



"Quarter Acre" Paradise

Gardening Diary

february ^{by} Dale Harvey

Feb·ru·ar·y

(fēb'ru:ər'ē, fēb'yoo.)

NOUN:

pl. Feb·ru·ar·ies Abbr. Feb.
The second month of the year in the Gregorian calendar.

ETYMOLOGY:

Middle English Februarie, from Latin Febrūārius (mēnsis), (month) of purification, from februa, expiatory offerings, possibly of Sabine origin

February:

Although the variant pronunciation is often censured because it doesn't reflect the spelling of the word, it is quite common in educated speech and is generally considered acceptable. The loss of the first r in this pronunciation can be accounted for by the phonological process known as dissimilation, by which similar sounds in a word tend to become less similar. In the case of February, the loss of the first r is also owing to the influence of January, which has only one 'R'.

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Authors introduction

An Introduction to Your Monthly Hand-Book



New Zealand is a clean, green, garden paradise. One of the last and best in the world. We are blessed here in New Zealand with one of the most remarkable climates of any country on earth.

It often takes a prolonged overseas experience for most Kiwis to realize that the climate, land and lifestyle we so take for granted is what people in other nations would consider to be nearly ideal: a true paradise when compared to the extremes experienced in other parts of the world.

It is for this very reason that per head of population New Zealand has one of the highest levels of truly talented creative gardeners to be found anywhere. Gardening has become part of our national character.

It sets us apart and helps to develop and reinforce our high level of environmental awareness and sophistication. So if you aren't yet a gardener, give it a go. It will do you, your family, the community and the country a world of good. And if you

are already stuck into the garden, congratulations!

You represent a better, more advanced alternative within modern living. And your efforts, even if they are only in your back yard, collectively are helping to inspire and lead the world into a cleaner, greener new age.

If you are new to gardening or if you are encouraging a young mind to love nature start small and simple. This way you can focus attention on learning enough about a few plants to give yourself a better chance of success. An initial small success generates pride, excitement and a desire to learn more so can make a garden lover for life.

While a big failure early on can stop an individual from ever trying again and ultimately lose a chance to experience one of the truly heavenly pleasures of life on earth.

When one remembers the classic words, "We are closest to God in the garden", we start to realize the tragic significance that such a failure can have upon one's

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future, or how by simply planting a few seedlings for the first time one can take a few real steps toward paradise.

Over the years my experience in the garden has brought me to the understanding that the earth is a living organism, a timeless master and we are its pets.

This loving earth doesn't really need us, yet we are totally dependent on it for everything. Like all good pets, we've got to understand and obey the rules of the house. No longer are we little puppies allowed to soil our bedding and rip up the furniture.

Our survival comes down to something as simple as personal hygiene on a collective, global scale. As we come of age as a civilization we either understand and obey, or we are put down like so many species before us. We are not saving the earth, we must save ourselves!

One of the easiest ways to serve the Living Earth is in the garden, which is a little piece of nature. The earth contains all the secrets and cycles that we know as life. So to garden is to interact with this great power which will ultimately put us on the path to understanding the secrets of life, for life unfolds daily there in the garden. And, with time, becomes easy to understand. Understanding matures into wisdom which ultimately brings reward,

your own paradise. And, collectively, if we all do our part those small bits of paradise start to merge, eventually creating a heaven on earth.

If you sincerely want to improve the quality of your life and those you love ... If you want your children to grow up remembering that you helped them create a world that they could enjoy living in.

If you are searching for a meaningful, constructive way to build a cleaner, greener, environmentally balanced world or if you want better health, are trying to overcome loneliness, depression, stress, or just want a thoroughly enjoyable hobby to fill your spare time. Then it's time for you to discover gardening.

Gardening will give you something special! Surely it takes work, sometimes lots of hard work, but none of life's lessons are learned without determined effort. But stick with it! The greatest rewards come to those who consistently demonstrate true devotion and dedication to the garden.

Over time these individuals gain such wisdom that they truly become "living treasures". The influence of such individuals through their collective contributions ultimately uplifts the overall development of the community, leading mankind toward a much better tomorrow.

