra is different. Scientists think that rather than being for camouflage, the stripes are to confuse predators. In a large herd of zebra it is difficult for a predator to pick out one individual from the mass of stripes.

Zebra are really more like donkeys than horses. A zebra



Donkey

has a solid striped tail with a tuft of hair right at the end of the tail like a donkey, while a horse's tail is made of long hair.

The bone structure is different. A zebra has a much stockier build than a horse, being shaped more like a donkey.

A zebra is much stronger than a domesticated horse of similar size.

Zebra also have long ears that stick up, like a donkey, rather than the shorter ears of a horse.

Horses have long hairy manes that fall onto their necks; zebra have stiff short manes like donkeys.

Zebra, unlike horses, are not

built for riding, as they have no withers, (ie, the bump at the joint between the neck and shoulders,) nor do zebra have a dip in the back to allow for a saddle to stay in place. As a result, a saddle on a zebra would slip dangerously up the neck.

In temperament, too, horses and zebra are different. Zebra are unpredictable, easily stressed and tend to panic under pressure. Zebra will bite more viciously than horses.

Both horses and zebra are herd animals and herbivores, although zebra will eat shrubs and bushes if grass is unavailable whereas horses will not.

An interesting characteristic of zebra is that they do not appear to lose condition when food is scarce. Even in the harshest of conditions their rumps and flanks will look surprisingly round, unlike a horse that quickly looks gaunt and angular when starved.

Mention should also be made here of the Quagga, indigenous to southern Africa but hunted to extinction in the 18th Century.

With a Zebra-like front half and a horse-

coloured rear, the quagga is being bred back into existence in the Western Cape using some advanced genetic engineering.

And then there is the donkey, also named the ass. It is quite easy to distinguish between a horse and a donkey, although there are some physical similarities.

Donkeys have visibly longer ears than horses, while horses tend to have longer faces.

The hair making up donkeys' manes and tails is stiff and bristly, whereas horses' manes and tails have softer and more flowing hair. Donkeys have smaller hoofs than horses of a comparable size,

Continued on page 33

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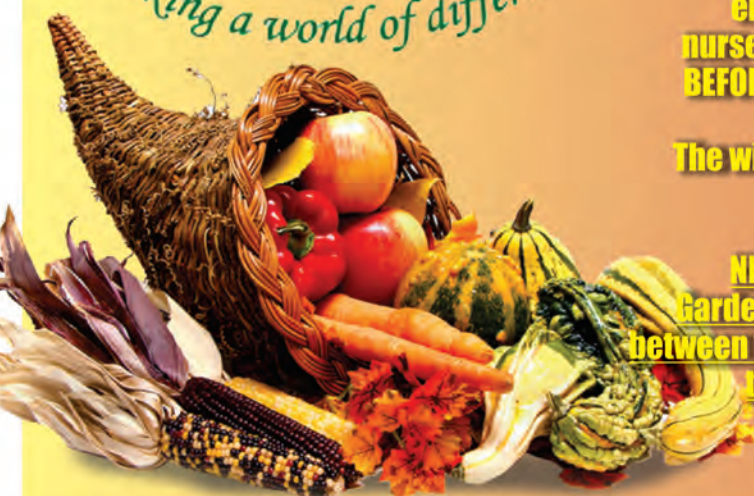
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# HORSEMANSHIP

From page 31

and the frogs of the hooves are in a different position. Donkeys' backs are flatter than horses' and more often than not cannot hold a saddle.

Donkeys and horses differ on a genetic level: horses have 64 chromosomes and donkeys 62.

Both horses and donkeys are social creatures, but horses are naturally herd animals and prefer to live in a larger group, whereas donkeys tend to pair off and form a strong bond with just one other of their kind. Horses have an extremely strong flight response and will run from any perceived danger, but donkeys are harder to startle and will consider the risk before they decide to either run or stick around.

So what are mules? A mule is produced when you breed a male donkey to a female horse, also known as a mare. A hinny, meanwhile, is produced when you breed a stallion, or male horse, to a female donkey. Mules possess characteristics of both of their parents.

Mules and hinnies have 63 chromosomes. Because of their parents' incompatible chromosomes, these creatures are generally sterile.

Mules can take after their horse parent or their donkey parent, making easy identification a little bit trickier than it is with an animal which is 100 percent horse or donkey. Mules often have the flatter spines and larger ears that their donkey heritage passes on to them. However, mules tend to be larger than donkeys, with more delicate bone structure. Mules can be used for many of the same riding disciplines that horses are used for, depending on the quality of the mule.

The physical characteristics that mules share with horses include shape of the body, the coat, and teeth. The hooves of a mule are harder

than those of a horse.

There is a large variation in the colour and size for both donkeys and mules worldwide.

The coat of a mule is usually brown (sorrel) or bay but there is considerable variety just like horses. Other common colours are black and grey, while less common coats are white, roans (both blue and red), palomino, dun and buckskin.

Donkeys are usually grey but some are dark brown, black or light-faced roan. They also

have dorsal stripes (a dark stripe from mane to tail) and a crosswise stripe on the shoulders.

Every mule has a unique bray that is a combination of the horse's whinny and the grunting of the wind-down of a bray. Most mules start out Whinee..... like a horse and end in -aw ah aw like a



Mule

donkey.

Both donkeys and mules love broad-leaved weeds and roughage such as barley straw. This should form a large part

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# HORSEMANSHIP

From page 33

of their diet but donkeys must not be fed large amounts of protein, bread, puffed rice or processed food because they may develop foot disease and become lame.

Donkeys have a life span of 30-50 years. Mules have a lower life span of about 30 to 40 years. The modern domestic horse can live about 25-30 years, although a few live longer.

