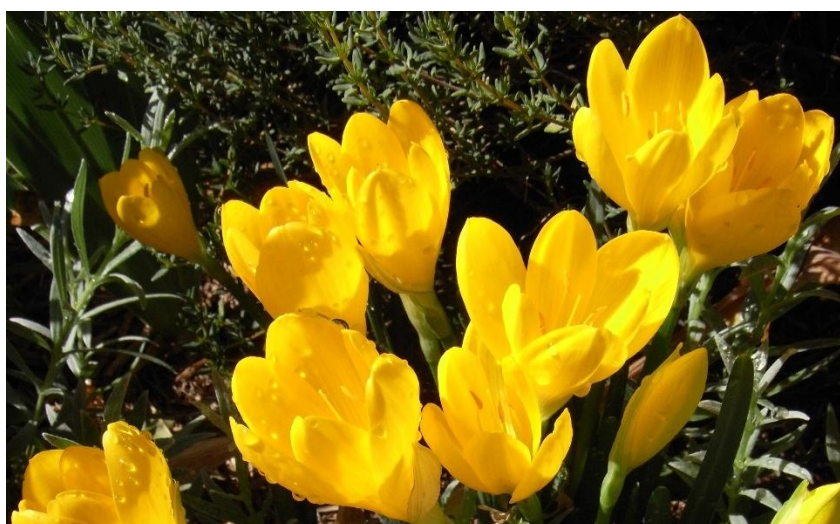




Autumn Newsletter 2025



Delightful Yellow Autumn Crocus - Sternbergia lutea.

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter. And after such a very dry Summer, we are so pleased the cooler weather is arriving and (hopefully) will bring with it some steady soaking rains which are so desperately needed. Our major event for this year is the SA Landscape Festival. On the 05 and 06 April 2025, for one weekend only, Open Gardens SA and the Master Landscapers of SA open the gates to ten of our state's stunning, professionally designed and landscaped, privately owned gardens. The Festival has a dedicated website where you can preview the gardens and book your tickets – so please check it out at: <https://salandscapefestival.com.au/> and we hope to see you in a garden soon!

Inside this Issue:

- Snip and Sip Special Event – A Sold-Out success!
- SA Landscape Festival
- Autumn program of Open Gardens
- Plant Profile: Miniature and dwarf Aloes
- Book Review: THE OLIVE TREE Around the World
- PIRSA - The fight against fruit fly
- Where the Old Roses Grow: Vita Sackville-West and the Battle for Beauty during Wartime.

Autumn Open Gardens

March 07, 2025
Snip and Sip Pick Your Own
Flowers event – Charleston
SOLD OUT

March 22 - 23
Bellosguardo Estate -
Birdwood

March 29 - 30
Auricht House – Hahndorf
CANCELLED

April 05 – 06
SA Landscape Festival – 10
professionally designed and
landscaped gardens from the
coast to the Adelaide
Foothills

April 26 – 27
Evesham – Crafers
Seaview - Crafers

May 05 – 06
Stangate house – Aldgate

See details of the full

program on our website:

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>



Open Gardens SA - Snip and Sip Special Event a Sold Out success!



The Open Gardens SA Pick Your Own Flowers event was held at a colour-loving flower farm in the Adelaide Hills on Friday 07 March 2025.

This event proved to be extremely popular, with the tickets selling out in less than one week!

Guests wandered the flower patch, sniped a bunch of stunning blooms, relaxing with a

tea or coffee, or a glass of wine while overlooking the beauty of the flowers and Adelaide Hills.

The owner of the Charleston Flower Farm, Brooke, shared insights into her floral wonders, and was able to answer questions about growing flowers and how to get the best from the picked flowers.

Two sessions were held, the first commencing from 9am in the morning, and the second from 6pm in the evening.



Many thanks to Veggie & Flower Gardens Seeds, Neutrog and Howards Wines for providing products for this event.



Guests were able to pick 12 beautiful stems of their choice, after enjoying a cuppa with a delicious morning tea including homemade cakes, or in the evening, enjoy a glass of wine with cheese and nibbles.