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A garden handbook on its own is not going to turn you into a living treasure but this book is meant to inspire you to take a few more steps in the right direction. The rest is up to you! What is offered here are simple, easily understood monthly guidelines and snippets of information which only scratch the surface of all the exciting knowledge I'd like to share with you. Perhaps what you learn here will inspire you into the pursuit of further knowledge.

The serious gardener will want to purchase one or more good gardening books to use in combination with this diary. In this way you can expand your knowledge very quickly. The Readers Digest illustrated Guide to Gardening, the Yates Garden Guide, and Yates Garden Doctor are all excellent books to serve this purpose.

And even if you are on a tight budget, don't forget that most local libraries carry a wide range of reference books on gardening. But whatever reference sources you choose, be certain they are written for southern hemisphere gardening otherwise you'll be planting everything at the wrong time!

The best way to use this book is as a handy reference to remind you of the various gardening activities that occur through the year. Be aware that this is

only a general guide to New Zealand gardening.

The gardener will want to take into account local and seasonal climatic variations that can affect the timing of gardening activities. These variations can be recorded in the convenient spaces provided within each monthly calendar.

To make the handbook really work for you now and especially in the future, record all your gardening activities: dates of sowings, transplanting, harvest, and flowering; problems with disease/insects and methods that worked to control them as well as those that didn't.

Also record daily weather statistics and patterns: rainfall, storms, wind, cloudiness, temperature, frosts, first summer/winter weather, etc. Don't forget to make notes about new discoveries: plants, seeds, vegetables new to you; an old fashioned cure-all remedy passed on to you by a helpful old-timer, a really effective fertiliser combination; a new way to complete a garden job more effectively, etc.

To record successfully make this a simple part of your daily routine. Once recorded over a year your diary becomes your own personal garden guide that will be an invaluable reference. When I returned to New Zealand I immediately began reading my Granddad's garden

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diaries. They spanned 40 years. Very quickly I gained a deeper personal understanding of the man and his relationship to the land that he so loved.

Because he recorded his garden experiences over many years, patterns became obvious. With this information I was then able to plan and act with confidence knowing what to expect of the land and the local climate. And in this instance became alerted to how dramatically New Zealand's climate had changed between his generation and my own and was able to use this knowledge to advantage. Seasonal variations or climatic changes like the one that has been affecting New Zealand in recent years, can easily push ahead or pull behind many garden activities by a month or more.

For this reason it is best to read not only the current month's activities but also those in the months on either side. Since nature does allow a great deal of flexibility, this will give you a better idea of what major jobs are coming up in the garden, as well as reminding you to complete a project that there wasn't time to finish last month.

The serious gardener should read through the entire year repeatedly. Become familiar with the activities plantings, flowerings and harvests of each season. This way you can plan and detail your

garden well in advance which will greatly help to focus your attention toward the successful achievement of multiple garden projects running simultaneously which is what it takes to create a truly effective garden.

Knowledge is power! Be aware that knowledge is constantly changing and ever expanding so do be creative, flexible and very open to the exciting knowledge you can learn by listening to the inspirational "whispers" with which nature will guide you. Because New Zealand is blessed with such a wonderful, often forgiving climate many things will survive being planted or transplanted even at the wrong time. This is especially true when the gardener, armed with knowledge, proceeds with deliberate care.

Remember that we often learn as much from a mistake as from a success. Many new ideas come about because someone tried to do something in a different way or made a mistake. Be sure to record all that you possibly can to help insure that all your activities lead toward your ultimate success!

Throughout the handbook you will find references to fertilizers and many varieties of sprays. While I have used almost everything at some time or another, it has been my attempt to create a balanced garden paradise where there is

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little need to affect the environment to any great degree chemically.

To achieve this end in my own quarter acre paradise where we film the television series Living Earth for TV3, I attempt to create a healthy environment for the garden i.e. building high quality soils rich in organic fertilizers; providing adequate shelter, moisture, warmth; and planting the right plant in its appropriate microclimate. The logic being that a happy plant is usually a healthy plant.

The somewhat pampered, highly encouraged resident bird population takes care of most of the insects. And since insects transmit a lot of disease, the birds indirectly control fungus as well with every insect they catch. Those that they don't catch are usually controlled with dustings of lime, derris and/or organic sprays like pyrethrum, pepper, or garlic.