So if a horse is a horse, what is a pony?

The difference is size. In general, a horse is an equine that stands 14.2 hands high (equivalent to 58 inches or 147cm) or more and a pony is an equine that stands under

that mark. (A "hand" is an old measure equivalent to four inches).

The height of ponies and horses is measured from the bottom of the forehoof to the highest point of the withers, which is the point where the neck meets the back. The withers is used for measurement since it is a stable part of the anatomy, unlike the head and neck which move up and down with the body of the horse.

There are other physical differences. Ponies are typically much stockier than their horse relatives. They also often have thicker manes, tails, and coats, so (depending on breed) are better able to endure cold weather. They have proportionally shorter legs, wider barrels (body of the pony that encloses the ribcage and all major internal organs), heavier bones, shorter and thicker necks, and short heads with broader foreheads. In official equestrian competition in South Africa today

children under a certain age are obliged to ride ponies and, when they reach their teenage years, are obliged to graduate from their ponies to horses if they wish to continue competing. This rule applies regardless of the size and strength of the pony, or of the size and strength of the child or teenager.

Just when you thought you knew about horses and ponies, along comes the miniature horse.

Although some miniature horses resemble ponies, the goal of miniature horse breeders is to create a tiny horse, with everything about it the same as a full-sized

horse, only smaller. They should not have short legs, thick necks, or big bellies.

A miniature horse is shorter than the smallest pony and may be no taller than 34

inches, measured at the top of the shoulders, where the mane ends. Miniature horses are measured in terms of inches while ponies are measured in terms of hands. A full-grown miniature weighs between 65 – 115 kilograms. Miniature horses come in every possible horse colour. Ponies have a thicker coat than a miniature. Miniature horses are better used as home companions, being too small to be ridden (although some are used to draw miniature carriages) whereas ponies are extensively used for driving and all kinds of riding and horse sport.



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# INSECTS

## Wasps: Unnecessarily bad reputation

If a bee is a beneficial insect that produces honey and beeswax and pollinates flowers, a wasp is just a damned nuisance, right?

Wrong! In fact, wasps can be beneficial on a plot as they kill an enormous number of other pests, including flies, caterpillars and, in some cases, cockroaches.

Moreover, some wasps are important pollinators. Due to their high-energy needs, wasps also feed on nectar from a variety of flowers and are valuable pollinators in gardens and orchards. However, pollinator wasps are not likely to be found in Gauteng, as they are more common to the arid and semi-arid regions of South Africa where certain types of fynbos flourish.

Wasps belong to the

*Hymenoptera* insect order, along with over 100 000 other insects, including bees.

Although there are many species of wasps, the wasps which are seen more often and which are more likely to build a nest where they are not welcome will exhibit similar physical characteristics. Adult wasps vary in length from 10 to 20 mm.

The head is triangular in shape and has two compound eyes and a set of antennae. The wasp also has several single eyes referred to as ocelli. The most noticeable mouthparts are the mandibles, or jaws. These are hard curved appendages of considerable strength.

The most noticeable difference between a bee and a wasp is the shape of the body. Wasps' bodies are slender with a narrow waist connect-

ing the thorax and abdomen, which, in the female, houses the sting.

Like all insects the wasp has six legs, which each have two joints, enabling flexibility, so that the wasp can grasp whatever it lands on.

Two pairs of transparent wings are attached to the wasp's body at the thorax. The thin membranous appearance of the wings is what lends the wasp the classification of *Hymenoptera*.

The other main difference between a bee and wasp is that the bee is furry, while the body of the wasp is smooth and hard.

Colours of wasps vary from brown, white, black and yellow to brilliant metallic colours such as green, blue, red or combinations of these. Wasps are categorised as parasitic wasps, solitary hunting wasps and social wasps.

Parasitic wasps lay their eggs in or on some insects. Often the mother will sting the hapless cockroach, spider, beetle, stick insect or caterpillar, but the insect does not die. The wasp larva develops on or inside the unfortunate host and once it has developed into a pupa it will eat the host. Some wasps also lay their eggs in the nests of bees or other wasps. When



Common wasp

the eggs hatch they feed on the host's egg or larva and then on the provision laid in for the host's larva. The egg of the cuckoo wasp is generally introduced into the host's cell whilst cell provisioning is taking place.

In the case of the solitary hunting wasps, the female creates rearing cells in some sort of nest, goes out and collects prey that she

Continued on page 38

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# INSECTS

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paralyzes and returns it to the nest cell, then, when the nest cell is adequately provisioned, lays an egg and seals it.

The type of nest depends on the species. Some hunting wasps dig into soil, others create mud nests and many excavate the pith of hollow plants.

Then there are the social wasps, which are the group that most encounter humans in unfortunate stinging incidents. All the social wasps share some habits: colonies are established annually,

abandoned completely and die off in autumn after leaving a few fertilised queens to scatter around the vicinity and attempt a new colony the next season. Their nests are made of "paper" produced from masticated wood pulp. Often the site of the nest is concealed in an abandoned rodent nest below ground, behind an exterior wall, or in hollows of children's play-ground equipment. Although they feed on some insects, they readily scavenge sweets and protein-rich foods. They can be serious nuisance



The colourful cuckoo wasp

around uncovered rubbish and at outdoor dining areas in late summer.

Wasp stings can be uncomfortable, but most people recover quickly and without complications. A wasp's stinger contains venom that is transmitted to humans during a sting. While a bee can only sting once because its stinger becomes stuck in the skin of its victim, a wasp can sting more than once during an attack.

