



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland

NOTE meetings have been suspended due to compliance with current Covid-19 virus requirements. Meetings will resume when permitted.

NOTE the change in venue

CONTACT DETAILS



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	Chris
Vice President	Neville
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Bryan
Newsletter Editor	Bryan/John/Chris
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank, John, Ed & Lee

MEMBERSHIP

Full membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In compliance with statutory requirements, there will not be a July meeting.

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We hope this e-mail still finds you well and still

EDITORIAL MATTERS

coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. It seems the end of restrictions is nigh and we can resume our meeting schedule, hopefully from August.

We always welcome any contributions from members, so if you have a project underway, have a query, want to sell/swap/buy something, or otherwise have a tale to share, please get in contact via info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au or one of the Committee members.



Sick of photos of 100 year olds? How cute is this 6 month old Morton Bay Fig from seed collected in Long Bay Gaol. So much potential!

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our Club by providing the meeting hall at a concessional rate.



FEEDBACK ON LAST MEETING

Regrettably, an easy one this month – we did not have a meeting, again!

MONTHLY VIRTUAL COMPETITION

Virtual competition #1 has closed and judged. The winners are Class A **Neville Althaus**, Class B **Bryan Everts** and Class C **Chris Denton**. Congratulations – all winners will get \$5 worth of tickets in our next raffle. Thanks to all who voted but sadly many did not take the opportunity to have a say. Let's hope for a better voter turnout next time

The entries to Competition #2 are in, grouped and displayed at the end of the newsletter. Have a critical look at them and place your vote(s) by e-mail to (info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au). All that is required is to nominate your preferences by quoting the Class and Entry number in that class. One vote per class and you can vote for your own tree if you wish. Winners will be announced in the next Newsletter but **votes should be in by 17th July**.

As we will not have a meeting in July, we will run one last (with any luck) competition (#3). This month we will be calling for entries to

- Class A – bare tree or tree in autumn/winter foliage, any species, size or style.

As before, to enter the competition just take a photo of your tree(s) and send to the Club's e-mail address (info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au).

The same procedure and rules as last time apply, ie. In the e-mail;-

- Include photo(s) and your name, etc. Only one photo per tree.
- If you wish, provide some background points (size, type of tree, age, origin (cutting, seed, ...), or any other interesting info)

Hints-

- Include the photos as attachments to your e-mail, preferably not embedded.
- Smaller file sizes are preferred – high resolution is not required

The proposed time schedule is

- Closing date for Virtual competition #3 is **30th July**)
- Display of entries for Virtual Competition #2 are attached and **voting closes 17th July**
- Winners for Virtual Competition #2 will be announced in the August Newsletter.

Happy to have any feedback and suggestions for improvements or any other ideas.

The prize for the winner will be \$5.00 worth of tickets in the next raffle.

Looking forward to your participation, so get photographing!

SYNOPSIS OF FERTILISING BONSAI ARTICLE prepared by John

Everything you ever wanted to know about fertilizers...

In Autumn we are advised to use low nitrogen fertilisers on our Bonsais. "Which ones are low nitrogen fertilisers?" and, "Why do we use them at this time of year?" are questions often not well understood by Bonsai growers. Here is a brief summary of everything you always wanted to know about fertilisers.

Any fertiliser you buy will come with information about the nutrients it contains. Prominently featured will be the **N-P-K ratio**, the percentage the product contains by volume of nitrogen (chemical symbol N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). A 16-16-16 fertiliser, for example, contains 16% nitrogen, 16% phosphorus, and 16% potassium. A 25-4-2 formulation contains 25% nitrogen, 4% phosphorus, and 2% potassium.

Nitrogen is important for leafy growth for plants. Potassium is important for flower and fruit production, and helps increase sap flow. Phosphorus is important for strong root growth and also makes plants physically sturdy.