And I find that foliar feeding with many types of organic and inorganic fertilizers mixed with a fixative like Nitrosol, fish emulsion, liquid soap, or spray fix, to help them stick to the foliage will often largely deter insect attack. Insects like a good meal just like the rest of us.

If you can adversely alter the taste of their dinner even if it is with a friendly, helpful fertiliser, they'll often move on to find a more palatable meal in a less well

cared for garden. But the day will come when you will need to spray. The art is to learn when, how much and what of, to knock out the problem before it can cause damage. In my quarter acre paradise it's likely that I'll have to spray perhaps three or four times a year. At these times I am extremely careful and very thorough with all aspects of the operation.

Sprays are meant to kill off disease and pests but they work on all living things, including us, so every precaution needs to be taken in dress, gloves, hats, masks, etc. to insure your safety.

Attempt to insure the safety of your garden by spraying either very early or quite late in the day when most helpful creatures like preying mantis, lady bugs, bees, and birds are not liable to be actively feeding in the gardens where they could get contaminated.

Be careful not to spray water sources like ponds, bird baths, buckets of water, creeks, etc where pets or wildlife drink or where sprays could runoff and contaminate something they shouldn't. If the garden is wet when spraying this will be an advantage as the spray will bleed through the plants into places otherwise unreachable. And mixing the spray with a fixative like spray fix, fish emulsion, Nitrosol (liquid blood and bone) or even liquid detergent will help the spray

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solution to stick and penetrate much further and be more effective.

The person who coined the phrase, “An ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure”, must have been a lover of the garden. As you discover the garden world’s darker side of disease, pestilence and sprays you will come to understand just how true this is. Just like a person catching a cold, there is that first day when one is exposed to the virus.

If one is healthy, well rested and strong there’s little chance of the germs taking hold. And even if they do, a good rum, lemon and aspirin drink and an early night to bed can often stop the cold before it ever gets out of control. But we all know what happens when things get out of control.

The garden is exactly the same. There is always that first day of exposure. Perhaps the air is warm, humid, very damp and the weather forecast promises more to come. At such moments the experienced gardener can almost feel the fungus spores exploding like cluster bombs in the garden.

In another situation, for the past three days a strong northwest wind has been blowing bugs off Queensland and dumping them over your garden. Already there are aphids on the broccoli, and there’s a dusting of thrip on the roses so

you know there must be a legion of invisible mites also just starting to attack

These are the times to act and prevent their spread quickly. A thorough spraying at such critical moments will usually prevent the attack from ever happening.

Use your diary to learn to anticipate such moments by recording the weather patterns and what they bring with them.

You’ll soon learn to anticipate when, where, and how much to spray so that disease never visits your patch of paradise. And just like Nana’s chicken soup, never miss a chance to feed your garden to keep it healthy. Foliar feed your garden by mixing in a liquid fertiliser when you spray for disease and fungus. You’ll help strengthen the plants to resist any pests you missed while encouraging strong healthy growth.

I compare spraying plants with people taking antibiotics, which are also poisons. Used unwisely, antibiotics are ineffective or could even cause death yet many of us owe our lives to the effective use of antibiotics.

The same applies to the effective use of plant sprays. We can see the results of an effective chemical campaign and accept it as a necessary situation. But we all hope that soon we will find a better way

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that will lead us a step closer to true balance and harmony with our world.

There's so very much to be learned in gardening. So if you become confused or get stuck for ideas ask a neighbour with a lovely garden; contact a professional at a local garden centre; visit a well planned garden and talk to the gardener(s); buy more reference books or ask your librarian for help or join a class or club where you will discover garden knowledge to be as abundant as the harvests you will one day grow! But whatever you do, don't give up. While no one promised you that this would be easy, we are promising you a rose garden if you are willing to work for it!

As a general rule just about anything that will grow in the ground will grow in a pot So even if you are in a small flat or unit with a tiny concrete backyard there is a wealth of plant material that you can grow indoors or outside in containers that will still allow you to create your own piece of paradise.