The initial sensations can include sharp pain or burning at the sting site. Redness, swelling, and itching can occur as well. You are likely to develop a raised bump around the sting site. A tiny white mark may be visible in the middle of the welt where the stinger punctured your skin. Usually, the pain and swelling lessens within several hours of being stung. You can treat mild and moderate reactions to wasp stings at home. Wash the sting area with soap and water to remove as much of the venom as possible. Apply a

cold pack to the wound site to reduce swelling and pain. Keep the wound clean and dry to prevent infection. Cover with a bandage if desired. Use hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion if itching or skin irritation becomes bothersome. About one in ten people have adverse reactions to wasp stings. People who have large local reactions may be allergic to wasp stings, but a few experience life-threatening symptoms, such as anaphylactic shock.



A young cockroach wasp emerges from its host

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# — IN THE ORCHARD

## How to prune fruit trees

**Get out your secateurs and lopping shears... now's the time to clean up and shape your fruit trees for best summer yields**

The purpose of pruning of branches on fruit trees is to create a strong structure that can withstand wind without breaking, carry heavy crops of fruit that can be harvested easily, while letting in sunlight to the heart of the tree, to encourage even ripening. Most fruit trees are best

the lopping shears but too small to bother with the chainsaw.

☐ A set of long-handle lopping shears to cut branches that are bigger than your little finger.

☐ A pair of secateurs to trim all the small stuff. They are easy to handle and can get into tight areas.

There are some general principles, and a set procedure, in pruning fruit trees:

☐ Inspect the tree for dead, diseased and damaged branches and remove them as well as any rotten dried out fruits remaining.

☐ Also remove any branches that are weak, cross each other (or are likely to cross each other

next season), grow downward or have narrow crotches.

☐ Clip away any suckers growing from the lower portion of the trunk or up from the roots. These are the little shoots that spring up from the roots of the plant.

☐ Make all the cuts flush with the main branch without damaging the bark.

☐ When pruning fruit trees, keep walking around the tree and look at the tree from different perspectives. The tree should look balanced from every angle.

☐ Viewed horizontally, the angle created by the limbs should resemble the hands of a clock at 10 o'clock or at 2 o'clock.

☐ Always prune back to buds aimed in the direction in which you want the limb to



Pruning kit: Small chainsaw or pruning hand-saw, secateurs and lopping shears

pruned in late winter to early spring ~ in other words, on the Highveld, in late August. This is because:

☐ You want to prune the branches before sap starts to flow.

☐ The cut areas are less susceptible to insect infestation in the early spring.

☐ Without leaves and blossoms, you can see easily see the shape of the tree.

☐ The direction of the tree's future growth needs to be set before starting its growth spurt.

Four different tools come in handy when pruning fruit trees:

☐ A hand or chainsaw is used to cut the big branches that should have been pruned a few years ago.

☐ A foldable small pruning saw for branches too big for

Continued on page 40

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# IN THE ORCHARD

From page 39

grow, which should generally be outwards.

Different varieties of fruit trees have different requirements. To prune, it is also important to know how a tree fruits. For example peaches fruit only on shoots from last year's growth on both laterals and fruiting shoots, while in plums fruit is borne on laterals or spurs that are two years or older. On young trees the spurs look more like a group of short laterals and on older trees like multiple buds.

## □ Peach trees

Pruning methods for peaches and nectarines are very much the same. Pruning a peach tree opens up the tree and allows sunlight to shine on the fruit. This is important for healthy fruit production. Also, if you're going to spray your trees for diseases or pests, an open tree helps with equal coverage.

Peach twigs can be killed in

one growing season by too much shading. If there's too much shade, eventually no fruiting wood will be present in the lower part of the tree. Imagine what your hand looks like when holding a giant peach. When pruning peach trees, the shape of your hand is very similar to the shape of the pruned peach tree. The centre is open with about five main branches angling upward at 45 degrees. Each one of these main branches holds another hand. This second hand is what carries and bears fruit.

You want to keep your tree short, so stand on the ground and crop the branches as high as you can reach with the clippers. If you have a tall limb where the only new growth is high above your head, cut off the limb. By keeping the tree low year after year, you'll encourage the tree to send out side branches instead of tall

branches that reach to the sky. It's a lot easier to prune, pick and care for a low growing peach tree than a tall one.

Choose four to six branches that come off the trunk. If there are branches growing up the centre of the tree, prune these out. Looking at an aerial view of the tree, the area where the fruit and leaves grow looks more like a doughnut than a ball.

Now you're going to trim up the remaining limbs, starting with any branches that are growing horizontal and downward. These have a tendency to break and crack when the fruit gets heavy.

In any one pruning you should aim to remove about two-thirds of the previous season's growth.

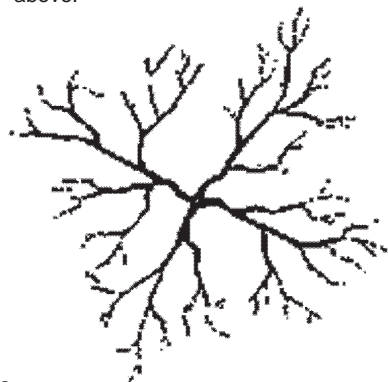
## □ Plum and Apricot trees

The trick with plum and apricot trees is to shape them from when they are planted. When you first plant a plum tree, it is important to direct its growth and create a vase shape, keeping the centre open to let in the light. Prune the tree to five to nine well-spaced lateral branches away from the tree's centre. Branches coming off the side of the shoot are known as laterals and should be left as they produce the spurs for fruit. This will help to establish a solid foundation for future growth.

Cut each of the main



What a pruned fruit tree should look like: Above: side view. Below: viewed from above.



branches back by approximately one third; the cut should be made just above the dormant shoot. In its second season, cut back new growth halfway on the five to nine chosen lateral branches.

