

CANBERRA GERANIUM & FUCHSIA SOCIETY INC.**Vol 48 No. 2 - October 2025****ISSN 1441-7928**www.cgfs.org.au

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MEMBERSHIP FEES Membership fees for the year (January–December) are Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 and International memberships \$30.00. Members who join after 1st November will be credited for the following year.

All financial members of the Society receive a copy of the Journal, which is currently published twice a year. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information therein is correct, it is the individual authors who accept the responsibility for the contents of their articles.

The Society's monthly meetings are the place to learn how to propagate and grow fuchsia and geranium plants. The Society is made up of knowledgeable, interesting and friendly people who share a deep passion for pelargoniums, geraniums and fuchsias and a desire to learn more about them. So bring along your plants to show, and your questions or stories to share.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2025 – APRIL 2026

Unless otherwise stated, with the exception of January and July and possibly December, all meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 2.00 p.m. in the Woden Valley Uniting Church Hall (previously known as St James), Gillies Street, Curtin.

Please remember to wear your name tag so that we can all get to know each other, and you must sign the Attendance Book when you arrive, this will ensure you are covered by the Public Liability Insurance that the Society pays each year.

Wednesday 15 October – Combined Bus Trip with Belconnen Garden Club to the Japanese Gardens, Cowra

The bus is leaving Belconnen Raiders Club Kippax carpark, 155 Hardwick Crescent, Holt at 8.15am and returning at 5pm. All day parking available in the carpark.

The bus will also pick up at Kingston Railway Station beforehand. Times and further details will be emailed to those who have booked.

Any queries, please contact Treasurer, Janelle Mohr (contact details at the front of the Journal).

1 and 2 November – No Meeting – Display and Plant Sale at HSOC, EPIC

This year, the Society will be hosting a Stand at the Horticultural Society's Iris, Rhododendron and Azalea Show which is being held over Saturday and Sunday at the Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC. Arrangements, rosters and further details will have been advised at October's meeting.

Members who are planning to sell plants are reminded that their plants should follow the 'Sales of Plants – Guidelines for Registered Growers'. When selling plants to the public, please remember that they need to not only look their best, but also need to be very well grown. Purchasers will probably not look after these new plants as well as members, and we don't want the plants failing because they are not well established.

6 December – Xmas Party – venue: Curtin – 2pm

As well as conducting a brief monthly meeting, the Society holds a Christmas afternoon tea, and members are asked to bring along a plate to share and also a small garden related wrapped gift, around the value of \$5 to \$10. The gifts are put under the tree and then handed out during the afternoon. We hope that as many members who can do come along and enjoy the social afternoon. The Xmas afternoon tea will be held at our usual venue in Curtin.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



January - No meeting

7 February – Monthly Meeting – venue: Curtin - 2pm

Members social meeting, “Show and Tell”, Q & A time, raffle, library and afternoon tea.

7 March - Annual General Meeting and Workshop – venue: Curtin - 2pm

The AGM will be followed by a demonstration and workshop on taking Geranium & Pelargonium Cuttings. The workshop is being held for members only. Bring along a plant that can be used to take cuttings from, or cuttings, and scissors, pots, labels, and a marker pen. Soil will be provided. “Show and Tell”, Q & A Time, Library, and afternoon tea.

4 April – Monthly Meeting and Workshop - venue: Curtin - 2pm

Our meeting will be followed by a workshop for members only on taking Fuchsia Cuttings. Please bring along cuttings or a plant that can be used to take cuttings, and scissors, pots, labels and a marker pen. Soil will be provided. “Show and Tell”, Q & A Time and afternoon tea.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members to the Society since the publication of our April journal – Richard Buker and Jenny Cooke.

VALE

Diana Powell

The Society is saddened to hear of the passing of Diana Powell who died on 11 September. Diana and her husband Daryl were fuchsia enthusiasts and active members of the Society for over 20 years and on several occasions invited members to their lovely Griffith garden. We extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to Diana's family.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Subscriptions for 2026 become due on 1 January. Please fill in the form at the back of the Journal and mail it to the Society's postal address, PO Box 425 Curtin ACT 2605, Alternatively pay the Treasurer at the February or March meetings or via direct bank transfer.

