

INSPIRE! For all tropical, subtropical and warm climate gardens

STG

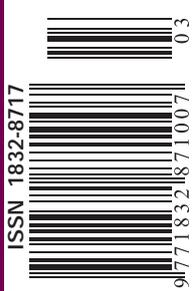
*sub*Tropical
Gardening
and landscaping in warm climates

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ISSUE 12
QUARTERLY



**local advice for
local gardeners**



■ COTTAGE GARDENS
– in the tropics



■ PLANT FOCUS
– Clivia



■ FOLIAGE
– favourites



■ SUBTROPICALIA
COLLECTOR

WELCOME

Winter and spring in the subtropics and tropics is very short and mild, often regarded as a let-down for lovers of classic temperate flowering trees, bulbs and cottage plants.

However, the subtle variations in these seasons result in a continuous production of fabulous and glorious tropical coloured flowers and foliage. And yes, even the cottage plants will still perform provided the right species and cultivars are chosen.

In the midst of this 'cold period' many of my garden plants have come into colour...but not just the flowers. Aloes are vibrant in their winter-stressed red tones, patterned bark of most deciduous trees are more pronounced and the aged stalks of ornamental grasses indicate its almost time for cutting back. Whoever said the winter garden is dull and boring needs a trip to the tropics and subtropics.

Issue 12 tackles some great topics such as clivias, hedging plants, the colour red, gardening for the future and a controversial look at exotic plants.

There are also ideas for foliage plants, landscaping, alternative fruits, bushfoods and even more beans. Every page is abundant with colour and relevant gardening advice.

In this issue we are pleased to bring you some information about the latest research with some of



our native rainforest species. Did you know many are better drought tolerant plants than what we have been led to believe?

In response to many enquiries we have decided not to state a season on our magazine cover due to the fact that we see this magazine as being a reference for you throughout the year, not just for 3 months. A lifetime of local advice from your local gardeners.

Happy reading!



Paul Plant – Editor

For more updated news about the magazine and what's happening, go to the *Editor's Welcome* page on the internet and read the Editor's Blog page ...www.stgmagazine.com.au

The STG Team

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Editor: Mr. Paul Plant
Designer: Mr. Shannan Kingwell

HORTICULTURAL EDITOR

Mr. Arno King

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ms. Fay Cutler

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

advert@stgmagazine.com.au

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

editor@stgmagazine.com.au

LAYOUT AND DESIGN ENQUIRIES

graphics@stgmagazine.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

www.stgmagazine.com.au/subscribe.htm

Phone: +61 (0) 7 3294 8914

CONTRIBUTORS

Yve Beard, Linda Brennan, Noel Burdette, Cynthia Carson, Daniel Cole, Helen Curran, Joan Dillon, Cath Hewitt, Paul Hoffmann, Daryl Joyce, Arno King, Grant Larkin, Coral & Kev Larson, Kim Morris, Paul Plant, John Sullivan, Anton van der Schans.

GENERAL CONTACT DETAILS

subTropical Gardening

PO Box 2232

Toowong QLD 4066 Australia

Phone: +61 (0) 7 3294 8914

Fax: +61 (0) 7 3294 8914

Email: info@stgmagazine.com.au

Web: www.stgmagazine.com.au

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COVER

Red Passionflower

(*Passiflora quadrangularis*)

© Paul Plant



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LETTERS



It is just what I needed to improve and care for my “subtropical” garden. It also inspires me with new plants and new dispositions. I compliment you sincerely for publishing such a beautiful magazine. M. de Calonje – Spain (via email)