Continued on page 42

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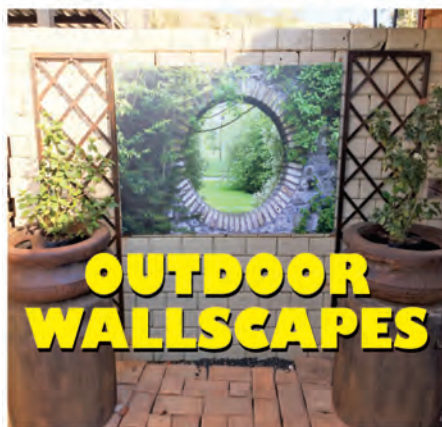
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# IN THE ORCHARD

From page 40

On those branches not required as part of the foundation, cut each one back to four buds. Shorten pruned shoots after harvesting the fruit in the late summer. This will encourage the new season's growth. It is also helpful to remove any branches that are not producing plums.

## □ Lemon trees

In recent years it has been proved that pruning citrus can be beneficial for fruit production when it is done in such a way as to let more light penetrate the canopy of the tree. The conventional wisdom is to always prune after fruiting, but there have been experiments in commercial orchard conditions which prove that lemon trees pruned in summer showed an increase in yield. Carry out many smaller branch prunings, rather than removing just a few larger branches. Aim to have four to six well-positioned, scaffold branches by the first year of bearing. Scaffold branches are branches that grow laterally from a tree trunk and that provide the framework of the mature tree. In subsequent years, remove 'extra' scaffold branches and thorny water shoots, as well as any suckers.

## □ Aftercare

After pruning, paint the large cut branches with a tree seal. Next spray the trees (and your pruned roses) with a lime sulphur spray, doing this BEFORE the trees' buds start to open.

Ensure that your sprayer has good pressure and spray your deciduous fruit trees and the soil around them, with 1 cup of lime sulphur to 10 cups of water.

Do this on a windless day and avoid getting spray mist anywhere else as the spray is harmful to beneficial insects such as bees. Wear suitable protective gear, and old clothes to do the job as lime sulphur stinks and is difficult to wash out.

Good orchard hygiene is also important so after finishing collect the prunings, and dispose of them by running your trimmings through a wood chipper. This makes good organic matter for your

garden. Later in the spring, spread some compost or well-rotted manure, which will feed the tree. Apply the mulch in a thick layer under the canopy from the drip line to about 45 cm from the trunk of the tree. If you place mulch too close to the trunk, it will encourage rodents that may damage the bark.

In very hot climates it is common practice to coat the trunks and main branches of the trees in whitewash. While the lime content of the whitewash has some insecticidal effect, the main reason this is done is to ensure that maximum sunlight is reflected away from the tree, with the aim of keeping the trunk (and the sap it contains) as cool as possible.

This, apparently, stops the tree from dropping leaves prematurely, and also has a beneficial effect on the quality and size of the fruit.



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# Chickens & their amazing social order

**O**bserve your flock of poultry and you will see that there are various activities that the birds perform during their day, some of which serve a functional purpose, some of which are purely for pleasure. There are also social activities in a flock. Chickens are gregarious, ie, friendly and communal. So they have developed a wide range of sounds for communication. Studies have classified twelve chick calls and as many as 22 calls by adults. These range from clucks, cackles, chirps and cries to keep in contact with mates.

Calls heard most often and recognised by humans are food calls, predator alarms, pre- and post-laying calls and roosters crowing. Others are more specific which humans find hard to identify.

There is some evidence of pre-hatching interactions between hens and chicks. Embryos and hens begin to make sounds the day before hatching and do so more and more often as hatching approaches. If an embryo begins to give a distress call, the hen vocalizes or moves on the nest and the embryo becomes silent or begins to emit pleasure calls. The clucking sound of the hen has also been shown to reduce distress calls.

Another classification describes the sounds that chickens make that are related to fear and predators. They make calls to do with brooding, feeding, contact and pleasure, but there are also signals expressing pain, frustration, fighting and crowing.

As any poultry owner soon learns, there's a well-recognised daily pattern of crowing near dawn followed by feeding calls, egg-laying calls and finally roosting calls. Chicken distress calls immediately get the attention of their broody mother, and the regular "cluck-cluck" is a reassuring call from the mother to the chicks. Large groups of hens can create very high noise levels. They are around 72-87dB at normal times, 73-100 dB at

feeding and 75-85 dB during egg laying. Chickens also communicate through body language. When hens can see each other, they communicate by body postures eg, head up or down, tail up or down, feathers spread or not. The tail is especially important and studies of feral birds showed that they stood upright with tail erect with wings diamond-pointed almost vertically down. This is called "wing-down alert". Body postures are particularly important to dominant males to send messages to his harem and possible competitors for his job. Studies have shown that birds recognise each other using a combination of comb, head and wattle. Single elements were more difficult for hens to recognise, but the comb

was the simplest. When a hen has been removed from a group for treatment, she is usually welcomed back when she returns. She moves easily back into the flock, which accepts her as if she had never been away. She will probably be greeted by her own flock members led by the rooster walking over and gathering around her conversably. In large groups kept together for some months, subgroups form and become restricted to an area. This means that birds can recognise their own group members and those of an overlapping territory. Many social animals work out a hierarchy, and chickens are no exception. The hierarchy created is a means of attaining and keeping order.

Continued on page 45

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From page 43

When referring to this ordered social structure in chickens, and sometimes other bird species, it is called the Pecking Order.

It is thought that chickens inherited a pecking order from their ancestors, the Red Jungle Fowl of Thailand, who had a pecking order so that when food was available, there are no fights over food, attracting attention to the flock by predators.