If paying at a meeting please place your subscription in an envelope with the amount and your name on it. If you are paying by direct transfer to the Society's bank account, please use your name as a reference.

SPRING FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Our guest speaker at September's meeting, florist Joy McCarthy, showed us how to create beautiful floral arrangements with a variety of Spring flowering plants, many brought in by our members. Joy used her own vases of ranging shapes and sizes and demonstrated how the simplest arrangements were often the most striking, although the main arrangement, which was subsequently donated as a raffle prize and won by Jill Fox, was stunning. Joy gave us many tips on how to prolong the life of floral arrangements, showing how to suit the plant material to their containers. In its simplicity, the arrangement of Spring blossom in a complementary vase was lovely.

Joy's tips:

- Choose fresh flowers,
- Cut flowers in the early morning or evening,
- Replace water every 2/3 days,
- Use bleach in the water (1/2 Tsp in small vases, 1 Tsp in larger vases),
- Always angle cut flowers and foliage before putting in water,

- If using woody stems such as blossom, split the stem a centimetre or so to allow water to absorb more readily,
- Use boiling water for 30 seconds on woody stems and then cold water,
- For hellebores, older flowers are better to keep, soak in cold bath and run a knife down the side of stem before putting in a vase,
- Use chicken wire in bottom of container or vase to hold foliage and flowers in place (plonk arrangement),
- Remove any leaves and foliage that will be under the water level.



“When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it’s your world for the moment.”

Georgia O’Keeffe

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW DATES FOR SPRING 2025

20-21 September – Spring Bulb and Camellia Show, Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC

1-2 November – Iris, Rhododendron and Azalea Show, Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC

15-16 November – Spring Exhibition and Rose Show, The Abbey, Gold Creek

Opening hours for all shows are from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday and 10.00am to 3.15pm on Sunday.

Dates for the Autumn 2026 show held in March are to be advised. See <https://hsoc.org.au/activities-and-events/#flowershows>

And whilst we're on the subject of flower shows.....

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The thin one leaned over and said, "Life is just so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$5.00, I'd take my clothes off and streak through that flower show!"

"You're on!" said the other old lady, holding up a \$5.00 note.

The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked, as fast as an old lady can, through the front door of the flower show. Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

"What happened?" asked her waiting friend.

"I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement!"

Reprinted from the Society's December 2005 Journal



PELARGONIUMS – POTTING UP, POTTING ON AND POTTING DOWN

And now, some useful information on past and more recent practice for getting the most out of our pelargoniums, with a little hint for fuchsia growers too.

Diana O'Brien

Most of the comments on this subject which first appeared in our March 1982 journal (I can't believe I have been writing for that long) have had to be revised, for much of it then referred to growing in terracotta pots of small sizes and a discussion of the type of growing mixes that such containers required.

How times have changed! I haven't seen a terracotta thumb pot for years and anything larger, that needed 'crocking' before planting up – that is to say – adding small bits of broken pots or pebbles to the base to improve the drainage, has invariably been replaced by lighter weight plastic pots with larger drainage holes that are so much easier to stack and store, to say nothing about trying to keep them clean.

Come to think of it, I remember penning quite a few hints in those days about soaking and scrubbing terracotta pots with bleach and steel wool to remove lichen and the disfiguring stains from toxic salts that had become deposited on the outside of the containers. Clean pots are still important to a plant's welfare, but these days it is so much easier to wipe stains and dirt from plastic or poly-whatever it is they use, for which we should be truly thankful.