All fertilisers contain at least one of these components; if any is missing, the ratio will show a zero for that nutrient (eg a 12-0-0 fertiliser contains



nitrogen but no phosphorus or potassium). Boxed, bagged, and bottled products display the N-P-K ratio on the label. For fertilisers sold in bulk from self-serve bins, the ratio should be noted on the bin.

Complete and Incomplete Fertilisers

A fertiliser containing all three nutrients is called a 'complete' fertiliser; a product that supplies only one or two of them is an 'incomplete' fertiliser. Using a complete fertiliser for every garden purpose seems sensible, but in fact it isn't always the best choice. If the soil contains sufficient phosphorus and potassium and is deficient only in nitrogen (as is often the case), you can save money by using an incomplete fertiliser that provides nitrogen alone (ammonium sulphate, for example). In some instances, complete fertilisers can even harm a plant. Australian plants are adapted to grow in our ancient, impoverished soils, and one family, the Proteaceae family, which includes banksias, grevilleas and waratahs, are super-efficient at extracting phosphorus from the soil. So if you use fertiliser high in phosphorus you can actually poison them. Instead use a fertiliser specially formulated for Australian plants.

General and Special-Purpose Fertilisers

The various products labelled "general-purpose fertilisers" contain either equal amounts of each major nutrient (e.g. N-P-K ratio 12-12-12) or a slightly higher percentage of nitrogen than of phosphorus and potassium (e.g. 12-8-6). Such fertilisers are intended to meet most plants' general requirements throughout the growing season. Special-purpose fertilisers, on the other hand, are formulated for specific needs. They deliver a particular combination of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for certain plants. These fertilisers are of three general types.

The first, used during the period of active growth, contains largely nitrogen. Such products, with N-P-K ratios such as 16-6-4, are often used in spring, when you want to encourage lush growth or green up your plant.

The second type is meant to stimulate root growth, stem vigour, and flower and fruit production. Fertilisers of this sort contain less nitrogen and higher levels of phosphorus and potassium; the N-P-K ratio may be 3-20-20, for example. These products are applied at different times and in different ways, depending on what you want to achieve. When you prepare a new soil, for re-potting for instance, you'll mix a dry granular fertiliser of this sort into the soil, putting the phosphorus and potassium where roots can absorb them. The nutrients help strengthen the new growth developing stems and encourage the growth of a dense network of roots. This type of fertiliser is also used to promote flower and fruit production to established plants after they've completed their first flush of Spring growth. You can use either dry granules, sprinkling them on the surface or mix them into the soil, or apply a liquid formula diluted with water.

A third group of fertilisers is designed for use on specific plants. These feature the N-P-K ratios determined to elicit the best performance from the particular plant, as well as other micro elements proven valuable to that plant. Such fertilisers are named according to the plant they're intended to nourish. Especially useful are formulas for citrus trees and acid-loving plants such as azaleas, camellia and rhododendron.

Synthetic and Organic Fertilisers

Some fertilisers are manufactured in the laboratory, while others are derived from natural sources. Each has certain advantages.

Synthetic fertilisers

These products are derived from the chemical sources usually listed on the product label. They're faster acting than organic kinds and provide nutrients to plants quickly, making them a good choice for aiding plants in severe distress from nutrient deficiencies. Synthetic fertilisers are sold both as dry granules to be applied to the soil and as dry or liquid concentrates to be diluted in water before application. In dry form, they're usually less



expensive than their organic counterparts. In some of the dry granular types (those known as controlled-release fertilisers) the fertiliser granules are coated with a permeable substance. With each watering, a bit of fertiliser diffuses through the coating and into the soil. Depending on the particular product, the nutrient release may last anywhere from 3 to 8 months.

Synthetic fertilisers usually do not contain any of the secondary or micro-nutrients - but in most cases, these nutrients are already present in the soil. If a test indicates that some are missing, look for a fertiliser that provides them.