The pecking order is established early in a chicken's life when raised in a flock. Young chicks peck each other and bully one another when they are near food. The stronger chicks get to eat first, or eat the best foods and treats. Pullets and cockerels that grow up together will run and bump into each other, with the stronger one often chasing the other.

After slight pecks, chasing and minor disputes on the roosts,

order is established and is evident by the peaceful nature of the flock, because each bird knows where they rank and who they can and cannot push around. Unless a member of the flock is removed or added, the pecking order may remain the same for a long time, although it is never permanent.

Hens maintain a personal space around their heads and keep a distance from each other by holding their heads at an angle and maintaining a specific body orientation. If a direct head-to-head stance is taken, then pecking will ensue.

The relationship of body stance and head position is important during pecking attacks. These include threats in which one bird lifts its head above the level of the other bird's head, then pecks the comb, head, neck or nape, wattles and then chases the subordinate away.

Pecking is often greatest in adolescent hens.

Provide plenty of feed and watering points and plenty of floor space when the flock is settling, so that there is no need for the fowls to peck each other in order to eat and drink.

Hens love to dust bath, and it is clearly an innate behaviour. Dust bathing behaviour actions are even seen by birds bred with no feathers. We assume that hens dust bathe to control parasites and align their feathers. Normally free-living hens spend their time dispersed except when it comes to dust bathing, which they seem to love to do communally.

They also follow the sun around the yard. They all sunbathe, dropping to the ground and lying on their sides with one wing outspread, then turning over and spreading out the other wing while raising their neck feathers to allow the warm

sunlight to penetrate their skin and generate Vitamin D. Similar to dust bathing, sunbathing is a social as well as a healthful activity for chickens.

Different social activities and status can be seen where hens are kept commercially. Laying hens have complex interrelationships involving social rank, aggression, feeding behaviour and egg production.

Laying hens choose to feed close to each other when given a choice of feeding locations, which demonstrates the importance of social attraction. Hens that are in the same cage and in neighbouring cages will even synchronise their feeding. There is also evidence that chickens peck more at food when they have company than when they are alone. Male courtship displays are generally elaborate, involving vocalisations and noises, postures, etc.

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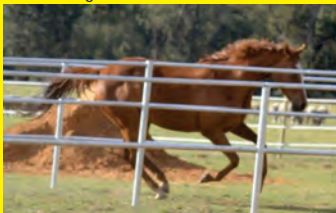
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Square grass bales, +/- 90 hand-bales, ave weight 15kg each, veld grass with high proportion of eragrostis and smutsfinger, R1 000 collected in Bredell. Pete 072 587-9137

Fruit and nut trees. Olive, peach, nectarine, plum, almond, apricot, walnut, prune, pomegranate, pecan nut, apple, cherry, pear, fig, quince, mulberry, lemon and grape vines. Contact Douw 084 506-5125 Vereeniging.

Indigenous trees. 40 varieties available. Aloes also in stock. Contact 082 801-9555.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Stop thieves: Outdoor wireless alarms for houses, cottages, outbuildings. 4 outdoor wireless sensors, Main control panel, 2 remote controls, siren, battery, etc. R2 800 installed in JHB or DIY. Also cut fence alarm, [www.stopthieves.co.za](http://www.stopthieves.co.za) or contact Colin 079 180-2853.

Stainless steel farm donkey. 210 litre, fire-heated. Constant hot water. From R3 730 incl VAT. Contact 011 762-1212, 082 456-0973 or [stainlessspecial@absamail.co.za](mailto:stainlessspecial@absamail.co.za).

### FOR SALE

Entries in this section are FREE OF CHARGE, but are for used items, private property sales/rentals and employment offered/wanted only.

### FARMING REQUISITES

Al flask, Air Liquide GT11. Brand new,

never used. R6 000 cash. SMS or WhatsApp 082 602-6618

Portable sheep pens, 1,7m x 1,0m, heavy duty galvanised. 40 panels @ R200 each. Treble pulley-block 150mm x 2ton -16mm rope 30m R1 000. Univa-46835 anthracite heater/stove R3 500. Fencing wire rolls 2,5mm dia R600, 4mm dia R500. 2 wire pullers + Bonnox clamp bars R300 ea. Post rammer 1 or 2 persons 20kg, 65mm dia max R500. Seymour post-hole augur, 3 inch R300. Boat winch 12V R500. 2 x heavy garden chairs plus table R250. Outdoor copper firepit R250. Call 016 366-4056/084 425-5101

Large shed 15m x 9,6m x 4,75m high, IBR roof and sides plus two double doors, 5m x 3,2m, good condition. R75 000 Hartbeespoort contact 082 771-6460

Finnbuilder, pillar type (not used). R3 500. Hartbeespoort 082 771-6460

### MISCELLANEOUS

Electric typewriter in excellent condition. R1 000. Call Jean 082 295-9996.

Large dark wooden office desk, drawers both sides, one drawer for hanging files. R500. Pete 072 587-9137

Appliances needing repair/refurbishment. If you are good at repairing electrical goods, take these items off my hands cheap and earn good money when you sell them on in working condition. Defy Dishmaid 12-place dishwasher in working order, but needs overhaul. Defy tumble dryer, large Goldstar microwave oven, 2 x vacuum cleaners, single bladder booster pump plus motor. Collect the lot for R500. Pete 072 587-9137



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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 51. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

Every Sunday  
Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Cullinan. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180  
horses@diamondxrancho.co.za,  
www.diamondx.co.za., R400 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 012 651-5509. 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, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-

7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024. 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.

