

SNAPE GARDENING CLUB - NEWS



ISSUE NO 24 | MAY 2024 |

Here we are in the fickle month of May..... It's lovely to have the start of those longer days and our gardens appreciate the extra light and the ground warming. But as the old saying goes "never cast a clout till May is out" and although it's tempting to get planting madness, keep an eye out on the forecast as a night frost is not out of the question.....fleece & cloches at the ready! With the ground being wet and the temperatures hopefully on the rise, our plants will be going strong, so we have tips to give them an extra boost as well as other Springtime jobs ...happy reading everyone x

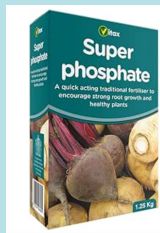
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FEED AND THE WEEDS!

With all the lush Spring growth, our plants have begun life with a sprint, so to keep healthy & strong on this seasonal marathon it's time to give them a feed.....here's what to feed now.

Remember.....

The feed ratio is known as the NPK - Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Potassium.

Nitrogen - healthy leaves
Phosphorous - roots & shoots
Potassium - flowers & fruits



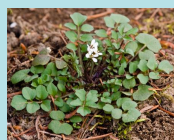
Other phosphate rich feeds are readily available

It can therefore be of benefit to give a high phosphorous feed around now to make sure the roots are in tip top condition.

follow up with blood, fish and bone after 4-6 weeks or another balanced feed of all 3 nutrients.

We've given the plants a great Spring boost so don't let the weeds over run the borders & containers.

Annual weeds can be hoed off & come away from the ground easily.....



Perennial weeds need a hefty hand! They root by rhizomes or long tap roots.....they need digging out completely or treating with a commercial weed killer.....dandelion, docks & ground elder.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTHS ISSUE.....

*What am I? **NEW FEATURE**

*David's plant of the month - *bluebells*

*Great club trips & days out!

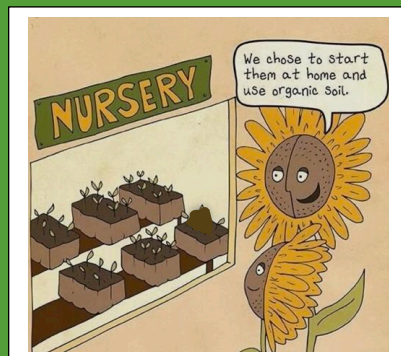
PLUS SO MUCH MORE...

 DEARWORZEL@GMAIL.COM

Send us a photo, recommend a place to visit or have a query we'll do our best to help.....

GIVE IT A TRY -

dearworzel@gmail.com





**What am I?....
join the 4 clues
together!**

*Oomycete
is a water
mould*

- a) I am an oomycete plant pathogen?
- b) I cause dieback & browning of leaves & branches & bleeding trunk sap?
- c) I can be transmitted by air & water, on the soles of shoes & on infected plants?
- d) I was first spotted on a tree native to California

(answers on the next page)

A few comical ideas for upcycling storage ideas, unusual plant containers & border edging.....these can be a costly investment.....have a look at these alternatives!



Who knew that one person's rubbish is another one's treasure!



Consider leaving areas of grass un-mown to promote bio diversity.....it is "no mow May"

Start to feed your containers regularly.....remember they are dependent on you!

Check roses for blackspot.

Define lawn edges on borders & pathways.

Divide bamboos.

Last chance to plant Summer flowering bulbs!

Watch out for nippy nights & protect tender plants.

Buy in those biennial Spring bedding seeds for 2025 so you're ready to sow in June! This includes things like bellis & pansies.

Divide hosta clumps.

**MAY JOBS
TO BE
GETTING
ON
WITH.....**

"earth-up" early potatoes to protect young shoots from frosts & to ensure developing potatoes aren't exposed to light - they will go green & become poisonous!

Prune Spring flowering shrubs.

