

subTropical Gardening



Wattles

**Bulbs, Tubers
& Rhizomes**

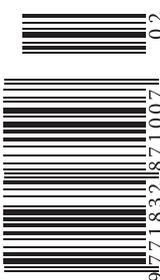
Vanishing Bees

**Figs, Tamarinds
& Garlic**

Create Organic Soil

**Local advice for
local gardeners**

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GARDENS
– lifestyle



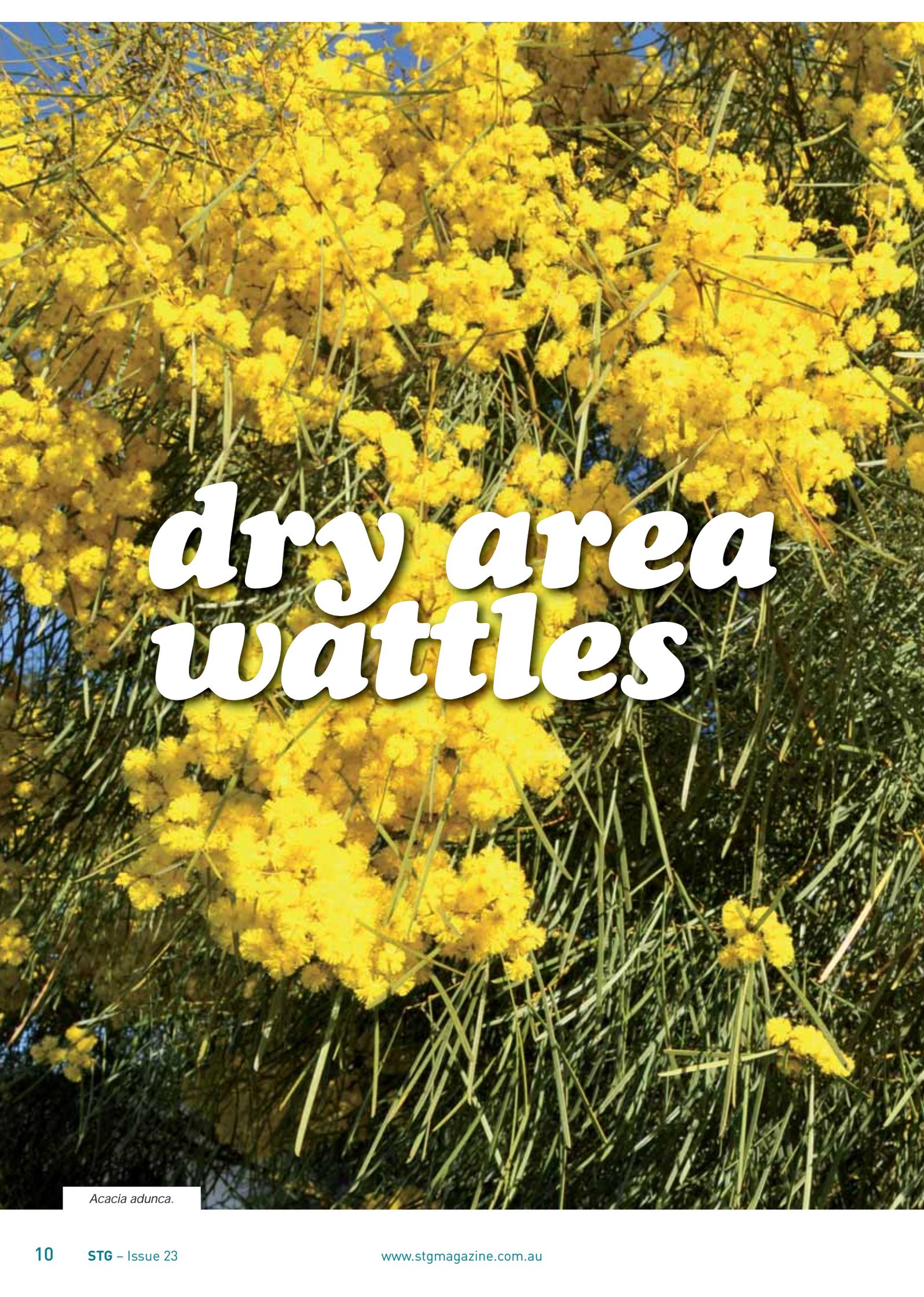
CULINARY GARDEN
– vegies + fruit



HORTICULTURE
– conservation



CALENDAR
– what to do now



dry area wattles

Acacia adunca.