## 2016

### August

2: New Moon  
3: Election Day  
6: Delicious Urban Gardening: Growing Food in the City. Talk with Jane Griffiths at Garden World. 13:30 for 14:00. Cost: R120 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.  
10: First Quarter  
13: Designing Small Spaces & Up Cycling. Talk with Tuis/Home Magazine & Bernadine Drath & Fiona Lear at Garden World. 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R120 pp & includes the talk/demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.  
15-19: Introductory Course in Small Stock Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

18: Full Moon  
20: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association monthly meeting at 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Benoni commencing at 9.30 am. Contact Peter Clark 011 362-2904.  
20: The art of creating your own work. Talk with Lizz Meiring at Garden World. 10:30 for 11:00. Cost: R150 pp & includes workshop, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.  
20: Mother & Child Fun Day with a Flower Arranging Course with Interflora at Garden World. 13:30 for 14:00. Cost: R100 pp & includes workshop, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.  
24-28: Jacaranda Agri Show, Tshwane Exhibition Centre (formerly Pretoria Showgrounds), Soutter St, Pretoria West.  
25: Last Quarter  
26 & 27: Start of new 20 module herb course. One module a month. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Includes refreshments and notes. Small classes for individual attention. Venue will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948. patsypotions@vergeer.co.za.  
27: 100 New Herbs with Rooi Rose, Mayford Seeds & Margaret and Sandy

Roberts at Garden World. 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R100 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.

### September

1-7: National Arbor Week  
1: New Moon  
1: Lunar Eclipse  
5-9: Introductory Course in Beef Cattle Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.  
9: First Quarter  
10: Topic: In Tune with Nature – Join MayFord Seeds for a Fun Morning with Music in the Garden featuring Richard Cock & Tanya Visser at Garden World. 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R95 pp & includes the event, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545, 011 956-3003 or 083 997-6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za.  
12-16: Meat Processing Course at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-



## Free Classified Ads

### PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Benoni Agricultural Holdings house to let. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, office, kitchen, dining room, lounge, patio, double garage on approx 3 acres. Fully fenced, alarm, remote gate. Available from 7th August. R8 000 pm plus water and electricity. Maryna 082 744 4191 or marynavis@vodamail.co.za

Benoni Agricultural Holdings, for sale: 5 acre plot with 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom house. Also an office and a garage for 2 vehicles and a caravan. Semi-face with tiled roof. Inside needs TLC. R1.4 million. Maryna 082 744 4191 or marynavis@vodamail.co.za

Benoni Agricultural Holdings, for sale: 5 acre plot with house: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, office, a patio and a double garage. Semi-face with tiled roof. Recently renovated. Plus cottage: (Old): 1 bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and lounge, plus 6m x

3m storeroom. 380 m² workshop, closed at back and sides, open in front, with 3 phase power. Properly fenced with pre-cast walls at the back and on the sides and palisade fencing in front. R2.5 million. Maryna 082 744 4191 or marynavis@vodamail.co.za

Henley-on-Klip: 1 ½ acre river property. Pump/irrigation. Large 4 bedroom house, study, 2 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen extra-large stoep, outside rooms plus toilet. Tiled floors, double garage with electric doors, storeroom, electric gate, outside garden shed, 3 carports. 016 366-4056/084 425-5101

Hartbeespoort close to the Westlake Estates 5.2 hectare fully fenced spectacular views double storey 550m² Bali style house under tiles large lounge, 3 bedrooms including study, dressing room and kitchenette, 3 large bathrooms, large dining cum TV lounge, large open plan kitchen, scullery and pantry. Built in cupboards, four car garage, large verandah and driveway, plus 7 kennels, strong borehole, 4 carports. Price on application. Contact 082 771-6460.

Magaliesberg: 54ha farm on main road, small dam and water rights, two cottages. Needs TLC. For sale or rent. Contact the owner 011 665-4318 084 500-4115

### TOOLS

Centre lathe, Lang 20 x 90 inches (500 x 2 280mm). Spindle 3 inch (75mm). 3-jaw and 4-jaw chucks. Fixed and moving steadies. Rotary centre, 15kW motor, 380V. 24 speeds 13,1 to 1 200 rpm. R35 000. Contact Willie 071 269-0332

BV20 BV20L automatic feed thread cutting bench lathe, 500mm between centres, lots of extras. New R16 000, my price R7 500. Mr Nel 079 859-2826

### VEHICLES

Venter trailer 2,15 m long with roof rack, removable lid, rear panel can open, plus spare wheel. Hartbeespoort. R4 500. Contact 082 771-6460

Fiat Ducato camper van, 2015 model, 4 000km with warranty. 2 sleeper, full house, ready to go. R530 000. Coontact 082 583-5793

### JOBS WANTED/- OFFERED

Stable management position wanted. Preferably stud farm, qualified with experience. Contact 082 583-5793

Graphic designer: The *Gauteng Smallholder* has an immediate vacancy for a qualified, experienced graphic designer with WEB experience at our office on the East Rand. You must have your own reliable car (you will be required to travel in and around Gauteng), and have proven experience/qualifications in advertisement design, print makeup, and website design and management. To apply, email your CV to gautengsmallholder@gmail.com and we will get back to you to set up an interview.

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083 391 9867  
nethout1@gmail.com



# TREE OF THE YEAR

## Building awareness of indigenous trees

Every year two (or sometimes three) trees are chosen as trees of the year, in an effort to encourage all South Africans to plant indigenous trees. Arbor Week will be celebrated from 4 to 10 September, so this is the time of year that thought turns to care of the trees in our environment, as well as to planting new trees as part of sustainable environmental management. This is the time for the government, the private

sector, non-governmental and community based organisations and the public to be involved in "greening" our communities. Greening needs an integrated approach to the planting, care and management of all vegetation in urban and rural areas, to secure multiple benefits for communities.