The weather was perfect – a lovely autumn day with clear blue skies, and no wind to spoil the occasion.

The flowers growing at the Charleston Flower Farm are beautiful and the various bunches picked by the guests were quite varied and there were lots of smiles and happy chatter! We were delighted that the guests were clearly enjoying the experience of picking flowers and creating lovely bunches to take home!



SA Landscape Festival 2025



Tickets are available for this exclusive event showcasing beautifully landscaped South Australian gardens on April 5 and 6, 2025.

For one special weekend, **Open Gardens SA** and the **Master Landscapers of SA** open the gates to ten professionally designed and landscaped, privately owned gardens.

The festival features recently completed back and front yards of different sizes and budgets to inspire you to create a new garden or add stunning elements to your existing backyard.

If you're a keen home gardener or planning to renovate, this festival will allow you to see some of the latest trends in garden design and discover the benefits of having a professionally designed and landscaped garden. This Festival will focus on medium & small size gardens to highlight what can be accomplished in limited spaces.



The designers and landscapers will be on hand to share their secrets, and you can also talk to the garden owners about their experience creating their gardens with a designer

The gardens are across metro Adelaide from the coast to the foothills and will be open on April 5 and 6, 2025 from 10 am to 4.30 pm. **The entry fee is \$10 for adults or \$50 for a weekend pass to see all 10 gardens. Admission is free for children under 18. No concessions.**

Once again, the festival will support the SA Country Women's Association, who will receive profits from the festival to help their city and rural community work.

To plan your weekend, you can preview the gardens and book tickets at the SA Landscape Festival website:

<https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>



LANDSCAPE FESTIVAL
Be inspired by beautifully designed gardens

SA Landscape Festival Gardens Open in 2025

Yardstick, Hyde Park. Size 134m2.

The smart entrance gate is one of several unique features in this small but very stylish garden. Beyond the gate a restrained palette

of lush planting with an area of lawn and several trees create a delightful serene green ambiance.



An entertaining area with an outdoor kitchen is covered with an adjustable louvred pergola allowing comfortable year-round use and an adjacent sitting area is shaded with a retractable shade sail. A small water feature and a spectacular corten steel sculpture with lighting incorporated add to the wow factor.

Prestigious Gardens and Desert Flower Landscaping, Toorak Gardens. Size 1400m2.



An old garden in need of an update has been sensitively refreshed to increase its practicality whilst preserving its distinctive charisma and charm. Working with its assets, the mellow old stone from the original garden was

reused and a series of family-friendly, functional spaces connected via a renovated slate path that takes the visitor on a botanical journey from the repositioned entrance gate to the front door. Carefully considered new plantings with interesting foliage shapes and textures add vibrancy and verve yet blend harmoniously with the original landscape.

Desert Flower Landscaping, Hazelwood Park. Size 720m2.



A garden designed to be a safe play space for young children and an attractive, relaxed, easily maintained environment for adults. Two majestic gum trees inspired the mostly native planting in the back garden and the subtle colours of the foliage blend beautifully with the natural materials selected for the hardscaping. With sustainability in mind, recycled

stone is used in steps and walls and in the seat created with gabions filled with local sandstone. A deck was reworked using locally hand-milled hardwood and cleverly integrated in the design are vegetable wicking beds.

Alison Gardiner and Desert Flower Landscaping, Belair. Size 1036m2.

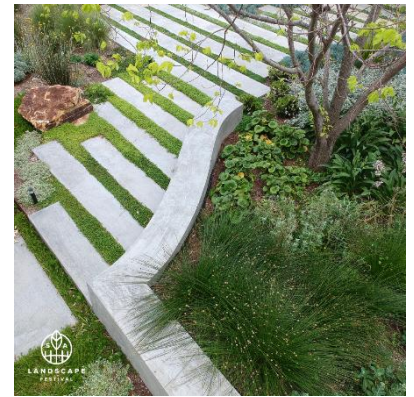


The steep hillside block with a lovely aspect has been expertly re-shaped to maximise its potential and transform the slope into a multi-level layout with several distinct but connected terraces, each with a purpose but adaptable. The hardscaping and the planting are balanced with materials and climate compatible plants chosen to reflect the colours of the home and

the local landscape. The new design includes paved areas, decking, retaining walls, a fire pit, lawn, water tanks, fruit trees, veggies and chickens.