10 FAVOURITES

GLOSSY FOLIAGED PLANTS



Claire Bickle MAIH
Horticulturist – Brisbane

Asplenium australasicum – Bird's Nest Fern
Gardenia spp. – Gardenia
Monstera deliciosa – Fruit Salad Plant, Swiss Cheese Plant
Piper sarmentosum – Wild Pepper, Betel Leaf
Plumeria obtusa – Singapore White Frangipani



Graeme Byrne MAIH
Horticulturist – Cairns

Alocasia longiloba – Elephant's Ear
Clusia major var. *variegata* – Balsam Apple, Pitch Apple
Cyrtosperma merkusii – Giant Swamp Taro
Dracaena goldieana – Zebra Striped Dragon
Heliconia indica 'Rubra' – Indian Red Heliconia



Ross Gelling
Horticulturist – Whitsundays

Alcantarea imperialis 'Rubra' – Giant Bromeliad
Alocasia x amazonica – Amazon Elephant's Ear, Horse Face
Alocasia macrorrhizos – Giant Elephant's Ear
Philodendron melinonii – Red Birdsnest
Syzygium megacarpum – Giant Lau Lau



Joan Dillon MAIH
Horticulturist – Sunshine Coast

Atractocarpus fitzalanii – Brown Gardenia
Cryptocarya laevigata – Glossy Laurel
Eupomatia laurina – Bolwarra, Native Guava
Proiphys cunninghamii – Brisbane Lily
Psychotria daphnoides – Smooth Psychotria



Carol Cameron
Horticulturist – Mackay

Asplenium nidus – Bird's Nest Fern
Cupaniopsis anacardioides – Tuckeroo
Flindersia brayleyana – Queensland Maple
Graptophyllum ilicifolium – Native Holly
Wrightia antidysenterica – Arctic Snow

Each issue we ask five qualified horticulturists to list their favourite plant types on a selected theme.

The decision can depend upon many factors such as soil, climate, drought tolerance, aesthetics or just plain personal preference!

subtropicalia
produce
fruit

GROWING EDIBLE FIGS

By Barbara Beerling



GARDEN CALENDAR MAY/JUNE/JULY

By Arno King

After record rainfall over much of northern Australia and other tropical and subtropical areas around the world, the lush growth in gardens has been astounding. As we start to head towards the cooler months, rain will finally start to become less heavy and less frequent, much to the relief of many gardeners.

Reassess, revise

Start planning for earthworks and building over the drier months. You will need to get your plans finalised and the contractors booked well in advance. Refer to our Classifieds in the magazine (page 97) for possible horticultural consultants, designers and landscapers.

With the memories of the rain and flooding still in our minds, it is time to look at how to improve our gardens so that they will fare better in future 'big wets'. This may involve regrading parts of the garden so that water does not 'flash flood' or pond. During heavy rainfall drainage grates and field gullies block readily with debris and pipes often fail to cope with the water volumes from the runoff. Dispersing the water over a wide area and away from buildings and structures by regrading paving, paths, lawns »

01

02



01 | Mixed flowers with vegetables, Silver Beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*).

02 | Eggplants can be planted in the tropics at this time of year.

03 | Spider Flower (*Tarenaya hassleriana*).

BROMELIADS

Botanical

Vriesea 'Elvira'

Common

Elvira

Family

Bromeliaceae



A hybrid of *Vriesea bleherae* and *V. hieroglyphica*, the cultivar 'Elvira' has a large rosette of dark maroon leaves and an erect multi-branched inflorescence with a light green scape, pink-orange floral bracts and yellow-green petalled flowers.

Like many bromeliads it can be grown en masse for visual impact or can be grown as an individual specimen in order to appreciate the attractive leaf form and flower scape.

A great plant to grow under palms or trees with a light open canopy of leaves.

Like most bromeliads, the plant's roots grow in the mulch layer and thus have no problem with competitive roots. In low light situations, leaves may lose their maroon tones and revert to a softer green colouration.

During the summer growing season, foliar feed with an organic liquid fertiliser applying at third the recommended strength.

Easily propagated by dividing clumps that are produced following flowering.

BEST GROWING CONDITIONS

- humid tropical and subtropical regions and warm sheltered areas in warm temperate regions
- semi-shade
- potted in an open orchid potting mix or planted in the garden in the mulch layer
- protect from full sun, frost and dry winds.

LANDSCAPE USE

- Understorey plant in the landscape.
- Feature plant in a container.
- Collector's garden.