It is up to individuals to look for opportunities to improve our own areas but also to improve that of disadvantaged communities.

The Dept of Forestry selects a

common tree and a rarer tree as trees of the year, as part of the need to highlight the 2 000 indigenous tree species in South Africa.

For 2016 the common tree is *Ficus thonningii*, known as Common wild fig, Gewone wildevy; Umbombe, or Uthombe.

The fig group of indigenous trees consists of at least 20 family members

and this particular tree is found throughout southern Africa and further north in Africa.

Continued on page 50



Common fig

## DIARY

9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

16: World Ozone Day

16: Full Moon

17 September: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association monthly meeting at 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Benoni commencing at 9.30 am. Contact Peter Clark 011 362-2904.

22: Equinox

23: Last Quarter

25: Propagating workshop in the garden. From 14:00 to 17:00. Complete list of all ingredients needed will be given with prepaid booking. R60,00 per person includes refreshments. Venue will be given on booking.

Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948. patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

### October

1: New Moon

4: World Habitat Day

9: First Quarter

10-14: Introductory Course in Poultry Production at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

14 & 15: Workshop: Making melt and pour

glycerine soaps. From 09:00 to 13:00. Refreshments, notes and some ingredients are included in the course. Small groups for individual attention. Prepaid booking essential. R300 per person. Venue and list of other materials will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948, patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

16: Full Moon

22: Last Quarter

22 October: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association monthly meeting at 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Benoni commencing at 9.30 am. Contact Peter Clark 011 362-2904.

22: The Annual Charity day for the animals, craft stalls, plant nursery, homemade preserves, jewellery, books, tea garden and much more, from 10:00 until 17:00. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948, patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

30: New Moon

### November

4 & 5: Workshop making paper, herbal dyes and scented drawer liners. From

09:00 to 13:00. Includes refreshments, some ingredients and notes. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue and list of other ingredients will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948.

patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za

5: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association annual honey and beekeeping show, Hecker's Nursery, 1 North Rand Road Boksburg, from 10.00 am all day. Contact Peter Clark 071 084-6971

7: First Quarter

8-11: Introductory Course in Pig Production at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

14: Full Moon

21: Last Quarter

26: Christmas Country Market at Groenvoer, 410 Olifantsfontein Road, Midrand. Contact Cathy on 011 314-1211.

29: New Moon

### December

1: Garden World's Carols by Candlelight concert. For more information call 011 957-2545

2 & 3: Workshop Making Herb Wines and Liqueurs. From 09:00 to 13:00.

Refreshments, notes and some ingredients are included. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue and list of ingredients will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948. patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

7: First Quarter

14: Full Moon

21: Last Quarter

21: Solstice

29: New Moon

## LIVESTOCK SALES

**Auctions: Bronkhorstspuit - Every Tuesday**

**Gys Taute 083 253 6906**

**Delmas - 2nd & 4th Thursday**

**Johan Taute 073 204 7646**

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

**Vleissentraal Ermelo**

**017 819 1106**

**www.vleissentraal.co.za**



### Fruit Trees

Olive, peach, nectarine, plum, almond, apricot, walnut, prune, pomegranate, pecan nut, apple, cherry pear, fig, quince, mulberry, lemon and grape vines.

### Shade Trees Vrugtebome

Olyf, perske, kaal perskes, pruim, amandel, appelkoos, okkerneut, pruimedant, granaat, duiwe, pekanneut, appel, kersie, peer, vy, kweper, moerbe en suurlemoen.

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# TREE OF THE YEAR

From page 49

*Ficus thonningii* occurs naturally in bushveld and woodland. It is a medium to large evergreen tree with a dense leafy crown.

The bark is light to dark grey and fairly smooth. However the wood is whitish.

The leaves vary slightly between elliptical to obovate which means they are inverted egg-shaped with the narrower end at the base and may be rounded or tapering. The leaves are smooth but slightly hairy on the veins, 4,5x12 cm long, rather stiff and somewhat leathery, mid-to dark green above, dull and paler below.

The fruit is a fig borne singly or in pairs, which are green, yellowish or sometimes red when ripe. The fruit is eaten by birds, bats and antelope, but no fewer than 29 species

of fig wasp are associated with the fruit of these trees. They also provide food for the larva of a certain butterfly.

This fast growing, semi-frost hardy tree should be planted in full sun.

Smallholders are encouraged to plant these trees as they provide nutritious fodder, water and soil conservation, soil fertility improvement, wasteland reclamation and enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity. It also has other positive attributes including easiness for propagation, being benign to other crops as long as they are not planted in the tree's shade, shallow rooted, thus do not deplete ground water, high biomass production, higher nutritive value of foliage, fast growth rate, and possible significant contribution to carbon sequestration.

The less common tree of the year is *Maerua Angolensis*, also known as Bead-bean tree, Umgodithi, Umenwayo, Umvitsi, or knoppiesboontjieboom. However it will be difficult to grow in Gauteng and the alternative rare tree of the year is *Maerua Cafr*, also called Common Bush Cherry or Gewone Witbos. It is a hardy evergreen shrub or small tree that grows up to a height of 2-9m, depending on the local conditions. The scented flowers are comprised mainly of a tuft of spreading white stamens, tipped with

green. The slender stamens give the flowers a spider-like appearance. It flowers in early spring. The fruit is oval and pale green with dark green longitudinal lines. This water wise tree should be planted in full sun, in loamy soil and has a fast growth rate.