Back to the business of **Potting UP, ON and DOWN** and, as root growth begins to stir, August is the best time to do it. Late Autumn cuttings of zonal and ivy-leaved pelargoniums, which have been over-wintered in communal polystyrene boxes or large squat pots, should be carefully removed, separated without root damage if possible and **potted UP** into small clean pots of a premium growing mix. I say small, but large enough to accommodate what should now be a fair-sized, fibrous root-ball - 100 to 126 mm is perhaps just about right.

Potting ON is what we call the next stage of growth – once root growth can be seen at the bottom of the original pot, then the plant needs to be moved into a pot with more growing room or transplanted into a garden bed. Never be tempted to over-pot. That is to say – never put any plant into a container that

holds far more soil or growing mix than plant roots, as this allows the unused growing medium to remain continually wet and become sour.

Once your plant is growing well and has become too large for the maximum size of pot for your decorative needs, then it will need to be **potted DOWN**. This you need to do by first pruning back any over-large top growth, then by removing the plant from its container, cutting back up to one-third of the root growth and repotting into fresh mix. Either early Spring or late Summer is a good time to pot down, thus allowing roots to produce new growth before the stress of Summer heat or Autumn chills.

Fuchsia growers please note: Here's an interesting contribution on the subject of repotting from the West Australian Fuchsia Society – June 2009 – which refers to the process of **DROP-potting**. This, apparently, is used for any cultivar which shows too much bare stem. A few centimetres are cut off the bottom of the root ball with a breadknife and the plant is "Dropped" lower in the pot and fresh soil is added to the surface.

The gist of the final comment is applicable to both pelargoniums and fuchsias. Any form of potting can be traumatic to plants and so they should be given some extra TLC for a few days. Overwatering is a common problem. Having given the initial watering to settle the plant, it's far safer to do nothing more than keep the foliage misted with spray from a bottle to which you have added a little seaweed tonic to counteract the shock of transplanting.

Reprinted from the Society's August 2009 Journal

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace."

May Sarton

DID YOU KNOW.....?

While taking a walk in the woods one day in 1948, a Swiss engineer was struck by a cocklebur weed. He appreciated its ability to cling and upon looking closer noticed its small bristly hooks that were so successful in adhering to certain surfaces. After this chance encounter the engineer worked with industrial weavers and nine years later introduced VELCRO to a waiting world.

NOTICE OF MEETING - AGM – SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 7 March 2026. At the AGM, minutes from the 2025 AGM will be confirmed, reports provided by the President and Treasurer and office holders elected for 2026.

Key office holders to be elected are: President, 2 x Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary who form the Executive. In addition, other elected committee members include Membership Records, Journal Editor, Display Organiser and Program Organiser. Members can nominate and be elected as committee members without a formal role. In order to nominate you must be a financial member of the Society.

The Society's committee always welcomes new members to keep the Society functioning. You don't need to have a specific key role or skills but can participate as a general committee member. If you are interested in joining the committee, all offers are warmly welcomed. A nomination form is included at the end of this Journal and may be handed to the Secretary or mailed to the Society's PO Box address.

WATER REPELLENCE

Here's some good information from Joan for the coming Summer months

Joan Powell

Water repellence is a common problem in potting mixes and the sandy/gravelly soils of not only coastal but many local gardens. In potting mixes or soils that have become dry, water is either slow to penetrate them and may simply run off the surface, or alternatively will channel down the sides of pots or, in-ground, could channel down cracks below the root zone, thus giving plant roots an uneven water supply.

Wetting agents are essentially long-lasting detergents that can allow water to easily wet the soil and penetrate quickly, as well as more evenly. Most commonly available wetting agents show this effect for about three months. They are sold either as a liquid that needs to be diluted with water, or as a solid that usually contains about 10-15 per cent by volume of liquid wetting agent.

Coir fibre is a practical alternative here, because research shows that 15 to 20 per cent by volume of coir fibre included as dust in a potting mix will allow rewetting. The effect has also been shown to last longer than one application of a wetting agent.

Information is based on the book “Good Gardening with Less Water” by Kevin Handreck. Published in 2008 by CSIRO Publishing.

