

LOURENSFORD GARDEN TOUR

On a beautiful afternoon in late June, Keith Kirsten, Raymond Hudson and Casper Geldenhuis took 60 interested people on a tour of the newly developed Lourensford Wine Estate gardens. What a treat....

We gathered at the wine tasting centre at 3pm, then walked round the gardens, past the Mill House Restaurant, to the Lippia lawn. This front section was hardly recognizable since they've cut down all the trees and completely redesigned it using berms and swales with mainly indigenous planting. Onto the beautiful gardens created around the market area, with the newly landscaped stream and walkway, complete with a romantic bridge under

the old oaks. A mix of indigenous and exotics created swathes of pleasing colour. Fun pop up water spouts for kids and a life size buffalo feature on the family lawn area. We walked through the car park, planted with big shade trees to our tractor-pulled trailers. The 3 tractors trundled up the magnificent tree-lined entrance to the original manor house, then onto the events function hall at the top of the polo field. The views looking down over the field and vineyards to the mountains in the distance were magnificent. We drove down the road to the entrance with the clever landscaping on either side of the stream in the middle of the road

and back to the wine tasting centre, where Raymond gave an overview of what has been achieved since they started landscaping at the Lourensford Wine Estate.

Delicious snacks and wine were thoroughly enjoyed, while chatting and networking with others in the "green" industry.

Many thanks to Habitat Trees, Elands Nursery and Lourensford Wine Estate for their sponsorship. And to Keith, Raymond and Casper for their time.



SINGING FOR THEIR SUPPER

Marlaen Straathof - Ball Straathof

What would it be like if we never heard the birds? It would just be noise; the sound of traffic, dogs barking, someone hammering in the distance. Our gardens and our world would be poorer for it.

One way to make sure that the birds stay, especially in drought conditions, is to feed them and provide water.

There is more to feeding birds than just throwing out bird seed, it's a good idea to have one of each type of feeder, because some birds will want seed, others like suet or fruit, and the sunbirds like nectar. In other words, each species eats a particular kind of food and will eat in a variety of ways.

Attracting seed eaters

Opt for a mix of grains/seeds that include sunflower seeds as well as smaller grains. Mixes should be fresh and check for mildew or mould because this is harmful to birds. Seed scattered on the ground will attract doves, and if the garden is bushy enough, may also attract Waxbills, Mannikins, Pintailed Whydahs and red bishops.

Different birds, mainly the smaller species, will be attracted to feeders suspended from a branch or beam. This will include Weavers and Sparrows.

Select seed feeders that have a flat bottom, with a narrow perch or a narrow roof overhang so that pigeons cannot get at the food. A feeder with a "silo" for the seed protects the seed from rainwater and bird droppings and allows the gardener to feed less frequently.

Good to know: Keep the feeder clean by regularly washing it with a weak solution

of bleach to remove rotting seed and bird droppings, as this can spread disease.

Seed bells or blocks on a rope favour smaller birds because it is easier for them to perch on the bell while pecking off the seeds. It's a cleaner option because there is nothing to clean but they are not weather proof.

Banting for birds

Suet is a high fat and protein feed that helps birds to maintain their energy levels and keep them warm during the frosty nights.

Suet slabs or balls can be hung from a tree or put into a suet feeder which allows the birds to feed more easily but only small bits can be pecked off at a time. Another option is Wild Bird Pudding that is a soft, non-sticky meal relished by birds made from seeds, peanut butter and vegetable oil.

Birds likely to be attracted to the suet include White-eyes, thrushes, Southern Boubous, Crested Barbets and Bulbuls.

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while for the birds to start eating regularly. Start with small amounts and keep the rest in the refrigerator.

A sweet treat

A nectar feeder bridges the gap when there is little in flower. It takes the form of a bottle that can be hung from a branch or a beam, and is angled to ensure a constant supply of nectar. It is a good idea to have two nectar feeders, but to fill one with water as this is often in short supply as well.

Buy a ready-made powder nectar mix for making nectar as this contains the correct combination of sugars and nutrients for nec-

tar feeding birds - just add water. This will ensure that the nectar in the feeder is always as fresh as possible. Do not add any red dye, including that found in food colouring. The dye is potentially toxic to birds.

Spike the fruit

Fruit should not be placed on the ground or put loosely on feeding tables. Rather hammer a nail through a feeder and spike the fruit onto it. Only put out as much fruit as birds will eat in a day or two because fruit spoils easily. Apples are the most popular, while some birds like softer fruit such as pawpaw, avocado and banana.



