

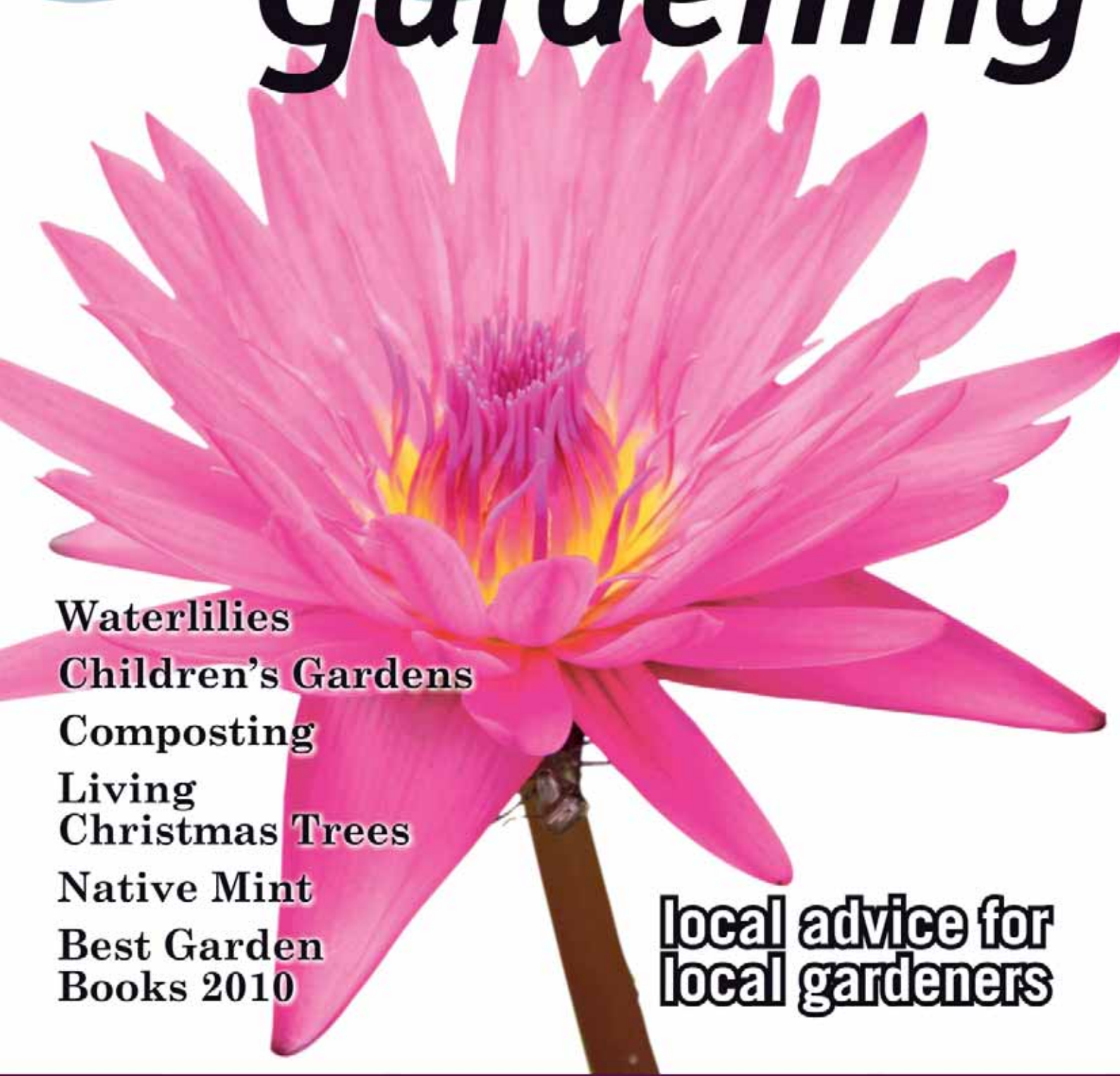
COLOUR! Australia's leading warm climate gardening magazine

# subTropical Gardening

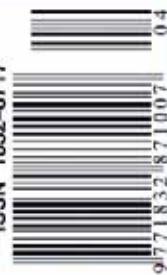
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Waterlilies  
Children's Gardens  
Composting  
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# Children's Gardens

Sow • Grow • Harvest • Eat



# 10 FAVOURITES PLANTS THAT LOVE THE HEAT

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!



