GARDENING QUESTIONS?
Gardening questions? Head to the Horticultural Hub for answers!
Every Wednesday and Sunday, between 1-4pm, the Old Information Centre becomes a Hub for gardening advice and inspiration.

The friendly folk inside are a wealth of knowledge and are ready for horticultural, botanical or conservation conversation. Run by volunteers of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS
Invoices for subscriptions for 2019 have been either sent by email or posted. Subs are due by 20th December. If you have not received your invoice yet please let Liz in the office know.
When paying please indicate if you require a membership card, either by writing ‘Card’ on the payment advice or in the ‘Code’ section of online banking.
It is recommended that Membership cards be worn at AAG sessions, this helps the Committee to see who the visitors are and can be made welcome.

The AAG door charge to be changed from 1 February to $5 members and $10 non-members.

CHRISTMAS HOURS
The CHS office will close for Christmas from Wednesday 19 December and reopen on Monday 14 January 2019.

FROM THE PRESIDENT ALAN JOLLIFFE
It is almost Christmas and members will be preparing for the festive season. Hopefully your gardens will benefit from the extra rain we have had in November to ensure it is growing well and looking great for family gatherings.

The CHS has had an interesting year especially discussions around the Autumn Show and Tea Kiosk. On the 6th of December the City Council is due to make its decision about our application to lease this building. After that meeting I will let everyone know what that decision is.

On behalf of the Board I wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and please enjoy your garden through the Summer months.

EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS 2019
Growing an edible garden? Enter the 2019 Awards
Nominations are now open for the 2019 Edible Garden Awards. These awards are an opportunity for us to recognise all types of food gardens great and small and the work and care that goes into creating these.

Wards participating in the scheme include Papanui-Innes, Spreydon-Cashmere and for the first time, Linwood-Central-Heathcote.
Entry forms and criteria information can be found online at: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ediblegardens
Nominations close from late January to early February 2019.

GREEN THUMBS RADIO
Monday 10 December 9.30am
Out & About with the Canterbury Horticultural Society
Listen to CHS Vice President Ray King along with former Board Member Annette Hill as they chat live on Plains FM 96.9 for “Canterbury through the Seasons”.

ChS News
December is the real start of Summer and after a very changeable Spring we look forward to a more settled and warmer time. Overall Spring has been a good growing season and as a result there has been a good set of both stone and pip. Because of this there is a need to thin out the developing fruit so that the size and quality of the crop is achieved.

The planting of Summer annuals needs to be completed and with the possibility of water restrictions add mulch to as much of the garden areas as possible to help retain soil moisture.

Many plants will have made vigorous growth which can be a problem, a prune out of this growth while retaining the natural shape of the plant may be done now.

Pest and diseases are starting to appear so some preventative treatments made now will protect the plants from harmful damage.

Berry fruits are ripening and birds can be a problem if the plants are not covered by netting.

It is a busy time in the garden but we also get the satisfaction of eating our own produce and the enjoyment of the flowers the we have grown.

**Silver Service Award**
In appreciation of the outstanding contribution made to the Society

**Kowhai Award**
In appreciation of the outstanding contribution made to the Society

**Outstanding Horticulturalist Award**
For a person demonstrating an outstanding contribution in Horticulture

**John Taylor Award**
For Leadership in Horticulture
For a person demonstrating outstanding leadership and service to horticulture.

**CHRSANTHEMUMS**
*Saturday 8 December* 6pm
Michael and Susan Coulters
183 Weston Road
*BYO drinks and dessert*

**GARDEN CLUB REPS**
*Tuesday 4 December* 12pm
Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place

**JUNIOR GARDENERS**
*Thursday 20 December* 3.45 - 5pm
Terra Viva Home & Garden
242 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

**HERB SOCIETY**
*Thursday 13 December* 6pm
Craft Room, Avice Hill Craft Centre
395 Memorial Avenue

Christmas Themed
Bring a suitable hat to decorate. Have fun with a Christmas quiz.