Reprinted from the Society’s December 2012 Journal

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA – SPRING 2025

4-5 October,

Two gardens, both in O’Connor

‘Louise and Ian’s Garden’ 35 Wongoola Close, O’Connor, ACT. Come and discover this thoughtfully designed garden nestled in the heights of O’Connor. Spread across three levels, Louise and Ian’s garden surrounds their beautifully renovated 1961 home, offering sweeping city views framed by distant mountains. Wander through sculpted hedges, vibrant flowering shrubs, and thoughtfully placed pops of colour as you move from the sloping front garden through the recently renovated middle level and then out to the lower section. This redesign of the garden is a celebration of colour and form, where an artful mix of plant species, mostly non-natives, create a striking and harmonious landscape. Highlights include a tranquil sandstone water feature, a trellis-clad wall, and several whimsical topiaries – one in the shape of a Labrador, sure to delight and inspire donations to Guide Dogs Australia, the chosen charity for this event. Expect a canine visitor.

‘Cockle Street Garden’ 46 Cockle Street, O’Connor, ACT. Surrounding a house of classic mid-century modernist design, visitors will enjoy wandering on paths through a gently sloping, lawn-free front garden filled with Australian native plants and dominated by a massive old Willow Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nicholii*). Nearby, two large *Allocasuarinas* and a large Kashmir Cypress form a backdrop to a pond and shelter the house. The block is large with plenty of room for the natives that were planted partly to encourage native birds – keep an eye out for the pardalote mound around the back.

11-12 October,

Two gardens this weekend, both in Belconnen. Both gardens will open on the same ticket. The visitor entry fee to the two gardens is just \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased at either garden.

'The Traveller's Garden' 23 Camfield Place, Florey, ACT. A compact yet thoughtfully designed garden featuring a blend of exotic and native plants. The abundant planting reflects both cool climate Canberra and the owner's native Brazil. The outdoor spaces provide inviting areas for relaxation, with carefully arranged seating nooks. Water features and striking sculptures add visual interest. Layered planting, in both containers and garden beds, ensures that the garden remains green throughout the year.

'Jinka Falls' 16 Jinka Street, Hawker, ACT. Jinka Falls is a newly established garden, demonstrating what can be achieved with thoughtful design and determination in a small space. Created in 2022/23, Jinka Falls features two garden courtyards, connected by a narrow side garden. The first is a biodiversity hotspot with ponds connected by a small brook, surrounded by soft native meadow planting and lush ferneries. The second is a productive kitchen garden growing vegetables, berries, flowers, and with a small orchard.

25-26 October,

'G and J's Garden' 2 Raoul Place, Lyons, ACT. Set on a large sloping block with spectacular views, this garden has been developing over the last 25 years. It was initially designed as a formal garden with stone terraces and hedges of box and camellias, but now also homes a variety of native plants in the mix. A paved area at the front of the house contains a water feature and provides a pleasant seating area. The garden showcases Spring flowering plants and a newly developed productive garden.

1-2 November,

Two gardens this weekend, at Bywong and Bungendore:

'Hidden Lake' 95 Morrison Road, Bywong, NSW. As you walk around the side of the house a most unexpected vista awaits, a lake surrounded by trees and shrubs serving as a haven for the many wetland birds that frequent the lake. Over the last 20 years, several thousand trees and shrubs have been planted,

transforming it from an overgrazed sheep farm with a few native trees, some weeping willows and very few trees and shrubs in the house garden. A large island has been constructed and is now fully vegetated with trees and shrubs.

'Tanglewood' 109 McDonnell Drive, Bungendore, NSW. Tanglewood is a 2-acre rural property which has unfolded over 25 years from a bare grazing paddock, through dense planting of deciduous and native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, to a place of productivity, sanctuary and beauty. The productivity includes an enclosed orchard where chooks and ducks waddle, quack and chirp to their hearts' content; multiple vegetable beds providing family and friends with food year-round; volunteer plants (including asparagus, and apple and peach trees); a hazelnut grove; and trees harvested for firewood by heavy pruning and coppicing.