As mankind races toward a new millennium in our ever changing modern world we count with regret the cost to our environment A new generation is rising, soon to lead, that realizes, as we all must deep in the heart, that survival depends on finding a balance between our needs and those of our loving, living earth.

Already the wise are searching, looking for green solutions that blend with a modern world.

In New Zealand we already stand by the garden gate to paradise yet sometimes take it for granted! The world needs a green model to look up to and we do it best.

This is our chance to blossom into a real life island nation paradise that cares. Let's become a nation of gardeners and nature lovers and plant our nation with the plan to harvest a rainbow of colourful, natural abundance for the entire world to see.

Through tourism, direct horticultural / agricultural employment and the economic spin-offs of lodging, entertainment, food and human services we could employ all our people. We would literally be paid to live in paradise!

Creating paradise in New Zealand is a long term, epic journey and all great journeys start with a simple first step. That's easy enough for any of us to achieve. Every day of your life promise yourself to take another step by becoming actively involved with nature.

Soon you'll have travelled deeply into paradise, probably one you've created in your own backyard.

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Notes

Sampler



february

February brings Late Summer to New Zealand. Late Summer is a big month for (sub) tropical blooms like:

Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Gardenia, Bromeliads, Jacobinia, Mandevilla, Plumeria, Stephanotis, summer Orchids, tropical Water Lilies and more should be looking great.

Summer annuals and perennials are still at their peak provided they receive ample water and food.

Day length, growth rates, sunlight and warmth and growth rates have all peaked and now simmer in subtle seasonal transition from Summer to Autumn this month. Gardeners in the warmer subtropical and moderate temperate climates should expect their gardens to remain glorious throughout the month.

Gardeners in the cooler climates have already seen their garden's summer peak and now it's slow decline along with the subtly waning sunlight and cooling temperatures by the end of the month.

Late Oriental Trumpet and species Lilies and Roses are a feature this month as are Amaryllis belladonna lily, Caladium, Canna, Lycoris and Tuberous Begonia. This is also a big month for flower shows as many of our very best quality summer flowers are produced now. As summer displays and harvests finish, Gardeners will start preparing, sowing and planting for the autumn and winter garden and spring seasons ahead.

Seed for those garden displays and harvests can be sown now either in

containers for planting out later or direct where they are meant to grow. Tree and shrub pruning and general maintenance often fill a lot of gardening time this month.

Climate 'Change':

Wise Gardeners realize that 'what goes around comes around' and there is really nothing new that hasn't happened before.

When looking with hindsight at the world's weather patterns, the climatic seasonal variations that most Gardeners have experienced throughout our collective lifetimes have remained remarkably 'stable' for many, many decades.

But all Gardeners can attest to the inevitable shift of the seasons each year. And scientific evidence suggests that there have been catastrophic climate changes many times before Humankind or any of the species living today ever existed. So it is rather obvious that what 'climate changes' we are witnessing now are yet another shift in an even larger 'seasonal' cycle. Humankind certainly has become a contributing factor to this global change, especially when it comes to substituting a previously green world for a concrete one. There have to be consequences for that.

But when viewed from a massive global celestial perspective, Humankind and the green world which supports us is little more than fluff on the planet's surface, which could be swept away to the cosmic compost pile in an instant and

replaced with something else more appropriate to a changing world.

And since our world is one giant garden, it is up to us to care-for what we have and attempt to instinctually understand and adapt to these changes in natural cycles.

Once it was almost guaranteed that Late Summer, in a 'good' year, brought warm days and nights combine with warm fertile soil and sufficient rainfall; creating lush new and maturing growth, spectacular colour and abundant harvests.

In recent years, environmental extremes of all sorts have put in doubt the guarantee of a glorious season, but if ever there were a month when one's care and devotion, effort and hard work might be amply rewarded, it would be the Late Summer Garden.

In (sub)tropical and warm temperate climates, conditions all month usually remain more like Mid Summer: day length, growth rates, sunlight and warmth remain near their peak.

Some years bring the very driest and hot conditions; and in other years humid, warm, wet and tropical weather and perhaps even a tropical storm.

Then again in other years there might be the first hint of Autumn in the air as temperatures begin to cool, especially at night. What we get for Late Summer weather is all very dependent upon the prevailing wind direction that year.