Sow a new lawn and re-seed bare patches. Fork over the area to be seeded, weed, level, seed, gently firm & water.

Ensure the water butts are ready to go.....it will stop raining & we will need to water!

Tie-in climbing & rambling roses...as near to horizontal as possible.

Prune out frost damaged areas of evergreens.

Apply fertiliser to Spring bulbs after flowering.

Cut back tender shrubs such as penstemon & fuchsia once the frost risk has passed.

Get in those perennial plant supports!

Open vents...windows & doors on the greenhouse..... these spaces need good air circulation & humidity control.

Divide pond plants & remove weeds (leave at the waters edge for 24 hours for returning wildlife)

Harden off seedlings.....gradually exposing them to the "tougher" outside world.

Re-pot houseplants....clean their foliage and give them a feed.

Summer bedding time!
At the end of the month.

DAYS OUT & THINGS TO KNOW!

COMPOST IS AVAILABLE

BETTER GROW PEAT FREE 50L - £4

MIRACLE GROW MULTI PURPOSE 50L - £4

MOORLAND MULTI PURPOSE 56L - £3

Available from David - Help with delivery can be discussed - Leave monies etc in the letterbox

MAY CLUB MEETING.....

Wednesday 15th May

7.30pm start.....

Joe Lofthouse from RHS

Harlow Carr.....talks about

the bane of the garden....

"Pests and Diseases"

AFTERNOON TRIP TO

YORK GATE.....

Friday 24th May

LET DAVID KNOW IF YOU

WOULD LIKE TO GO

ASAP



CLUB TRIP WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH.....

This is an evening trip to Sion Hill Hall.....

a "Neo-Georgian style masterpiece"

This is an evening trip

leaving Snape by car-share around

5.15'ish.

Enjoy a guided tour & refreshments

£16per person...

a great evening not to be missed.....



HIMALAYAN GARDEN
& SCULPTURE PARK

Hutts Lane, Grewelthorpe, Ripon
HG4 3DA

"THE RHODODENDRON EXPERIENCE" - Thursday 23rd May 1-4pm

A talk, tour & workshop.....learn from the experts with top tips and techniques for care and propagation.

Light refreshments included.

£30 per person **BOOKING ESSENTIAL VIA THE HIMALAYAN GARDEN.**

info@himalayangarden.com 01765 658009 (office open Tues-Fri 9-5)



Late Spring brings the bluebells into bloom.....Fancy a walk amongst these beauties? Here's a few ideas.....

Hackfall Woods approx. 3 miles from Masham

Little Swine Carr Wood Maunby Nr. Thirsk

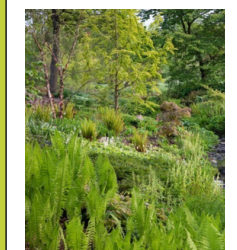
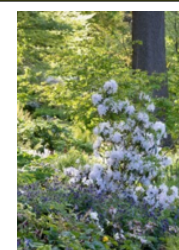
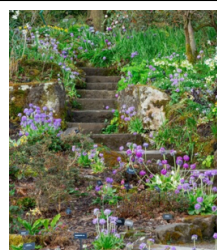
Nidd Gorge Bilton Banks Nr. Knaresborough



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR CLUB RHS MEMBERSHIP

(contact David) Visit RHS Harlow Carr Nr. Harrogate and admire their bursts of mid-Spring growth.....the gardens are showing trilliums, erythronium, rhododendron augustinii, iris, ferns, marsh marigolds, dog toothed violets & drumstick primulas.....

what a treat!



Do you know the answer? I am *Phytophthora ramorum* - the cause of sudden oak death!



DAVIDS' PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Bluebells*

The bluebell is common throughout England and Ireland but is now rare in the rest of Europe and completely absent in the rest of the world! It is a member of the lily family. Its shoots emerge in January, it flowers in April and May and by June it has disappeared for another year. Because it does most of its growing and flowering early in the year, before the leaves on the trees open, it has plenty of light and so is able to replenish nutrients stored in its bulb.