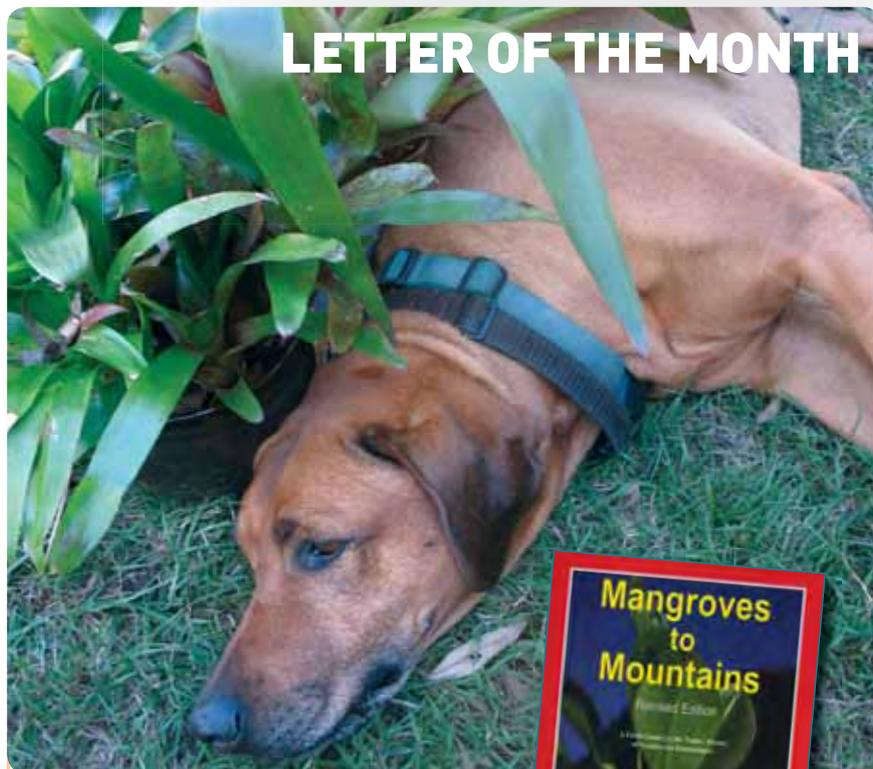
Received the first magazine two weeks ago and it really is a fantastic magazine. I have never seen such a beautiful one. I’m very pleased with it. Compliments for this magazine with the beautiful pictures. E. Wiering – Holland (via email)

I am a subscriber and would like to comment on what a great ‘book’ it is and how I look forward to the issues. A. Nicol – Pimlico, QLD

I have every copy of *subTropical Gardening* magazine and as a relative newcomer to Queensland find it an absolutely invaluable resource for reinventing and rejuvenating our garden into more sustainable gardens following the devastation caused by drought and the consequential water restrictions. It is amazing how relevant each of your magazines has been. One of our new gardens is to be a Dry Rainforest area and I had also been wondering about suitable fish for our frog pond – once again your magazine has come to our rescue. I don’t think I would have coped with the move to a subtropical garden without your help. L. Addison – Brisbane

Please find enclosed my subscription...I have just discovered the magazine. It’s great. C. Pola – North Eltham, VIC

I enjoy the magazine very much – the format is great and the photographs wonderful. Also like the culture notes very much. S. Gilkes – Drummoyne, NSW (via email)



Having discovered the beauty and ease of bromeliads I now desperately need advice on how to keep them safe from my dogs! The bromeliad garden is being ruined by their habit of eating the middle out of them. Unfortunately I cannot fence them off and I have tried the commercial products without much success. Do you have the secret remedy to keep the dogs off?

C. Thomas – Kureelipa (via email)

Ed: I too had similar problems with my Rhodesian Ridgeback...she ate my entire collection, favouring the expensive cultivars. Fencing is the only