In bountiful years, many gardens are looking great. Tropical plants burst into bloom and flourish. Summer-flowering annual and perennial gardens often reach their peak; fruits and vegetables are abundant.

In Cool 'Continental' Temperate and Alpine climates conditions usually remain mostly dry, pleasant and warm; occasionally even tropical, but by the end of the month evenings are cooler; long summer days subtly begin to shorten, summer flowers and harvests begin to subside.

Plants will sense the change in shifting sunlight long before people and by the end of the month; signs of Autumn will begin to appear in cooler, drier and shady corners.

Late Summer is a time of preparation and transition as much as a time of abundance and harvest. This seasonal turning point is time to start planning and preparations for the Autumn and Winter Gardens ahead and beyond to next Spring.

The care, planning and preparations taken now will reap rewards in the months and seasons to come. Gardeners blessed with a cold frame or glasshouse will be sowing seeds, striking cuttings and potting up plants and seedling for the seasons ahead.

In protected spots, outdoor beds are prepared and planted with the hardiest varieties now. Northern Hemisphere Gardeners will also be planning and

preparing in a very similar manner for the brighter and warmer seasons ahead.

Their very warmest climate zones should see subtly improving growing conditions this month. Worldwide this is a great time to order seeds, bulbs, tubers and roots.

FLOWER GARDENS

Flowers in Bloom:

Late Summer Gardens of New Zealand are abundant, beautiful and diverse as the landscapes that produce them. An 'abundant' garden does assume that the garden is well-positioned to benefit from its surrounding environment and is appropriately cared for.

In dry, droughty or otherwise stressful years, the garden might possibly be just a dusty, tatty memory by now. But Nature being as resilient and splendid as it is, Late Summer is often a glorious time when so much that has been cared and prepared for comes to fruition.

Here's a partial list of all the many things blooming now somewhere in New Zealand's Late Summer gardens. This list includes a variety of groundcovers, shrubs, trees, vines; annuals, biennials and perennials; bulbs, rhizomes, roots and tubers that you could have flowering in your garden right now.

Being a transitional month, many blooming species will start the month still at their summer peak which will fade by the end of the month as Autumn approaches. The most impressive

tropical-flowering species like Bougainvillea, Gardenia, Jacaranda, Hoya, Hibiscus, Mandevilla, Plumeria (Frangipani), Stephanotis and many more will continue flowering throughout the month in warm subtropical gardens, but in borderline and cooler climates zones some will have already finished or begin fading with the first subtle shift toward Autumnal conditions.

Possibly no one garden has all of these plants growing and flowering simultaneously, but many of New Zealand's Botanical Gardens and finer private collections and displays would feature most of them.

If all of these gardens were considered as one combined countrywide garden stretching from the tropical North to the cool temperate and colder Alpine regions of the South, the list of possibilities is indeed impressive. This considerable list of Late Summer blooming species once again supports why New Zealand is considered such a remarkable country for gardening, and how it earned its reputation for being called Godzone Garden Country.

Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees and Vines in Bloom in Late Summer:

Abutilon (Chinese Lantern/Flowering Maple), Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile), Agave (Century Plant), Albizzia (Silk Tree/Mimosa), Alectryon (Titoki), Anigozanthus (Kangaroo Paw), Antigonon (Coral Vine), Ardisia (Coral Ardisia), Astartea, Azalea (summer flowering hybrid species), Baeckea (Heath Myrtle), Banksia (Australian

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Sampler

Happy Gardening!

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Summary of the author



Dale Harvey is an International Environmental Consultant, Journalist, Television and Radio Presenter, Public Speaker, Photographer, Garden and Landscape Expert, Social scientist and Community Development Officer.

Dale Harvey is well known as a Presenter for the highly successful garden and environmental show Living Earth on TV3. For a decade he was also the Host and Presenter for the Art of Gardening and Joy of Gardening on Auckland's Radio I plus Environmental Watch on Radio Pacific. For the next five years he hosted and wrote The National Garden Show for Radio Pacific, The Power of Free Speech.