The English bluebell is much slower growing than its relative taking 5 years from the seed stage to flower and even then its in no hurry to spread. Because of this slow spread they are considered an indicator of an ancient woodland site (one that has been in existence since before 1600 and may link back to the woodland that grew across Britain after the last Ice Age) whether there are trees still there are not!

Its pollen and nectar rich flowers are also an important early food source for bumblebees, hover flies and butterflies. Our native bluebell, however, is under threat from the more aggressive Spanish variety which was introduced to English gardens nearly 300 years ago. This is easier to grow, less choosy about its habitat and can rapidly meld with its host and change its biological make-up. Increasingly it is spreading from gardens into the wild and into the preferred habitat of the English bluebell – the woodland areas.

KNOW YOUR

BLUEBELL.....*Great tips for easily spotting the difference....*

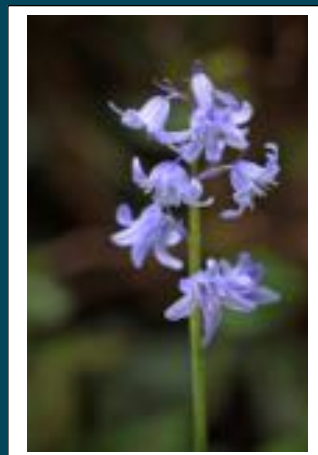
ENGLISH – *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

- Narrow leaves – 1cm
- Deep blue (sometimes white narrow, tube like flowers with tips turned back)
- Flowers mostly on one side
- Distinct sweetish scent
- Cream pollen



SPANISH – *Hyacinthoides hispanica*

- Broad leaves – 3 cms
- Paler blue/white or pink conical or bell shaped flowers with tips spread out
- Flowers all round a straight stem
- Almost no scent
- Blue pollen

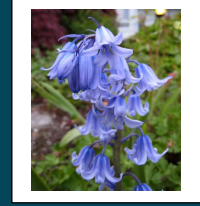
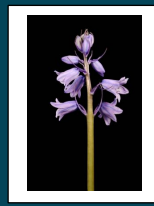
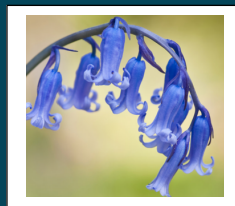




And then there is this mix of the English and Spanish bluebell.....

This is the hybrid of Hispanica and Non-Scripta which produces = *Hyacinthoides Massartiana*. It reproduces readily through new bulbs & seeds. It is remarkably similar to its Spanish parent, but the flowers remain bell shaped and the petal tips are slightly curled backwards.....it's tricky to spot & the botanists have been known to get it wrong!

TEST
YOURSELF.....
WHICH IS
WHICH???



Most hybrids of two species tend to be sterile but hybrid bluebells are very fertile. They will quickly spread and dominate both parents soon leaving only themselves to flourish. Apparently, RHS Wisley has some English in the pinetum and lots of hybrids.....BUT no Spanish ones!

Bluebell glue was used to attach feathers to arrows in the Bronze Age & by bookbinders in the Middle Ages!

The bluebell is a symbol of constancy & is probably the origin of the.....something blue.....that a bride should wear on her wedding day.

Folk myth has it that bluebells ring to call fairies

DID YOU KNOW.....

It is estimated that the UK has half the world's population in wild bluebells.

Bluebell plants are poisonous. The chemical that makes them poisonous was used in alchemy & is being researched by modern day scientists for medical use.

It is illegal to uproot any wild plant without the landowner/occupier's permission & since 1998 it has been illegal to uproot or pick for sale our wild bluebells!

In 2014 for the World Cup, one newspaper produced a supplement celebrating "Englishness". It included a picture of a bluebell.....I leave you to guess which variety it was!!!