Please bring a salad or dessert.
All else provided.

**MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter**

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**HERB OF THE MONTH**
*Rosemary*
Rosmarinus officinalis

*“There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance”*
Shakespeare, (Hamlet)

This had to be the herb for the 50th Anniversary of the Canterbury Herb Society.

Native to the Mediterranean and Asia, the Latin name Rosmarinus translates as “dew of the sea” due not only to its native habitat but the dew like blossoms seen at a distance. It is a very hardy, fragrant, evergreen perennial smallish shrub either upright or sprawling and will grow almost anywhere surviving droughts and colder climates with its stiff needle-like leaves. It does not like wet swampy conditions.

Many varieties have been cultivated or crossed and today flower colours range through shades of blue, purple, pinks and white. Foliage comes from green through variegated to a yellow. The plant, which becomes woody with age, makes a fragrant, long flowering, garden plant and if kept clipped, a nicely scented hedge. It is easy to grow from cuttings.

Rosemary was considered sacred to ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and valued for its medicinal and aromatic virtues down the centuries. It was believed to improve memory, worn as a wreath to symbolize fidelity, love and abiding friendship. A wife grows it in remembrance of her life before marriage. For crime and plague prevention it was put in wine vinegar to wash the feet. It is still used for remembrance at funerals and at war commemorations.

Today culinary use is made of rosemary in herbal teas, with meats, vegetables while the oil is used in perfumes, shampoo, cleaning products and as incense.

Men beware! An old saying, “Rosemary thriving when planted by the wife, indicates that she wears the trousers.”
FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROUP News & tips

In October’s meeting Alan Jolliffe shared a new product which helps to prevent Codling Moth on apple trees. ‘Bird Proof’, is a non-toxic, tacky repellent gel which can be used to form a repellent band on the tree-trunk which lasts for several seasons. Peter Saunders provided the third instalment of A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year complete with a slide-show. His tomatoes in the tunnel house are now flowering. He uses trickle irrigation to ensure water gets to the roots and not the weeds. This also prevents an overly humid atmosphere which can encourage fungal diseases.

With heirloom varieties, the first flower is often large and distorted and this is called a ‘king’ flower. This should be removed. He allows 2 laterals for regular tomato plants and 4 for cherry. Extra nutrients such as dissolved blood and bone or a seaweed feed may be provided. However, if grown in pure compost they may not need anything extra.

Tomatoes suffering from fruit end rot, which is caused by a lack of calcium, may benefit from a sprinkle of milk powder. Peter’s Tomatillos are flowering. These little fruit are like a cape gooseberry and are good for salsas. His patio is full of young plants growing in boxes by brick walls, these radiate heat at night and provide shelter from easterly winds. Chilli and capsicums need spraying later when white-fly appears. There are fewer problems with outdoor-grown plants than glass-house plants where diseases spread more quickly. Look out for berry bud moth, which lays eggs on the stem and burrows into the stalk to emerge at the flower spike, which will droop and curl up. BT spray may help, but don’t use Confidor which stays in the plant for two years and can kill bees.

Phil Ducker suggested that carrots, parsnips and lettuces should be sown in short rows every 3 weeks to keep up supplies. Dwarf beans will be ready in 50 days and climbing beans 75 days.

Our main speaker was Jeff Humm and his topic was Vegetables: Improving Plant Health. Jeff was a long-time member of the Soil Health Association as well as responsible for maintaining the sizeable (45 acres) gardens at the Technology Park, and later the Sanitarium factory. He was also a Garden Show judge for 25 years. Jeff treated us to a slide-show of some wonderful colourful plantings. He also explained the benefits of adding crusher dust to compost to produce a complete planting medium. Compost provides the bacteria and crater dust, derived from our main local greywacke rock, has up to 36 different minerals; these boost the immunity of your plants to stave off fungal mildews on growing plants.

Other tips he passed on: never let seedlings wilt; if they are stressed like this they will never grow well and will bolt.