Organic fertilisers

Organic fertilisers are derived from the remains of living organisms; blood meal, bone meal, cotton seed meal, and fish emulsion etc. Organic fertilisers release their nutrients slowly. Rather than dissolving in water, they're broken down by bacteria in the soil, providing nutrients as they decompose. Because these fertilisers act slowly, it's almost impossible to kill plants by applying too much. Overdosing with synthetics, in contrast, can have potentially fatal results. Some manufacturers combine a variety of organic products in one package.

Two commonly used organic fertilisers are compost and manure. The N-P-K ratio of compost varies from 1.5-.5-1 to 3.5-1-2. Chicken manure's N-P-K ratio ranges from 3-2.5-1.5 to 6-4-3; that of cow manure is usually a little less than 1-1-1.

Fertilisers containing seaweed provide nutrients in a form immediately available to plants, seaweed contains mannitol, a compound that enhances absorption of nutrients already in the soil, and various hormones that stimulate plant growth. The carbohydrates in seaweed break down rapidly, nourishing soil-dwelling bacteria that fix nitrogen and make it available to plant roots. Mixed with water and sprayed directly on foliage, seaweed-containing fertilisers can have dramatic effects in a matter of days. Plants green up and begin to produce new growth, and those that are weak stemmed and straggly straighten up and become stronger.

(Article Source: sunset.com)

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - July

By John

1. Heavy prune and trunk chop deciduous and evergreen trees while dormant (except [Japanese Maples](#) and [Pines](#). Energy stored in the roots will help accelerate the new growth in Spring).
2. All species of trees can be wired at this time so that the wire can be left on as long as possible while the tree is dormant.
3. Assess and gather together sufficient materials for repotting.
4. As the end of the month approaches, start repotting those trees that break bud first such as Mulberry, Chinese Elm, Japanese Flowering Cherry, Japanese Flowering Apricot, Japanese Flowering Quince, Chinese Quince, Pomegranate and pears.
5. Any deciduous trees that you have in the ground can be dug up, root pruned and return to the ground for further growth. Alternatively if they have developed sufficiently they can be potted. (leave evergreens until early Spring)
6. Pines and evergreens can be grafted now.
7. Melaleuca cuttings can be taken now of half-ripe lateral shoots.
8. Root prune and repot cedars.
9. Spray trees that are prone to mildew (eg maples, crepe myrtles, oaks, roses and olives) with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during Winter.

Sources:

1. AusBonsai Wiki
2. "Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by D R Koreshoff

FACEBOOK PAGE



John Brown

SCBC has created a Facebook Group team room for members. It is not open to the public and you can only join by receiving an invitation. To get an invite you have to be on Facebook. If you send John Brown a 'friend request' he'll send you a team room invite. Just look for this photo.



BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

29 September 2020	Garden Clubs of Australia AGM	
12-13 September 2020	Central Coast Bonsai Club Annual Show	
17-18 October 2020	Wauchope Bonsai Club Show	Laurieton
	Illawarra BS newsletter	Available on request
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request

Essentially, all club events have been suspended/cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus statutory requirements.

VIRTUAL COMPETITION #2 ENTRIES

Class A – Formal, informal upright, any species



Entry 1
Deodar Cedar, club purchase 10+ years old, 750 mm tall



Entry 2
Japanese Black Pine, 20 years



Entry 3
Satome Azalea, 15 years old, 190mm tall



Entry 4
Privet, 12 years old 300mm tall



Entry 5
Privet pock, 2 years old, 300mm tall



Entry 6
Callistemon, 700 tall



Entry 7
Clerodendrom, 10 years old,
260mm tall



Entry 8
Water Gum, 15(?) years old, 600mm tall



Entry 9
Privet corky bark, 6 years old,
200mm tall



Entry 10
Bay tree, 15? years old – ex Sue, 500mm
tall



Enrty 11
White Cypress, tube stock 10
years old, 700mm tall



Entry 12
Unknown but very spikey, 10?
years old, 800mm tall



Class B - Cascade any species



Entry 1
Mystery entry, Apex to tip 680mm,
370mm cascade

Class C - Group planting, any species



Entry 1
Callistemon group of 13 – 950mm wide x 750mm tall