8-9 November,

'The Healing Garden' 20 Badimara Street, Waramanga, ACT. Step into the Healing Garden, a vibrant sanctuary on a sloping block, lovingly created just four years ago. Overflowing with hundreds of locally sourced native plants, it's a space of resilience, regeneration, and natural restoration. Designed with water-wise principles, it features dry river beds, frog ponds, native habitats, composts, worm farms and 3D-printed bird boxes.

22-23 November,

'The Naturalistic Garden' 33 Hackett Gardens, Turner, ACT. This garden was recently redesigned and landscaped, retaining a large boundary hedge, along with productive olive and fig trees. While professionally designed and landscaped with low stone walls, paths and a pond, the plant mad owner planted out the garden with a wide variety of predominantly herbaceous perennials, many originating from dry parts of Europe and the North American prairies, and many that like poor soil!

All visitors are welcome. There is a \$10 entry fee for non-member adults that helps fund community grants and a horticultural scholarship. Membership is only \$30 to visit ALL gardens in the membership year (ending June 2026). The gardens are open 10-4, Saturday and Sunday. For more information check out the Open Gardens Canberra website (opengardenscanberra.org.au).

FUCHSIA PRUNING

Maria dal Santo

If fuchsias are pruned too early, new shoots might be cut down by late frosts and the entire growth pattern altered. It is wise to leave pruning of plants in the open garden until there is no danger of frosts, the best time being after the sap starts to rise, not necessarily by the calendar. (Untidy bushes in the garden can be tidied). Remember that fuchsias flower on new wood and if you do not prune you will have long straggly branches with only a few tip flowers. Make sure to cut out old wood, skinny sticks and crossed ones.

Cut each branch back to 3, 2 or 1 nodes from the base. Experienced growers cut back to only one node. Don't leave more than three nodes as, if too many are left, new shoots may not develop on all nodes and nothing is gained by pruning too long. Do not cut into grey bark covered wood of past years, as chances are that it will die back. Rub down bark wherever it appears while wearing heavy gloves, thus removing hiding places for insects to lay eggs. Then remove all adult leaves and, if using, spray with insecticide. (The use of a seaweed solution such as diluted Seasol or Seamungus watered in helps to reduce shock and remember, do not overwater, just keep damp.)

Baskets and standards should be pruned as above, but it is a matter of personal choice to cut baskets back to the rim of the container.

Adapted and reprinted from the Society's September 1988 Journal

PELARGONIUM CARE OVER SPRING AND SUMMER

Joan Powell

In early October inspect your plants again to see if they have a nicely balanced shape. If not, a further light prune may be necessary. Don't forget to also inspect your hanging baskets and pinch out the growing tips to encourage branching and to ensure a well-shaped bushy plant. However if you want to have flowering plants for display or sale at our November show **don't pinch out the growing tips after mid-August.**

Spring is also the best time to take cuttings of fancy leaved varieties but wait until the possibility of frosts are over. Repot if necessary and then move to a warm protected position. Fancy leaved varieties do not like to have wet feet so I always add extra sand to my growing medium to provide extra drainage. They

will also benefit from a light dressing of blood and bone watered in with a weak solution of Seasol or Powerfeed.

Check again for any insect attack particularly whitefly, aphids, caterpillars and mites. If these pests are not brought under control at the start of the growing season it will be almost impossible to eradicate them. There are several good products available for controlling these pests. When using any chemicals ensure that you read the label and carefully follow all safety directions.

Make sure you remove dead leaves and old flower heads from potted plants and give them a quarter turn weekly. To grow a well-shaped compact plant they need to have good light and should be spaced well apart to provide good air circulation. Keep checking for signs of mildew, black rot or rust, if necessary spray with a fungicide such as Zineb or Mancozeb. Yates Zaleton is a relatively new dual action systemic fungicide and although it is a little expensive it is excellent for rust. I recently sprayed some of my Zonals with rust with excellent results. Clean used pots, growing benches and sterilise cutting implements. Good hygiene will help prevent disease spreading.

