



REDDITCH BONSAI

Edition of August 2023.

Editor's remarks.

As some of you may already be aware Judith, our Chair, was unlucky enough to suffer a stroke on 5th September and spent a couple of weeks in the Q.E. She is home again now however and managing very well. She hopes to be able to come along to Thursday's meeting and I am sure that you will all be glad to see her there.

The AGM will be taking place at the December meeting. You already know that Wes Pinfield, Treasurer, had indicated that he would probably be stepping down from his post at that time. He has informed me that if any of you wish to offer to take his place then he will step down but would continue to offer support/guidance to the new incumbent. Otherwise he will carry on, in the interests of the Society. We wait to see, However, what Judith's decision about 2024 will be.

We are always hoping that some of you would offer to at least stand as committee members. The task is by no means onerous. Have a think about it and if interested give me a call to discuss!

COMING UP AT THE MBS.

This month we welcome back Malcolm Hughes who will be demonstrating on a couple of interesting trees and will also give us his thoughts/knowledge on the use of various forms of fertiliser.

The table display will hopefully feature "Autumn colours"

COMING UP AT REDDITCH.

This month sees a welcome return for David Cheshire who will be talking about "Root over Rock" and also discussing fertilisation.

The table display will be "Autumn colours".

GARDENING TIPS OF THE MONTH.

Cutting the grass plays a huge part in maintenance throughout the year, even in the autumn months. As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begins to fall, the grass growth will be slow meaning you don't have to mow as frequently. Start raising the cutting height of your mower to a minimum of 2cm or 1in. We recommend you mow your lawn no more than once a fortnight unless the weather is incredibly mild.

Raking the lawn before mowing will help to keep grass and clover 'runners' under control, as well as clearing up autumn leaves. This is an important task to do throughout autumn, because if left on the lawn, the leaves will rot down and smother the blades of grass, causing damage and releasing pathogens, which could cause disease.

Time to remove weeds and moss

If moss and weeds are a problem on your lawn you will need treat them before scarifying them out. Both need to be controlled, because not only are they are unsightly in your lawn, but because they deprive the blades of grass of light, water, space, and essential nutrients needed for growth.

There are many products on the market available for moss control, but we recommend **Aftercut All in One Autumn** which is specially formulated for the colder months. It usually takes 10-14 days for the moss killer to take effect, before you can begin to scarify.

Scarifying with a rake allows you to reduce the layers of moss and thatch in the lawn that can prevent water and fertiliser from reaching the roots of the grass where it is needed the most for healthy growth. We recommend you scarify beOver the course of the year, areas of your lawn will experience heavy footfall through children playing, family entertaining and everyday traffic as the sun shines. This often causes the soil to become compacted which can cause problems with drainage, weeds, and moss. This can be resolved by **aeration**, a simple process of perforating the soil with a garden fork to create small holes in your lawn to allow air, water, and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots.

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If you notice numerous dips, lumps and bumps caused by uneven ground, this can be resolved by flattening with an edging iron or spade to slice through the turf before carefully rolling it back.

After the daily wear and tear over summer, your turf may become thin and patchy, so autumn is the ideal time to rejuvenate your lawn through **over seeding** patches, when the ground is warm and there is frequent rain. Over seeding will thicken your lawn and crowd out unsightly weeds, as well as improving both its health and appearance.

By following these simple steps with your grass now and you'll have a head start on a healthy lawn for next spring.

PETER TOGHILL.

Peter has been in touch with me to advise that he is having a clear out at home. He has between 60 and 70 copies of BONSAI INTERNATIONAL from the 1970's on offer to a good home. If you are interested let me know.

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH.

Time to check your arrangements for winter protection before the snow falls!

Now, I believe, is a good time to wire conifers.

To avoid pests over wintering in the soil you can remove all surface weeds, dead leaves etc to reduce the risk of insect infestation.

MALVERN SHOW.

Here's a short report from David James, Redditch Bonsai about a recent trip undertaken:-

Judith and I visited the 3 counties show at Malvern recently. David Cheshire had a display and it was totally different to the usual pots on shelves, he had his trees on the floor surrounded by other plants and moss etc. He got a deserved gold for his efforts. David James.

In the absence of any other contributions, that's all folks!

Richard Gilkes, Ed., October 2023.