During this time Dale wrote spectacular weekly garden features for New Zealand

Women's Day Magazine (Australian Consolidated Press) that were among the most widely read in the country. Dale wrote the feature copy for publication also designed and grew the gardens and plants often from cuttings or seed that he then photographed; and also researched and documented them for his media work. Dale wrote three editions of the Yates New Zealand Garden Handbook that sold out.

His photography and consultancy was a major contribution to the books Fragrant Garden and Colour In Your Garden published by ACP international.

Mr. Harvey's diverse and fascinating botanical career inspired and guided the botanical progress of New Zealand. For his contribution to botanical knowledge, the people affectionately honored him with the title, 'Gardening Guru' of New Zealand. Soon afterward, the country became known as New Zealand, Godzone Garden Country. Today environmental and garden tourism to New Zealand has become one of the top sources of revenue and reasons to visit there. Gardening has become the top leisure pastime and botanical/horticultural commerce is a major monetary resource for the country.

Singaporeans know Dale as an infrequent resident who researched

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tropical plants while visiting his family in the city. Dale's innovative environmental/ tourism consultations enhanced Singapore's environment/ tourism project image as "Singapore Garden City", which turned Singapore into a true garden city.

He frequented Singapore because his father, a Vice President of General Electric Corp. was managing the electronic component plant based there that was instrumental in the success of NASA and our modern computer age.

This provided Dale with rare opportunities to become knowledgeable in a diverse range of exotic gardening practices and cultures plus gain a keen understanding of creative international business and corporate affairs.

The Japanese Government remembers Dale for his year of service to Premier Ohira's Cultural Agency through International House of Japan as a Botanical Consultant and Environmental Craftsman. There he influenced the Japanese Leadership and Public introducing and mixing Asian and Western garden concepts to create a new garden style. This became the basis for the 'green revolution' which is presently transforming Japanese garden culture today. Mr. Harvey was a frequent Botanical Consultant for the New Zealand Consulate in Tokyo. While working in a similar capacity with the Australian Embassy, he discovered an ancient buried garden on the Embassy grounds that later became a candidate as a National Treasure of Japan!

Dale was invited by Ambassador Menadue to become a permanent resident of Australia for his contributions to the Embassy in Tokyo. Ambassador Menadue imported Dale from their Embassy in Tokyo to assist in the early develop the Greening of Australia programme based in Melbourne.

Australians recognize Dale for his award winning retail garden centre, Toorak Jungles, in Melbourne, which was created as an education showpiece with design assistance from Mr. John Newton. The nursery helped inspire the earliest development of the Greening of Australia Programme. He was a strong advocate for gardening in schools as a most effective way to environmentally transform the nation. Today most schools in Australia are actively involved in greening their country and the world. Dale also introduced Australians to Asian botanical traditions through informative garden tours of Japan sponsored by Qantas and ANZ Bank.

During his fascinating career as an International Environmental Consultant, Dale has advised people of many nations, races, creeds, of all social classes from many walks of life. He has developed innovative community and school garden projects to uplift the health and quality of life for disadvantaged communities. He has been a consultant for government Consulates and Embassies.

He has created spectacular gardens for business and private estates. He once

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advised H.R.H. Charles, Prince of Wales in the development of his environmental projects and wildflower fields.

Dale is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, one of America's leading schools of horticulture, where he completed a double masters degree in Sociology (Community Development) and Education.

Shortly after this he developed his innovative "Flower Power" projects that inspired the development of the modern-day community garden movement that has today blossomed into over 100,000 community gardens in the U.S.A. and Canada.

For this effort he received a USA National Garden Bureau Award for horticultural excellence; the 4-H Community Service Award; an International Citizenship Award for Cultural Integrity from Washington, D.C. plus a U.S.A National Parks and Recreation Award.

Harvey also received a full fellowship from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission/National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. as an International Garden Artist, Environmental Craftsman and Botanical Consultant based in Tokyo, Japan.

More recently an Environmental Initiates Fund Awarded from the Auckland Regional Council/New Zealand Government for Botanical Community Projects as well as 30 awards in horticulture, arts and sciences. His

experience in horticulture alone spans 60 years and 16 countries.

Dale Harvey is American born, was resident in Australia for many years where he still maintains family and business interests, and also lived in Japan and Singapore and has lived for 29 years in Auckland, New Zealand.