As the growing season progresses a careful watering program is essential, water early in the day and avoid wetting the foliage. The size of containers, type of potting mix and position of your plants should determine how much water is needed. I find that most potting mediums on the market benefit from the addition of perlite and/or **coarse** river sand to aid drainage [**fine** river sand remains wet for too long and should not be used].

With the onset of the hot weather good air circulation for potted plants becomes essential. Keep them healthy by removing dead flower heads and dead or diseased leaves. Remove any dieback or rot by cutting back to healthy tissue and seal the cut with a dusting of sulphur or methylated spirits. A couple of teaspoons of sulphur powder mixed to the consistency of toothpaste with a little methylated spirits and water can be stored in a small jar and painted onto the newly cut ends with a small brush as needed.

Watch for signs of rust which is prevalent during wet, hot and humid weather. Remember this disease can spread through your whole collection very quickly. Place any infected leaves in a plastic bag and close securely before disposal.

Spray infected plants and the top of the soil with a fungicide. Avoid wetting the foliage during watering.



Rust on the back of zonal pelargonium leaves

Potted plants will need some protection from the hot sun and may need to be moved or protected with some form of temporary shade. You can insulate small pots by standing them in larger containers. Larger pots can be insulated by lining them with a thick layer of newspaper.

Although it will be necessary to increase watering during very hot weather be careful not to overwater them. I find that bottom watering is the best method to use at this time of the year as the roots don't have to push their way to the surface of the pot for moisture. I place my plants on trays of pebbles, but any similar capillary method would do. Never water in the middle of the day during hot weather and remember to ensure that there is adequate air circulation between your plants.

Check for pests, particularly the caterpillars of moths and butterflies. If it is necessary to spray make sure you do so during the cooler part of the day to protect the leaves and flowers from sun damage. Continue feeding plants with a high strength potash fertiliser, at half strength, during late spring and summer.

Late February through March is the perfect time to take cuttings. Start with the regals and angels and as the weather cools in March progress to the zonals and then the ivies. Remember when taking cuttings your primary goal should be to ensure that the plant being pruned will retain a good shape for the next spring. Once your cuttings have developed roots, start pinching out the growing tips so that they develop into nice dense compact plants.



FUCHSIAS

May the fuchsias in your garden
 Bring happiness and cheer.
 May they lift the sadness from your heart
 Throughout the coming year.
 May they send a ray of sunshine
 To dark corners of your life.
 May their colours tend to brighten
 World frustrations and all strife.
 May the beauty of their flowers
 Ease the hurt and pain within -
 The abundant clear green foliage
 Turn your frown into a grin.
 When the humming birds and bees arrive
 Their sweetness to collect
 May you do a deed of kindness
 To whomever you may select.
 May you have reassurance
 When your fuchsias are around
 Of simple beauty in your life
 Where peace and joy abound.

Margaret Le Bow

FUCHSIA CARE - OCTOBER TO MARCH

Irene Brewer

OCTOBER – Turn plants in pots and baskets regularly to ensure even growth. The plant should have reached the desired shape and pinching should now cease. For plants which have single flowers, 6–8 weeks is required for the plants to produce flowers, and 8–10 weeks for plants with double blooms. Continue to fertilise your plants weekly with a half-strength liquid fertiliser, and when the temperatures start to rise, an application of Osmocote to ensure the plants receive a regular feed. Heat is required for the Osmocote to release the fertiliser from the pellets. Now is also the time to keep aphids and whitefly at bay. Commercial products are available but you can also control aphids and whitefly by spraying plants with a solution of water and detergent or just hosing them off. Planting marigolds around fuchsias and roses can also keep aphids at bay.