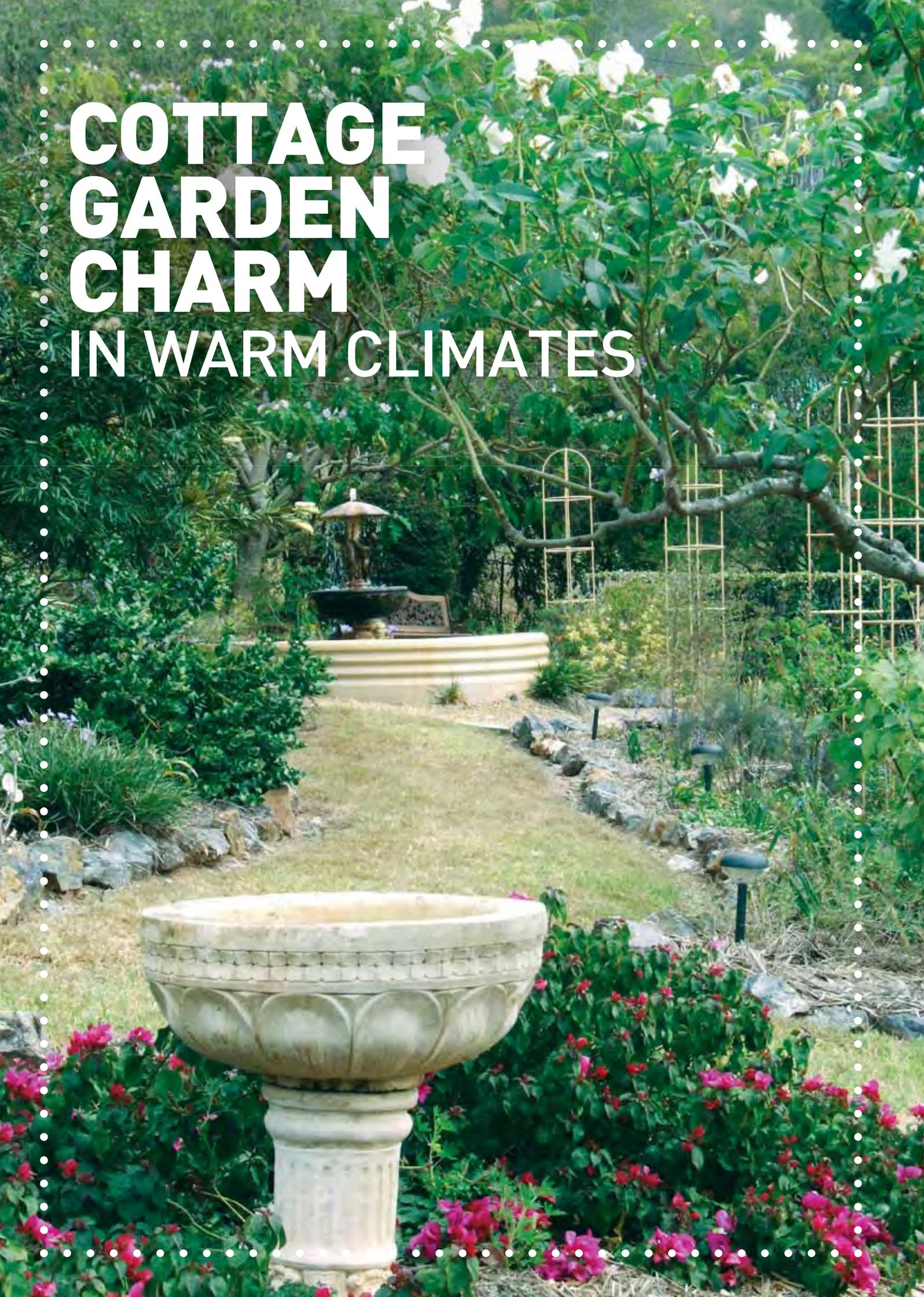


thing that worked for me. Electric collar and barriers may work. The smell of the ‘mature’ water is what they seek out. If you keep flushing them with clean water this may reduce the problem – just provide an alternative source of old water in a bucket nearby.

Keep persevering, both dogs and bromeliads CAN live a hospitable life together!

You have won a copy of Mangroves to Mountains (Revised Edition).

COTTAGE GARDEN CHARM IN WARM CLIMATES





Bowenia spectabilis



Backhousia anisata



Erythrina vesperilio

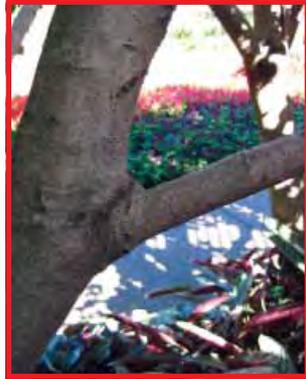


Leptospermum madidum var. *sativum*

How to...

...removing a medium to large tree branch:

1 Select the branch to be removed and locate the collar which is a natural raised growth where the branch meets the trunk of the tree.



2 Remove the weight of the branch by first under cutting the branch. This is done by creating the first cut on the underside of the branch at least 30cm from the trunk. The cut should be 1/3 of the depth of the branch.



3 The next cut is made on the top of the branch about the thickness of the branch behind/beyond the bottom cut. As the cut is made the branch should snap cleanly and fall to the ground leaving a step cut in the remaining stub.



4 Now that the weight of the branch has been removed. The final cut is made removing the remaining stub at the collar.



...deep water your plants:

1 The most efficient way to water your larger plants and trees in the garden is by giving them a good deep soak where it's needed, around the root zone.



2 This is best achieved by using a deep watering spike connected to your water source (tank or tap).



3 Push the spike into the soil to the depth of the root system. If the soil is hard and compacted, increase the water pressure to help insert the water spike.



4 Continue this process by making at least 4 to 5 holes around the plants. Water each hole for 3 minutes to ensure you get the water where it's needed.