CAPE GREEN TIMES

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CAPE GREEN FORUM

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The year is already past halfway and things start to speed up from now to the end of the year. It has been a tough year for all, hopefully the drought will break soon in the Western Cape, but things will never be the same...we all have a new, healthy respect for the water that runs so freely out of our taps. Please see the article below regarding the resilient landscaping workshop. Don't forget our singing friends, who need water and food - see Marlaens article. And then once again, thanks to the all exhibitors at the September Cape Green Trade Day, listed inside, your confidence in the Cape Green Trade Day is really appreciated.....Enjoy the wonderful exhibits!

WATER RESTRICTIONS AS A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Di Irish - Cape Green Forum

A couple of months ago, the Cape Green Forum committee decided to be proactive and run a workshop titled "WATER RESTRICTIONS AS A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE...how to make the green industry resilient." We formed a sub committee, which included Clare Burgess, Marijke Honig, Morné Faulhammer, Alex Duff, Warwick Bayer, Phyllida Louw & myself. It started small - a half day event with some break away workshops, but somewhere along the way it evolved into something much bigger...a two day workshop, with an independent facilitator and 9 industry related presenters.

Invites were emailed and replies followed, what a response! We even had to turn people away, as the venue was filled to capacity with 90 attendees on day 1.

The workshop aims were:

- To identify the main issues affecting the 'green' industry
- To propose a way forward on these issues
- To create medium and long-term goals that will benefit the industry as a whole through positive collaboration and discussion

Day 1 saw the following speakers:

- Clare Burgess - Resilient Landscaping overview
- Marijke Honig - Water-wise landscaping - Where are we and what is the future?
- Morné Faulhammer - Retail & Grower case histories
- Roger Parsons, hydro-geologist - Ground water, scientific overview
- Dr Kirsty Carden, Urban Water Management research unit UCT - Water sensitive design, sustainable drainage systems and greywater management / use
- Will van der Merwe - Harvesting and recycling water on site
- Jaco Neethling - Responsible Irrigation
- Sarah Rushmere, CoCT Energy & water efficiency strategist - Cape Town water resilience

The presentations were really interesting, some full of information and ideas, others inspiring and others very sobering. It was a peek at many of the facets that affect the green industry and that will play a role in creating a resilient green industry.

There were loads of questions, many aimed at Sarah Rushmere from CoCT, who emphasized that we are in uncharted waters in the Cape, as the rainfall this season is lower than historical records. The CoCT is driving towards Cape Town as a Water Sensitive city that

- Optimises and integrates the management of all available water resources - surface, ground, wastewater and stormwater - to improve resilience

- Places high value on water and strives to increase water use efficiency through water sensitive urban design.

By the end of Day 1, these were the perceived outcomes expected by the participants:

- How to effectively, innovatively and aesthetically use water in landscaping
- How to strategize and execute long-term research to ensure sustainability (collaborating with Technicons and Universities)
- How to engage with key stakeholders / decision-makers to ensure healthy green city spaces are promoted
- How to emulate natural systems to be less dependent on water resources
- How to effectively educate the public ("Joe Soap")
- How to improve communication and send CLEAR messages to all, industry & public

Key issues that were work shopped on Day 2

1. A cohesive, unified green industry - how to achieve this
2. Communication: information sharing within industry, and especially to the public
3. Measuring & data: If we don't measure water we cannot manage it
4. Developing a BEST PRACTICE with guidelines and principles for creating resilient landscapes
5. Research required

We broke up into smaller groups with each one concentrating on one key area. These outcomes were later presented to the bigger group.

One of the major themes that ran throughout the entire workshop was that of communication; clear, consistent communication to the correct body or person. It was very rewarding to see a group of people from such a variety of industry sectors work together towards a common goal - making the green industry resilient. There is a real desire to collaborate and share knowledge and a willingness to adapt and there was a positive energy and a sense of excitement of what is possible for the future for the green industry

Short and medium-term goals were set with a proposed action plan. Information shall be fed through the existing national and local industry related associations and forums to you. The workshop presentations will become available, once they have been collected. We look forward to working towards positive outcomes that will enable the 'green' industry to evolve, grow and thrive into the future. .

A huge thank-you to the sub committee for all their work, to CPUT for providing the venue, Retha Alberts for facilitating at a special rate and to Sagic for assisting financially.