Ground Designs, Blackwood. Size 1300m2.

A garden that is a harmonious blend of modern design and nature with creative features and a lovely, layered mix of native and exotic plants that fit well with the surrounding landscape. Functional as well as attractive, the garden is perfect for outdoor living and family lifestyle and includes a superb circular sitting area surrounding an outdoor brick fireplace. Polished concrete used imaginatively adds contemporary style with touches of timber, stone and natural materials enhanced with drifts of plants creating a space that has structure and softness.



Ambleside Landscapes, Torrens Park. Size 1200m2.

A spacious resort-style garden designed for entertaining and family fun. The quality custom-made materials used in the paving, the retaining walls and throughout the garden connect cohesively with the colours of the house creating a unified look enhanced with layers of lush foliage.



Hedges provide structure and there is diversity and year-round interest in the extensive planting. An outdoor entertaining area, a large lawn, places to play, a pool, plentiful seating around a fire bowl and a productive patch make this an exceptional lifestyle garden.

Evoke Outdoors, Edwardstown. Size. 400m2.

A garden small in size but big on highlights! Skilfully



designed, the 85 square metre space around a new home on a narrow block has loads of visual interest and a remarkable range of convenient features that include an outdoor eating area and in-built seating around a fire bowl. Cleverly concealed are the garden shed, service area and raised herb bed. Distinctive materials, all different yet complementary have

been creatively combined with bold textural foliage plants to make a dynamic yet restful garden room.

Inside Out Exteriors, South Brighton. Size 1100m2.



The stylish design of the sustainable house required an equally unique and innovative garden! The slope of the block was used to advantage with a series of retaining walls constructed from several different contemporary materials becoming key design elements, also making usable level spaces and creating a sense of flow throughout the garden. A fire pit set in crazy paving is partly encircled by a retaining wall of lime-washed recycled bricks with a long cantilevered concrete seat making it a practical and striking focal point.

making it a practical and striking focal point.

Dowie Designs, Port Willunga. Size 700m2.



A tall timber paling fence allows glimpses of a modern, easy-care garden beautifully in tune with the newly built home. Stone and natural materials, earthy colours and a palette of predominantly grey-green native plants with contrasting textural foliage suit the property's close proximity to the coast. Weathered timber has been used throughout, randomly set in

rammed-sand paths, in the raised vegetable beds and placed vertically, as a feature. In the back garden a long, curved wall of softly toned Hartley stone adds to the ambiance and makes a casual seat.

Dowie Designs, Aldinga Beach. Size 750m2.

Stone walls, paths, paving, plants and a pond separate the generous sized block into several distinct spaces, each designed for leisure and easy entertaining as well as aesthetic appeal. Recycled bricks,

stone and timber blend with an eclectic mix of native and hardy plants selected for their contrasting foliage and bright pops of flower colour throughout the seasons.



A covered outdoor kitchen has an alfresco dining area and several low stone walls double as additional seating. Water spills from a shallow bowl into a pond adding gentle sound to the garden.

Howard Vineyard is a second-generation, family-owned vineyard with a reputation for premium grape growing in the Adelaide Hills.

Their Cellar Door and Restaurant is at Nairne, just 25 minutes from the CBD.

In the spirit of good community, Howard Vineyard makes multiple wine donations to charities, schools, community organisations and worthy causes each year.

We're grateful to Howard's for sponsoring thank-you gifts to help us show our appreciation to garden owners for generously opening their gardens during the festival.



HOWARD
VINEYARD



OGSA Recommends...

We recommend you always check our website to confirm garden opening details prior to visiting. The website is an up-to-date, reliable and informative site which lists each open garden with a description of the garden, address (including a map), photographs, the availability of refreshments etc. The official Garden Notes written by the garden owner are also provided which you can read in advance or print and take a copy with you for your garden visit. Importantly, our website will always list any late additions or cancellations to our garden opening program.

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

OGSA 2025 Autumn Calendar

Entry Fee \$10 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free. We encourage visitors to bring cash as EFTPOS facilities may not always be available.

MARCH 2025

07 March

Snip and Sip Pick Your Own Flowers event – Charleston. **SOLD OUT**

22 – 23 March

Bellosguardo Estate - 107 Blocks Road, Birdwood

29 – 30 March

Auricht House – Hahndorf - **CANCELLED**

APRIL 2025

05 – 06 April

SA Landscape Festival – 10 professionally designed and landscaped gardens from the coast to the Adelaide Foothills. **Tickets are \$10 per garden or \$50 for an all-garden weekend pass.** Children under 12 FREE entry. No Concessions. All proceeds from the SA Landscape Festival will support the SACWA. Book tickets at the SA Landscape Festival website: <https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>

26 - 27 April

Evesham – 27 Waverley Ridge Road, Crafers

Seaview – 32 Waverley Ridge Road, Crafers

MAY 2025

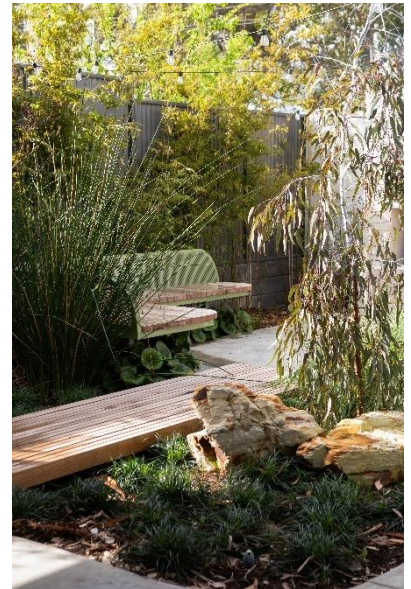
05 – 06 May

Stangate house – 3 Edgeware Road, Aldgate

Garden openings will be cancelled in fire-rating districts on days that are declared “Catastrophic”.



Bellosguardo Estate - Birdwood



SA Landscape Festival – 10 gardens from the coast to the Adelaide foothills.



Evesham – Crafers



Seaview – Crafers



Stangate House – Aldgate

Plant Profile: ALOE, ALOE Miniature and dwarf Aloes for balcony, courtyard and window gardens.

By Trevor Nottle. Photos supplied by Trevor Nottle.



When keen gardeners move from a regular size garden to a retirement village, they are bound to miss their daily contact with growing plants and the soil. Replacing this important aspect of well-being can be a challenge as growing space can vary from very little room to almost none at all. In

many instances the maintenance crew of the complex will take care of any communal landscaping, and the residents are left to do what they can to keep gardening in whatever tiny spaces they can find within the boundaries of their own unit or apartment.

It can be a puzzle working out how to grow a rose or two in big tubs, or a camellia in a half-barrel on a balcony. The blasting wind gusts and relentless sun on the NW side of any apartment block or villa unit can be killers, while deep shade can be just as bad. More hardy and light-weight plants could solve the problems of moving plants around as needed but such big plants are pretty heavy and bulky for older folks to handle safely. Bending and lifting and standing upright again can also make garden work more demanding and tiring. Eventually smaller plants in lighter pots raised up to waist height by wooden or metal benches prove practical and convenient for many gardeners who are losing agility and mobility.



All dwarf Aloes will grow and multiply in an average small sized pot. Plastic pots are OK. Terra-cotta pots are more elegant. Any pot used must have a drainage hole.



Their requirements are simple: bright light, air movement, free draining gritty potting mix and an occasional dressing to remove dead leaves and spent flower stems. Active growth occurs in summer when water and a balanced but low nitrogen fertiliser should be applied every 4 weeks. The plants will flower when they are actively growing. In my experience it is best to keep them dry over winter. When growth slows and eventually ceases water should be withheld. I resume watering in mid-Spring which results in growth first followed by flowering in Summer.



Choosing plants for new conditions offers many opportunities to explore the vast range of small plants suited to exposed or sheltered locations.

Among plants suited to exposed positions are miniature and dwarf Aloes. These may be had in a

hundred different species and hybrids; all different in form and foliage, all colourful in flower, all bearing leaves of diverse shapes as well as leaves of toothy, bristly, smooth and almost furry mien, and those that change colour markedly from season to season.

Pests such as mealy bugs and scale must be dealt with as soon as they appear.

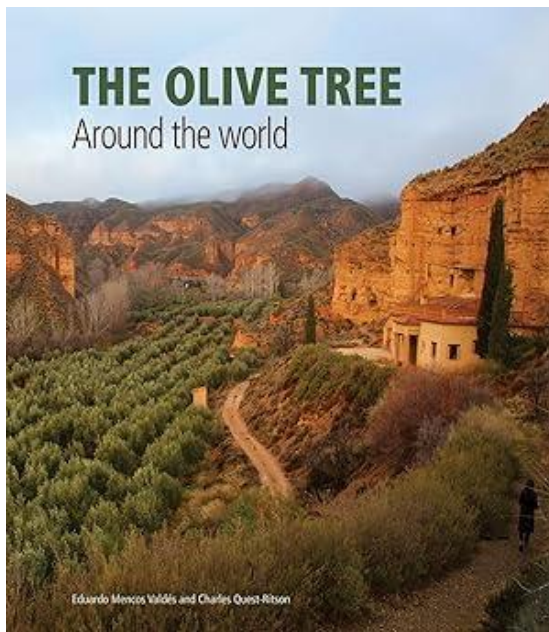
While named varieties are sometimes available from specialty growers it is just as well to take your pick from the mixed selections available nameless from the big home and hardware stores.



THE OLIVE TREE Around the World

By Eduardo Mencos (photographer) and Charles Quest Ritson (text), published 2025 by Ediciones el Viso.

Book Review by Trevor Nottle.



Here is a coffee table book that will take many readers to far away places and ages past for it tells the story of the olive tree and olive oil around the world. It is the first large photo format book I have chosen to review. This is because it is much more than pretty.

It is no mistake that the photography is given prominence in the title for the images are a

real delight to see. That is not to say that the text is a secondary feature. Charles Quest Ritson holds his own in any print format and is a frequent contributor to *Country Life* magazine in the UK, to which he also supplies many excellent photos.

The photos of Edouardo Mencos are at once enough to keep a viewer turning the pages until the whole book has been seen. Carefully composed and chosen with great care from his deep understanding of landscape and culture they capture with rare insight the places and scenes that so perfectly encapsulate the role of the olive tree in so many cultures from those around the Mediterranean Basin to those far away in California and Syria.

Included are the places where olive cultivation is new and olive oil more of an export industry than one melded to local cuisines developed over several thousand years.

The book opens our eyes to the ways of the past showing the traditional methods of cultivation and processing olive drupes to release their precious, tasty oil. All very picturesque it is too. But new methods apply in countries new to the olive and so we also see the slick and shiny up-to-the-minute processing facilities of rapidly expanding producers in South America and the brave new plantations olive plantations in Saudi Arabia, India and in the Atacama Desert of Peru.

Even the small but growing industries of Australia and New Zealand are praised by Quest Ritson for their rapid expansion and the strong growth of consumer markets in both countries to the point where demand far outstrips supply.

It is a grand and fascinating story well told and beautifully caught by the exacting eye of the photographer.



Follow OGSA on Facebook and Instagram



Department of Primary Industries and Regions - The fight against fruit fly

Article and photos provided by the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions.

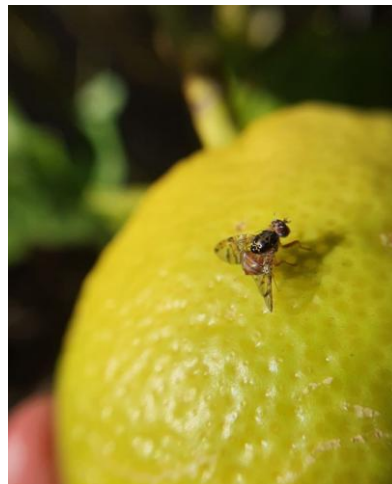
You may have heard about fruit fly in the news recently. What is happening, and what does it mean for SA, and for home-grown fruit in your gardens?

What is fruit fly?

There are more than 200 species of fruit fly in Australia, of which two are destructive pests:

1. Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) also called Med-fly, is 3-5mm long and established in Western Australia; and
2. Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*, Qfly), is 5-7mm long and endemic in the eastern states.

Qfly and Med-fly are prolific breeders and can quickly ruin entire crops. Females can lay hundreds of eggs in a wide range of fruit and fruiting vegetables. Eggs develop into larvae (maggots), and when fruit falls to the ground, larvae can easily burrow into the dirt, develop into pupae, and continue their life cycle. Soon after, adult flies emerge from their pupal case, ready to start the life cycle again.



Images above- Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)



Images above - Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*, Qfly)

The pest-free advantage

Delving into the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) archives, South Australia has an enviable track record of successfully eradicating any fruit fly outbreaks, so there's no permanent population here.

Our Riverland region holds an internationally recognised premium status, giving growers significant trade benefits that support the local community and the state's horticulture industry. It also means that we as gardeners can enjoy fruit straight from the tree.

Interstate, the story is not so peachy. Gardeners use special fruit fly netting, hang traps in trees, or treat their fruit – and picking to eat is usually a fruitless exercise, with produce often infested with maggots.

Shared responsibility

PIRSA is working to eradicate to Qfly outbreaks in the Riverland, Glynde, and Salisbury North areas, and Med-fly in Ceduna.



You can make a difference towards reducing fruit fly populations that are breeding and growing. Don't bring fresh host fruit or vegetables into SA or the Riverland.

Fines for travelling with restricted produce are steep at \$417, so it's not worth the risk.



Maggots in fruit.

If you live in red outbreak areas, you can't sell, move or share restricted produce from your property, because it hasn't had commercial grade treatments that prevent fruit fly. Check <https://fruitfly.sa.gov.au/outbreak-map> to learn which zone your property is in.

Help prevent fruit fly in your garden

- Pick excess fruit and bring it inside.
- Consider pruning back trees to grow just enough of what you need, or look at dwarf varieties.

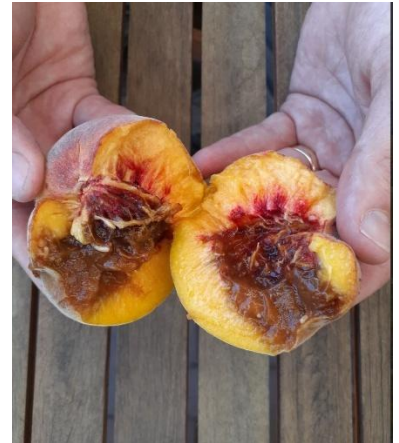


- Prune trees to a manageable height to reach fruit at the top. Leaving it creates an opportunity for fruit fly to lay eggs.
- To stop any fruit fly larvae from burying in the ground and developing into adult flies, collect fallen fruit from the ground and put it in the green bin (metro) or red bin (Riverland, or where there is no green bin available).
- Cut back long grass and overgrown bushes – fruit fly can live and rest there.
- Check your fruit for marks, bruising or maggots. If you find anything suspicious, seal it in a plastic bag or container, put it in the fridge and call the **Fruit Fly Hotline: 1800 666 010**.



Garden Hygiene.

- Fruit fly also targets tomatoes, capsicum, eggplant and chilli. Pick these early and let them ripen indoors. Check the full list of restricted fruit and vegetables at fruitfly.sa.gov.au/restricted-produce



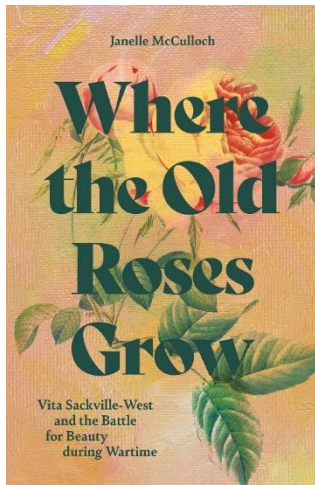
Learn more about fruit fly and the list of fruit it targets at fruitfly.sa.gov.au.



Where the Old Roses Grow: Vita Sackville-West and the Battle for Beauty during Wartime

Author: Janelle McCulloch.
Publisher: Affirm.
Publication date: 24 February 2025.

Available: Matilda Bookshop, Stirling: matildabookshop.com.au



During the Second World War and in the decades after it, a group of rose lovers, including the writer and gardener Vita Sackville-West, the florist Constance Spry, and the horticulturist Graham Stuart Thomas, realised that heritage roses were becoming endangered.

Fearing for their future, these rosarians began collecting rare, old roses to save them from dying out while England's gardeners were away fighting on the front.

Where the Old Roses Grow tells the extraordinary story of how they did this, while the German bombers were scorching the skies, Hitler was advancing on their lives, and hope was being extinguished, month by month.

This is a tale of gardens and roses in wartime, and of fortitude and tenacity in the face of great loss and pain, but it is also a story of hope. It celebrates the achievements of an inspired group of rose lovers, who saved Britain's favourite flower, so it could survive and bloom for future generations.

A Few Interesting Facts About Autumn

<https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/learn-about/weather/seasons/autumn/autumn-facts>

The time of year that Keats called the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', autumn is a season famous for its harvest times, turning leaves, cooling temperatures and darkening nights.

1. Autumn begins

There are two different dates when autumn could be said to begin. Autumn, as defined by the Earth's orbit around the Sun, begins on the [equinox](#) which falls on 22 or 23 March. In the Southern Hemisphere, Central Australia Time, the Autumn equinox is on Thursday, 20 March 2025, 7:31 pm.

2. Trees prepare for winter

One of the most stunning signs of autumn is the turning of the leaves. The shorter days are a sign to trees to begin to prepare for winter. During winter there is not enough light for photosynthesis to occur, so as the days shorten throughout autumn, the trees begin to close down their food production systems and reduce the amount of chlorophyll in their leaves.

3. The chemistry of colour

Chlorophyll is the chemical which makes tree leaves green and as it declines other chemicals become more prominent in the leaves.

These are responsible for the vibrant ambers, reds and yellows of autumn. The chemicals responsible are types of flavonoids, carotenoids and anthocyanins.

Did you know some of these chemicals are the same ones that give carrots (beta-carotenes) and egg yolks (luteins) their colours?

4. People born in Autumn live longer

A study in the [Journal of Aging Research](#) found that babies born during the autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year.

Their study found that 30 % of US centenarians born during 1880-1895 were born in the autumn months.

5. The days get shorter

The word equinox comes from the Latin *equi* (meaning equal) and *nox* (meaning night) accounting for the equinox marking the time when day and night are of equal length.

6. Persephone's return

In Greek mythology, autumn began when Persephone was abducted by Hades to be the Queen of the Underworld. In distress Persephone's mother, Demeter (the goddess of the harvest), caused all the crops on Earth to die until her daughter was allowed to return, marking spring.

7. Autumn and Fall

We typically think of 'fall' as the North American version of the word 'autumn', but it was in fact in widespread usage in England until relatively recently.

Originally a shortening of the phrase *fall of the leaf*, the phrase was common in England in the 17th century.

The word autumn entered English from the French *Automne* and didn't become common usage until the 18th century.



Stangate House Gardens in Aldgate.

Open Gardens South Australia is a not for profit organisation opening private gardens to the general public.

The purpose of Open Gardens SA is to educate and promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening in South Australia and to build strong public support for the development of gardens.

Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.

Our mailing address is:

Open Gardens SA Inc
PO Box 605, STIRLING SA 5152

Website: <http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opengardensa/?hl=en>

Copyright ©2025 Open Gardens SA Inc. All rights reserved. Editors: Di Michalk and Trevor Nottle.

Open Gardens SA makes every attempt to ensure that the information contained in this Newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, neither it nor its agents will be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from the possession, publication or use of or reliance on information obtained from this publication. It is provided in good faith without express or implied warranty.