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*Maerua Cafr*

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# Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held to a regular weekly or monthly schedule. Markets held less frequently 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	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
<b>Thursday</b>					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
<b>Friday</b>					
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
<b>Saturday</b>					
Every Saturday	Tuinhekkie Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	cor Lazar Ave & Merwe Road Bootha Plots, Randfontein	Amanda Hefer 073 565-8905	Handmade products, numerous food stalls, flowers live entertainment most Saturdays, farmyard for the kids
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 <a href="mailto:wholefoodmarket@gmail.com">wholefoodmarket@gmail.com</a>	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 <a href="mailto:blingsa@lantic.net">blingsa@lantic.net</a>	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636 <a href="http://www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za">www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 <a href="mailto:info@wfmmarket.co.za">info@wfmmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Agricultural Market	09:00 to 15:00	K154 T-junction with R82	Dominique 082 775-0802 <a href="mailto:market@walkervillesa.co.za">market@walkervillesa.co.za</a>	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. <a href="http://www.walkervillesa.co.za">www.walkervillesa.co.za</a>
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	Jozi Real Food Market	08:30 to 13:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 <a href="mailto:whitespace@mweb.co.za">whitespace@mweb.co.za</a>	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet products
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 <a href="mailto:info@victuschristi.org.za">info@victuschristi.org.za</a>	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 <a href="mailto:wardek@iafrica.com">wardek@iafrica.com</a>	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 <a href="mailto:realfood4realpeople@gmail.com">realfood4realpeople@gmail.com</a>	Local fresh produce direct to the public
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	bonniecoutho4@gmail.com 083 458-3058 / 083 445-1608	Homemade crafts & food stalls bakery & coffee shop and entertainment
<b>Sunday</b>					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 <a href="http://www.fmarket.co.za">www.fmarket.co.za</a>	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Every Sunday	Jozi Real Food Market	09:00 to 14:00	Northcliff Country Club, Fir Avenue, Northcliff	083 532 2992 <a href="mailto:whitespace@mweb.co.za">whitespace@mweb.co.za</a>	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet products
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 <a href="mailto:info@serendipitycafe.co.za">info@serendipitycafe.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.serendipitycafe.co.za">www.serendipitycafe.co.za</a>	Community market to promote local business



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# The agony of a dumb name

**E**ish, but some parents can be careless, or stupid, or even cruel, when it comes to naming their offspring! You may remember a song sung by Johnny Cash in the late 60s entitled *A Boy Named Sue* about a wandering father who, knowing he's not going to be around to see his kid grow up, names the boy Sue in the hope that he'll thereby learn to fight his way through in a man's world.

That's a funny, mythical example of how a brainfart decision taken at the time of the child's birth can saddle the poor mite with a lifetime of anguish and confusion.

Some are given frankly silly names: Ziggy Stardust. Phoenix Racing Cloud Theron. OK, Ziggy Stardust wasn't a real person, just a figment of David Bowie's songwriting skills, but it's hardly surprising that Phoenix Racing Cloud Theron is currently doing time for murdering her mother.

Some families name their kids most unimaginably. I know a Greek family who named their son Dimitri and their daughter Dimitra. Lovely names, both, but considering they weren't twins (when some might say such a naming is "cute") what about the wealth of other Greek names to choose from? Stavros? Democrates? Thedorus? Ioannis? And to make matters worse the father had a brother with whom he was very close (until, like many Greek families, they had a permanent falling out) who also named his son Dimitri.

Some go overboard with the names. I once employed a man whose "European" name was Washington. He told the tale of how, when his mother was pregnant with him and his twin, his father took her to Durban for a holiday. Walking around town one day she came to an intersection where she saw a street sign. One street was named Washington, and the other Wellington, and she decided there and then that they would be great names for her babies. So one was named Washington and the other Wellington. And so pleased was she with her inventiveness that when a third child came along some time later she named him Wellington as well!

Another naming habit which is strange to me is to give the child the same first name as his surname. There's Tlali Tlali, sometime spokesman for SA Airways and the National Prosecuting Authority. And of course there's our Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng. How many times during his rise up the judicial ladder must officious little clerks of the court wondered, when he signed some weighty legal document, why he needed to practice spelling his name?

And it should never be allowed that a father of a newly-born child be put in charge of registering the birth.

My wife had an aunt whose official name was Mary. Her mother, however, wanted to name her Marcinah after the beautiful heroine in a play she had seen. On the day of the child's birth the father, who happened to be the magistrate of Philippolis, proudly went off to his office to fill in the Birth Register (at the time one of the duties of a magistrate). By the time he arrived, however, he'd forgotten the rather exotic name his wife had chosen, and simply wrote down Mary.

Then there's the horrible habit of giving a child a string of names, then actually using a name other than the first one. I am a victim of such abuse, and the fact that I have not spent my life in therapy is a wonderment to me

I was named George Peter William after my father, George, and my two grandfathers (both of English origin). However, I was born at a time when it was fondly hoped that Engelsmanne and Afrikaners would join together in some joyous (white) national melange, so my father, who as a civil servant was also responsible for entering my name in the Births Register, thought he'd give me a head-start in the race to perfect (white) nationhood by entering me as George Pieter William. But, to avoid confusion with him, I was called, by the family, Piet.

Which was fine (although I took a bit of a ribbing at school) until I attempted to use my names in my first job, which entailed meeting people of many nationalities in the maritime industry.

The habit was to introduce oneself with a business card, so my first cards were as "George PW". I quickly realised that was a mistake as people thought me rude or deaf when I didn't react to calls for "George". So I had cards printed that named me as Piet. And that worked only as long as it took some illiterate English merchant navy officer to decide to phonetically pronounce my name "Pie-ette".





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