SEPT 2017 CAPE GREEN TRADE DAY EXHIBITORS

COMPANY	CONTACT	PRODUCT	EMAIL / WEBSITE
Africa Biomass Company	023 342 1212	Coloured mulch / wood chips	info@chipper.co.za
Airely Farms	083 229 7051	Indoor Pot Plants	info@airely.co.za
Arboreta Nurseries cc	021 864 3857	Trees & shrubs	sales@arboreta.co.za
Arnelia	022 723 1022	Proteaceae, Fynbos and Bougainvillea	sophia@arnelia.co.za
Atlantic Fertilisers	0860 110 110	Organic fertilisers	peter@atlanticfertilisers.co.za
Ball Straathof	083 636 9840	Seeds and various other gardening products	stell@ballstraathof.co.za
Biogrow	028 313 2054	Organic herbicides & pesticides	www.biogrow.co.za
Cape Trees	084 712 4752	Trees	gerritschenke@gmail.com
CoCT	021 400 9963	Information sharing on water restrictions measures, saving tips, etc	Donavan.Williams@capetown.gov.za
CPUT	021 959 6482	Horticultural & landscaping students	GRIESELG@cput.ac.za
De Fynne	021 869 8467	Indigenous container plants & fruits	admin@defynne.co.za
Efekto	011 287 5700	Garden, household products & seed	www.efekto.co.za
Elands Nursery	041 9555671	Outdoor Plants	www.elands.co.za
Evergrow	082 822 2798	Organic & chemical products for the home & garden	multisales2@gmail.com
Fisk Horticulture	021 884 4313	Plants	sales@fisk.co.za
Flora Imports	011 918 4620	Pots, Birdfeeders, Bonsai & bronze statues	www.floraimports.co.za
Granny's Green Nursery	083 245 3936	Fynbos & Vermitea	aaliyah@afirlandscapes.co.za
Grow-Rite	082 468 7508	Nursery Supplies	sales@growrite.co.za
Haifa Chemicals	083 2314516	Fertilizers-controlled release & water soluble, multicote & Turbo-K. Plus agronomical services	gerrit.burger@haifa-group.com
Haygrove Tunnels	021 859 1026	Growing tunnels	www.haygrove.co.za
I-CAT Environmental Solutions	072 122 36 88	Water saving products	daniel.wc@i-cat.co.za
Label Max	073 141 6240	All your label and label printer needs	labelmaxsa@gmail.com
Langverwacht Nurseries	021 880 1853	Wholesale plants	langverwacht@mweb.co.za
Makhro Home & Garden	082 562 5330	Home & Garden Products	wilmar@makhrogarden.com
Mango Moon	082 456 0708	Supplier of quality tools and products for the nursery industry	karen@mangmooncc.co.za
Master Organics	021 396 1066	Compost, growing medium & lawn	hilda@master-organics.com
MayFord	083 6380321	Seed	www.mayford.co.za
MG Distributors	021 553 4590	Pots and braais	christo@mgdist.co.za
Milkwoods Nursery	021 572 5851	Colour pots, indigenous bags, 6pk seedlings and 6pk groundcovers	anj@milkwoodsnursery.co.za
Multi-Flor	082 822 2798	Front door mats and artificial lawn	multisales2@gmail.com
New Horizen Nursery	0725949875	Plants	sales@newhorizennursery.co.za
Nonke Plants	021 887 6972	Plants & Organics	karin@nonkeplants.com
Norsag	086 111 1720	Floragard potting soil, Leca & Princess Art pots	tanya@norsag.co.za
NUNO	072 444 1176	Beautiful plants for small spaces	sue4nuno@mweb.co.za
PBR Trading International	028 273 8024	Horticultural Product manufacturer, specialising in Rooting Hormones & Liquid Fertilisers	elandre@pbrtrading.com
Plantimex	083 298 3849	Indoor Plants	Leonie@plantimex.co.za
Pokkel Creations	082 784 0043	Garden Planters & Fountains	martie89@gmail.com
Potport	082 935 1754	Pots	adele@potport.com
Price & Sons	021 591 1224	Garden, ceramics & furniture	stock@priceandsons.co.za
Prime Trees	060 8381814	Trees	bruce@primetrees.co.za
Protek	072 521 2800	Home & Garden Chemicals	www.proteksa.co.za
Quality Panel Concepts	083 309 3443	Your one stop solution provider for rainwater harvesting, green roofs and green walls.	js@qpc.co.za
Red Tractor	072 6742642	Organics	redtractorcompost@gmail.com
Reliance Compost & Nursery	086 1888784	Organic Compost	www.reliance.co.za
SALI	021 558 4989	Information on SALI membership	www.sali.co.za
Samgro	021 873 4377	Plugs and Grow-on plants	www.samgro.co.za
SANA	072 9945368	Nursery Association membership	www.sana.co.za
Shadowlands Wholesale Nursery	021 903 0050	Waterwise succulents, perennial ground cover, plants and grass plugs	sales@shadowlands.co.za
Slate & Stone	081 248 7336	Water features & garden products	shirleyvhe@gmail.com
Smartpet	078 9624003	Bird feeders and accessories	birdfeedercompany@gmail.com
Spectra Trust	072 8401292	Plants; compost and garden accessories	viljoentania1@yahoo.com
Spectrum Marketing	083 309 2921	Organic fertilizers, products and soil conditioners	alex@spectrum-marketing.co.za
Starke Ayres	021 534 3231	Seed/pesticides/fertilizer	Tanyab@starkeyayres.co.za
Themba Trees	083 4190223	Trees	www.thembatrees.co.za
Treeco	082 829 5543	Trees & shrubs	info@treeco.co.za
Trees & Hedges	021 790 3017	Trees & Hedge Plants	trees-hedges@telkomsa.net
Trident Jute Products	021 949 4723	Subsoil drainage systems and geotextile	tridentjute@mwwebbiz.co.za
Vertical Veg (Pty) Ltd	082 720 5437	Vertical pocket panels for growing greenery on a wall	www.verticalveg.co.za
West Coast Flora	083 326 0906	Fynbos, Geraldton Wax, Indigenous shade plants	www.westcoastflora.com