**Claire Bickle** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Brisbane

*Brachychiton rupestris* – Queensland Bottle Tree  
*Euphorbia milii* – Crown of Thorns  
*Kalanchoe beharensis* – Elephant's Ear Kalanchoe  
*Lampranthus aureus*  
(syn. *Mesembryanthemum aureum*) – Pig Face  
*Pachypodium lamerei* – Madagascar Palm



**Catherine Hewitt**  
Horticulturist – Brisbane

*Brachychiton rupestris* – Queensland Bottle Tree  
*Eremophila maculata* subsp. *brevifolia* – Spotted Emu Bush  
*Grevillea* 'John Evans' – 'John Evans' Grevillea  
*Melaleuca thymifolia* 'Cotton Candy' – Cotton Candy  
*Ozothamnus diosmifolius* – Riceflower



**John Sullivan** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Port Douglas

*Tournefortia argentea* (syn. *Argusia argentea*) – Tree Heliotrope  
*Beaucarnea recurvata* – Ponytail Tree, Elephant Foot Tree  
*Cochlospermum gillivraei* – Native Kapok Tree  
*Dioon spinulosum* – Mexican Dioon  
*Pachypodium lamerei* – Madagascar Palm



**Joan Dillon** MAIH  
Horticulturist – Sunshine Coast

*Acacia aneura* – Mulga  
*Barringtonia calyptata* – Cassowary Pine  
*Eremophila macdonnellii* – MacDonnell's Desert Fuchsia  
*Rhagodia spinescens* – Berry Saltbush  
*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* – Desert Cassia



**Graeme Byrne**  
Horticulturist – Cairns

*Beaucarnea recurvata* – Ponytail Palm, Elephant Foot Tree  
*Bombax ceiba* – Red Silk Floss Tree  
*Brachychiton rupestris* – Queensland Bottle Tree  
*Bromelia balansae* – Heart of Fire  
*Handroanthus chrysanthus* subsp. *chrysanthus*  
(syn. *Tabebuia chrysantha*) – Yellow Trumpet Flower

# CLIMBING VEGETABLES

Every garden needs to have a spot for climbing vegetables. **Arno King** takes a look at some of the hardiest summer garden vegetables that are the most productive per square metre of soil – particularly relevant to today's smaller gardens.

01

One of the most important elements is the provision of a support on which to climb. There are many options and selection should be based on the type of vegetables you intend to grow, the space you have available and your budget.

Many support structures can be highly ornamental, and make the vegetable garden an area of great beauty. Consider using bamboo, timber and old branches rather than some of the less aesthetic options such as chicken wire.



02

## Stakes

Simple stakes are often the best way to support smaller climbing, be it a single tomato or a cucumber plant. The range of materials available is endless.

## Teepees

Teepees are quick to assemble and can be quite ornamental in the garden. Use three or more garden stakes, bamboo canes, fallen branches dug into the ground at least 200mm and secured at the top with garden string or wire. Supports should be at least 1.8m long and taller for more vigorous plants.

Teepees are especially good for beans, Mexican gherkins and miniature pumpkins.

## Frames and Trellis

These are the most popular climbing structures. They are easy to construct and take up little

space. They can also be used as boundary fences to keep out vermin or provide shelter for other vegetables.

They can be constructed from bamboo, timber, or fencing wire. Traditionally garden string was a popular material used vertically between two horizontal timbers. At the end of the season the string could be cut and both plants (often beans) and the string could readily be removed and composted.

These are great supports for beans, cucumbers, luffas, cucumbers, chokos and New Guinea beans.

## Horizontal Trellis

Horizontally placed trellis is ideally suited to plants that sprawl. They keep the plants and fruit off the ground to ensure there is air circulation in order to minimise fungal and bacterial problems.

# SUBTROPICALIA COLLECTOR

## CREEPERS/ GROUNDCOVERS

### Botanical

*Ficus rotundifolia* 'Green Island'

### Common

Green Island Fig

### Family

Moraceae

Native to Green Island off the Coast of Singapore where it grows among eroded coral rock not far from the sea, *Ficus rotundifolia* 'Green Island' has become a popular landscape plant for beachside gardens, resorts and parks.

It has a naturally spreading form which makes it ideal to treat as a groundcover or prostrate shrub clinging close to the soil, rocks or to cascade over an embankment. It can also be grown as an upright shrub to 1m when pruned.

Leaves are a delightful emerald green colour and more orbicular (roundish) with a blunt tip. As is typical with many *Ficus* plants, stems close to the ground tend to produce adventitious roots and naturally layer themselves as they spread as a ground cover. This also makes propagation easy.

As a groundcover, Green Island Fig creates an attractive green mass of leaves that is a complement to a garden full of colour.

### BEST GROWING CONDITIONS

- full sun to part shade
- excellent drainage required
- adapted to a range of soil types but appreciates fertile organically enriched soils
- mulch enhances growth rate.

### LANDSCAPE USE

- Mass planted as a groundcover.
- Ideal to cascade over retaining walls or down embankments.
- Bonsai.
- Potted plant for patios and balconies.
- Indoor plant.



Image taken at Hamilton Island