NOVEMBER – If you have vigorous plants that haven't started flowering, you can take cuttings to grow on into the summer. Make sure that you have at least two sets of leaves when you take the cutting. Use a light, free draining mixture, either seed raising mixture or a combination of perlite and peat moss.

Don't despair if your plants haven't started flowering at this time. Some varieties don't commence flowering until February and the *Triphyllas* need a lot of light and heat to flower. So place them in full sun for part of the day to enable them to set flowers. The sun at this time of the year in Canberra won't burn the plants. Keep turning the plants for even growth.

DECEMBER - Enjoy seeing your plants grow and flower. Feed them with half-strength fertiliser weekly and watch for whitefly and thrips and spray regularly with a pyrethrum based spray, several times a week if necessary, to control the infestation and break the egg cycle. It is important to protect the plants from hot winds and afternoon sun. Move baskets and pots into shade on very hot days. Water either very early in the morning or late evening. Never water in the middle of the day when the plants are wilting. They will revive in the evening and then will benefit from watering.

JANUARY - Lightly prune plants after they have finished flowering to encourage new growth. Remove dead flowers and clean up any fallen leaves

from the top of the basket or pot. Replace any lost soil and add slow release fertiliser (Osmocote or Nutricote).

Fertilise plants with a fertiliser high in potassium to promote flowering. Lightly prune and fertilise fuchsias in the garden beds. Mulch garden beds to prevent them from drying out, but keep the mulch away from the stem of the plants. Ensure plants in the shade house or glasshouse have plenty of ventilation and treat rust promptly with a fungicide as soon as it is visible. Red spider mite will be kept at bay if the foliage of plants is misted regularly.

FEBRUARY - Plants which have been lightly pruned will be producing new growth and flowers. Other varieties which continually flower will be producing more growth. Continue to check for aphids, whitefly and red spider mite. Rust can occur if the weather is humid. Spray the plant and soil with a fungicide such as Zineb, Mancozeb or Baycor to control rot. Remove any infected leaves.

MARCH - Continue with half strength fertiliser for your pots and baskets to encourage the final flush of flowers for the end of March. March is also the ideal time to take cuttings as the weather should be cooling down. The cuttings will be well established before winter and can be potted up to the next size pot to overwinter the plant. Make sure the pot is not too big for the plant as too much excess soil around the plant will carry too much moisture during the cold winter months and the roots could freeze and the plant will die.

Remedy for Aphids and Whitefly....?

*Here's an option to try on those pesky sap-suckers if you don't wish to use pesticides.
From the December 2006 Journal -*

Mix two tablespoons of vinegar with a dash of liquid Sunlight soap, then top up with a litre of water in a spray bottle. Use whenever pests are noticed.

Whether this method is less harmful to beneficial insects isn't clear. An alternative and longer term approach may be to enhance the health and resilience of the plant and encourage a balance between harmful and beneficial insects, rather than trying to eliminate indiscriminately.

**CANBERRA GERANIUM & FUCHSIA SOCIETY INC.
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

I am a NEW MEMBER

RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

I would like a SINGLE (\$20)

DOUBLE/FAMILY (\$30)

I am from overseas (\$30)

Subscriptions current from 1 January to 31 December

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

ADDRESS:

.....

PHONE: EMAIL:

This form should be either handed in or posted to the address below, with your remittance:

OFFICIAL ADDRESS: The Hon Secretary
 Canberra Geranium & Fuchsia Society Inc.
 PO Box 425, CURTIN ACT 2605

If paying via direct transfer, **please add your name as reference:**

St George Bank BSB 112 908
Account no. 4823 95340

.....

Office use only:

Form provided to Membership Secretary and details included on Membership Register

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS

I,Nominate

For the position of

Signed – Proposer:.....

.

 Seconded:.....

 Nominee

Signatures are all to be those of financial members of the Society

This form should be either handed in or posted to the address below:

OFFICIAL ADDRESS: The Hon Secretary
 Canberra Geranium & Fuchsia Society Inc.
 PO Box 425, CURTIN ACT 2605