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RAMBLERS

Tuesday 11 December 9.45am
Avonside
Meet Woodham Park, Woodham Rd
Bring morning tea to share
No walk if wet. FREE
2019 Programme available now: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

FRUIT & VEGETABLE

No hall meeting December and January

Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm
Deaf Society of Canterbury.
80 Fitzgerald Ave
Mahinga Kai Growing, Gathering, and using Indigenous Edible Plants.
A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year #5 with Peter Saunders

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Vegetable Garden

1. Pip fruit may need to be thinned and treat for codling moth and black spot.
2. Harvest berries and currents as they ripen.
3. Continue to plant successive green vegetables.
4. Sow parsnips for Winter but make sure not to allow the ground to dry out to ensure a good germination.
5. Plant leeks
6. Wait for the leaves of the garlic to fall over before lifting and drying off.
7. Tie up tomatoes and look on the underside of the leaves for any sign of the psyllid.
8. Plant peppers, chillies, cucumbers and pumpkins
9. Feed citrus and keep them well.

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Lawns

1. Treat for broad leaf weeds.
2. Repair any bare areas.
3. Treat for grass grub if it has been a problem.
4. Fertilise after you have treated for grass grub.
5. Trim back the edges to keep them even.
6. Cut regularly but not too low.

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FLORAL DESIGN

No meeting December and January

Wednesday 20 February 2pm

New members welcome.
Contact the CHS office
Tel: 366 6937
Email: office@chsgardens.co.nz
See the latest creations online: https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N
TOURS WITH THE CHS

Christmas Gardens
Wednesday 5 December 1.30pm
Three large private gardens in Springfield followed by a pre Christmas afternoon tea.
None of the gardens have been viewed before and are a real “must see”.

$10pp self drive.
Register now at the CHS office. tel: 366 6937
office@chsgardens.co.nz

Gail Scrivener is an experienced Tour Guide with over 30 years in the industry. Gail has led tours for the CHS to Thailand, Tasmania, Melbourne and Norfolk Island, as well as many in and around NZ.

Try out a local garden this Summer.
Coniston, a CHS prizewinning garden is a one acre property in Avonhead with mature trees and an expansive lawn surrounded by woodland areas. Japanese maples, rhododendrons, camellias and a rose garden feature alongside a pond (plus orchard and vegetable plot).

$8 pp. groups welcome (10 and over $5 pp).
Visit by app tel: 358 7794 027 414 3517

CHS Tours 2018 Year in Review

The tour programme for the past year has consisted of eight tours ranging from half day local tours through to the High Country, Hurunui and Darfield areas. Longer tours included, Autumn Colours to Central Otago and more recently, Queensland, all of which many members have been able to participate and enjoy.

I extend my sincere thanks to the garden hosts and members, for without your support it would not be possible to offer such an interesting range of itineraries. I wish you all a very safe and happy festive season. Photos below from the year that was

ALL ABOUT GARDENING
FEBRUARY

Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am
Catherine Fink, Occupational Therapist from Thrive will be talking about Ageing Well in the Garden - including: ergonomics, preventing falls, maximising your energy capacity and health benefits of gardening into older age.

Also in the programme. Gardening Half Hour.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
$5 $10 non-members. includes tea, coffee & biscuits
2018 year has been an interesting, stimulating and challenging, from moving the CHS office to my home in April to meeting new and old members at All About Gardening, arranging interesting speakers who entertained and extended us all.

2019 will continue with a list of great speakers including Anthony Shadbolt, CCC, (Landscaping in public areas) Steve Bush (Trees for Canterbury), Jane Lancaster (Innovation in the food and agriculture industry, food safety and food regulations) this will be a speaker not to miss.

I look forward to seeing you all at AAG in the New Year and I thank you for your support over the past year. Liz Parder, Office Manager

The CHS gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution of its sponsors and supporters. The sponsorship categories are as follows: Principal, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Base and will be populated as sponsors join. Details of the programme may be found at www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship