



## Dendrobium

### Sunlight creature

Anyone new to Orchid will first go for Dendrobium for its myriad range of colours. Like a new-born child, Dendrobium will always love full sun light. However you have to keep tabs as strong sunlight might damage the creature. From time to time it needs shading from sunlight and sufficient height to receive sun light when morning dawns on your garden. Dendrobium is commonly known as Den among Horticulturists. It has a good market too for its over-190 species. One special feature of Den is that it both grows attached to a living plant and rock. Dendrobium is not only a lovely creature, but it is convenient for your garden, as it goes with any kind of habitat. So why not go for Dendrobium? It will colour up your garden with its gorgeous white blooms.

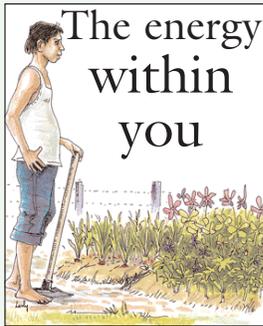
## Green fingers

Ravi Mahendra

I was bringing some of harvest from my allotment. Even though I was a keen gardener since my childhood, I have never had a proper chance to grow my own fruit and veg. I inherited this allotment only two months ago. It was spring time and I was in a bit of panic mood, as it was the exact time to start growing everything. Growing plants in England is a bit different - of course climatic conditions are much different to those of Sri Lanka.

I managed to gather lots and lots of gardening books and magazines all through those years, and I was dying to have my own garden. Here we got a massive messy allotment in front of my eyes. I stood in front of it not knowing where to start, and how to start. Where would I find time to clear this and make beds to cultivate?

"Calm down... You got to take it easy. You have to enjoy yourself as well while you are doing this. Otherwise no point - but you will feel exhausted!" My partner's voice. Getting up an hour earlier than usual, feel the ground, do some work helped me turn my allotment look a bit better. Afterwards, I started spending hours and hours until dark falls. The rest of the time was



## The energy within you

spent gathering more and more information from other people and some literature search just before the bed time.

Weeks and months went by. Now I am harvesting my own home-grown organic veg. Such a bliss...! I have never felt that content. I remember the day my first harvest of carrots, wow...! Some of them were fourteen inches! Massive carrots. I never thought I could do my allotment so well. It was a miracle for me. "Ravi, you are amazing - you have done so well... It is too well for your first

### Green fingers (Ain Gunoyya)

I remember my mother and grandmother both used to tell me the same thing when I was a child. But I believed they had green fingers, and not me - I certainly took it as a complication because I never believed it. I still don't know whether such a thing called green fingers exist or not. But believe me anyone can cultivate it by doing some homework.

Lots of people ask me whether I talk to plants. It is an extremely difficult question to answer. Yes, I do. But not in a manner talking verbally. I would call it non-verbal communication. It is like getting to know a new friend. I do study them first. Spend time with them to understand their needs. Feeling sorry, when they suffer. To build up a positive relationship with my little ones, I try to understand them so then I can feel their needs. Water, fertilizer, soil conditioning, and all other tender loving care. I personally believe that you need to be a bit mad to fall in love with plants. Believe me that madness is very rewarding.

You don't have to be cruel to be kind. Do you have to be kind to be cruel?

That's how I feel sometimes when I harvest my crops. Not picking beans or other fruity veg - especially pulling out a great beautiful lush vegetable plant (root vegetables like carrots). Yes it is true that I grow them too.

If I don't, after a while they die down and decompose. But when you are in love with them, you really do feel for them. Pull out a radiant plant, take it home, skin it, and cooking it make me always feel guilty. Yes I do feel guilty the same time I do believe it is part of the nature.

## Scientific basis of Home Gardening

Gevathu Vagave Vidyatmaka Padanama



K.L. Jayatissa

The main features of the Sri Lankan agriculture are paddy, Chena and garden. Here the most important aspect linked with the family is garden. An average Sri Lankan garden is service at the Department of Agriculture.

The book discusses the basic features, types and the need of a

attempt is focused on giving a detailed chapter-wise explanation on the garden. Jayatissa is an MSc holder from University of Reading, and has 25 years of experience in the Department of Agriculture.



## Tributing Cora Abraham

The past teachers and students of the 57 year old Cora Abraham Art Classes decided to help today's CAAC at a time when they are facing a financial crisis by arranging and exhibition and sale of their work. 'Tribute to a teacher, the late Cora Abraham' will feature the work of many well known artists such as Richard Gabriel, Neville Weeraratne, Sybil Keyt, Laki Senanayake, Druvinka Madawala and a host of others who believe that their creativity bloomed at CAAC.

Refreshing and interesting the paintings of young ones like Shanthini Rajasingham, Samashi Weeraratne and Premisha Premadasa and many others are also included in the event.

The very creative counter that presents the work of jewellery designs, worked in metals and wood and enamel, will be one of the attractions. The textile drapes are original and worth your perusal. A special 'silent auction' will help out connoisseurs to bid for some good work by some of the recognised artists.

This exhibition and sale of work will be presented at the Barefoot Gallery



Some colourful paintings which will be on exhibit.