

In your garden

Issue 1 - 22 June 2021



Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the “In your garden” newsletter and I would like to thank-you for subscribing. I plan to send out this newsletter weekly and plan to cover subjects such as indigenous plants suitable for smaller suburban gardens and the various forms of wildlife that may visit your garden. Some of the visitors will be welcome as they provide colour and interesting activity, but others are not so welcome, so I will be writing how to attract some and what to do should you get an unwelcome visitor such as a snake or scorpion.

Many gardeners like to put out food for birds and this will also be a key feature of the newsletter. As far as plants go the focus will definitely be on indigenous plants but other plants won't be ignored completely.

I would also like to invite you to visit my blog, www.natureonyourdoorstep.co.za, which has more information on these topics. If you have any questions or suggestions, good or bad, then I would love to hear from you. You can contact me on the email address in the newsletter.

Regards

Steven



Don't encourage termites!

I can still remember lying in bed at night and hearing termites eating my bedroom cupboard. Not a nice experience. These insects are not welcome in your house. They can easily destroy a cupboard, door frame or any other wooden object. Unfortunately, it is hard to stop them, and no building is completely safe. They typically enter your building in damp areas or where wood is in



Blue Marguerite Daisy

I must admit that this is one of my favourite indigenous plants. These hardy plants grow into a small shrub, about 50 cm high, and it tends to spread so don't plant them close to each other. They get their beautiful, yellow-centred mauve flowers from spring onwards and may have a couple of flowers throughout the year. Another strong point is that they are quite drought tolerant.

The flowers are not only attractive to

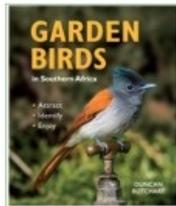
contact with your house.

Here are some ways that you can reduce the risk. Don't make flower beds next to the walls of your house and fix any leaking pipes, including drainpipes. Don't stack your firewood, or old timber, against a wall as this is a sure way to invite them into your home.

Termites are not normally seen unless their workings are disturbed so it is not always easy to detect them. If you realise that they have started attacking the wood in your home, then my advice is to contact a reputable pest control company as soon as possible.

humans, but they also attract an assortment of insects as well. You will find that butterflies, bees, wasps and other flying insects visit them regularly. If you look closely, you may even find a yellow flower spider waiting for prey on the yellow centre of the flower.

Their scientific name is *Felicia amelloides*



Subscriber Competition

As a subscriber to this newsletter, you are in line to win a copy of "Garden Birds in South Africa" by Duncan Butchart.

This excellent book describes around 100 birds that are likely to appear in gardens in South Africa. The book describes how you can set up a bird friendly garden to attract different species. 50 species of plants are described including trees, aloes, proteas and much more. The main part of the book covers 101 species of birds. This section not only helps to identify them but also how to attract them. Other chapters detail subjects such as feeding birds, providing nesting sites and migration.

This competition will close when the newsletter has 1,000 subscribers so why not encourage your friends and family to subscribe! Unfortunately, this competition is only available to subscribers in South Africa. Delivery will be done to the winner's nearest branch of Postnet.

Send me your garden bird list

Do you keep a garden bird list, and you live in a housing complex or estate? I would like to start building up a database of garden birds for as many complexes and estates as possible. As I start getting information then I will make it available to anyone who is interested. So, if you have a garden bird list then I would like to ask if you would be kind enough to send me a copy, and to send any updates as new birds are added to your list. In future issues I will be inviting readers to send in a short article about the birds in their gardens. It is your chance to brag about the birds that visit you and how you attract them.

Advertise in this newsletter

"In your garden" is looking for advertisers. This newsletter is aimed at South African gardeners, particularly those that are interested in indigenous plants as well as the birds, butterflies and more that their gardens attract. If you are interested, then please contact us at steven@natureinyourgarden.co.za. I look forward to hearing from you.

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