SAVING WATER & GROWING EFFICIENTLY

Warwick Bayer, Arboreta Nurseries Technical Advisor

Early in January 2017 our Water Board instructed farmers in the lower Berg River Irrigation District to cut water consumption by 30% within 4 weeks or face the stop of release of water from the Berg River Dam. A big wake-up for us!

The irrigation system and program in use on the nursery had not been reviewed in a long time; so we took the plunge and immediately used the percentage adjustment function available on Aquarius Irrigation Controllers to adjust all irrigation cycles down by 30%. Over the next few weeks we saw no down-turn in growth or quality, on the contrary we started having comment that plants were looking exceptionally good! (recent thinking informs that we ought to be growing drier to the health and quality benefits to plants)

Immediately we went into irrigation maintenance mode, meaning:

- Repair all leaks
- Repair or replace all and any poorly function nozzles.
- Service all our drip lines (Rather, we use a spray stake on all 20l production and some 10l areas)
- Replace filter sand in filters and adjusted our backwash cycles to a minimum.
- A Man was trained to hand water all our drip lines with responsibility to continuously monitor and repair the system.
- Upgraded all our sub-mains from 50mm to 110mm pipes; this is more accurately specified to the irrigation design and again contributed to better uniformity of watering.
- Irrigation time could now be reduced to 3 minutes (approx. 850mm water /20l tree per day) per day from 6-8 minutes as more uniform delivery was happening.
- Drip lines being irrigated manually are now no longer disrupted by variable opening and closing speeds of valves.
- Staff are now trained and managed to position drippers better in the containers
- We started measuring daily consumption of water. (Consumption was at nearly 300m3 per day in January after trimming off 30% and other interventions and was down to 170m3 per day by late March. As conditions cool, we use even less water.

Many 4 and 10l pants are grown under overhead irrigation:

- This needed significant repair and maintenance for efficiency.

- Overlap onto roads was eliminated.
- We shut down some sprayers on larger empty areas.
- Solenoid valves were serviced to ensure accurate opening and closing.
- These are very dynamic growing areas, often leaving large empty gaps; we consolidated stock from 2 full irrigation stations into gaps on other stations, trimming another 10% off our consumption. We are about ready to empty a 3rd station into newer gaps.

We are in process of building a new production block of about 4000m2. Innovations here:

- Each drip line will have a shut-off valve and can be closed if it holds no stock.
- This also allows that lower water need crops can get watered in alternate cycles.
- With a new system, it is a lot easier to use the shut off function on individual spray stakes; older, hardened/perished pipes make this function difficult.
- The design doubles up the number of drip lines per row so that the area can be used for either for 10l or 20l containers while controlling water use better.

Our wins:

- Water consumption is down by about 50% without reduction of production.
- Plants grown drier appear healthier, tougher and better rooted than before
- Reducing water use has required that we review our growing medium to be more wetttable and water retentive while having good air properties. Benefit of this has been more uniform chemical and physical properties of the growing medium, while reducing the cost of soil.
- Less run-off into the nursery keeps the nursery less eroded and helps to keep a weed load down.

New thinking:

- We feel that we can expand production without increasing our water demand
- We have implemented innovations that assist to improve plant quality
- We need to find cost-efficient ways to capture runoff and recycle this, if only into gardens or toilet facilities on the farm
- We have been pointed in the direction of further improved irrigation technologies; watch this space...



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AT STARDUST
(Theatrical dining)

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Enjoy a fun filled evening with great music, food and colleagues

For more info regarding the Cape Green Forum, please visit www.capegreenforum.co.za or contact Di - info@capegreenforum.co.za / 082 376 0377
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