Dale's New Zealand connection dates from 1864 when his early ancestors moved from the United Kingdom to Christchurch. Later generations helped settle Napier, Hastings, Thames and Otahuhu as they pushed steadily north.

His grandparents, Rev. H.B. Hughes and wife Ruby Lascelles retired from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Otahuhu to their South Auckland market garden district homestead and orchard in 1947. This is the home of today's famous Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens.

During World War II Dale's mother, Faith, met her Massachusetts-born husband-to-be Army Medical Corps Serviceman, Gilman Harvey in Auckland where they courted. After the war, the young couple immigrated to the USA where Dale was born. Dale, the first of four children, became a Kiwi-American hybrid like the hybrid flowers Dale loves to grow. The new family then returned to his Grandparents South Auckland orchard homestead.

Dale was deeply affected by his early "inspiring" garden experiences in New Zealand which were enriched and persistently cultivated well into his adult

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life by his Grandparents and Parents. These profoundly shaped the direction of his life. Later, his family returned to the USA for Dale's formal education. But these memories dramatically shaped his botanical and environmental perspective and future development as he kept in close contact with his New Zealand Family and they in turn sent him weekly clippings and letters about New Zealand's current affairs.

Dale returned to assume residence in his Grandparents South Auckland, New Zealand homestead in July, 1984 when the sudden death of his Aunt Beth left his Grandparent's property vacant.

With the help of his Australian Partner, International Designer, John Newton, the homestead was redeveloped into what would later be known as the "Quarter Acre Paradise' Gardens, a working urban homestead that often features on his television programs, book and magazine features plus on their colourful and informative Website www.daleharvey.com and Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens Face Book pages.

Today the Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens are a local landmark. They create a magical garden setting for charity events, seasonal garden shows, special functions plus wedding parties visited by a variety of local tour groups and international guests. The gardens have expanded to include the neighbor's gardens featuring large conservatories, interconnecting covered walkways and shelters leading to many different themed garden rooms. Garden displays

are meant to inspire 'backyard' Gardens how to create a lot by spending just a little and using their own skill and knowledge to inexpensively create a lot more. While other special shows feature up to 100,000 fragrant blooms glowing through 50,000 fairy lights. The gardens have frequently featured in the Heroic Gardens and Trinity Garden Festivals and are often used as backdrops for advertising and wedding photography.

These remarkable gardens have given Dale and John the opportunity to vastly expand their knowledge, understanding and careers in many directions inspiring beautiful botanical photography, very informative and practical garden books, magazine and website articles; practical celestial forecasting (planting by the Moon and constellations); a landscape/nursery business; Garden Consultations, a worldwide Internet Florist Shop; radio and television appearances; and two colourful and highly informative Websites plus Face Book pages.

In recent years, Mr. Harvey with assistance from Mr. Newton were also commissioned to create, design, implement and plan a massive botanical forest park and lakeside garden for a large events/function center and hunting lodge in Central Wisconsin. They even assisted and trained the existing lodge staff with limited botanical knowledge how to successfully plant and maintain their botanical gardens. Many thousands of ornamental specimens were planted successfully in just 5 weeks and ahead of deadline! Today the gardens are still

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being maintained by the same staff and have already become a tourist destination and major commercial asset for the lodge and the greater regional community

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Newton are presently collaborating on a new and improved educational website which includes upgrading the Quarter Acre Paradise gardens. The purpose of this website is to educate and inspire Gardeners and Nature Lovers about a wide range of botanical, environmental, gardening and nature-related topics.

This website features beautiful botanical images plus helpful and interesting garden-related articles. A monthly and weekly Garden Calendar Diary can be downloaded. It is possible to register as a regular subscriber and each month receive a helpful garden newsletter. Many products and services are available for purchase on line. Plus a beautiful Quarter Acre Paradise Face Book page gives viewers the opportunity to take a seasonal visual tour through the Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens and ask garden questions.

Dale Harvey continues to spread his environmental messages and practical, common sense solutions for the benefit of people everywhere. Dale's life goal has always revolved around doing whatever is necessary to inspire and lead interested and passionate people toward an age enhanced botanical appreciation and knowledge, environmental paradise and peaceful prosperity around the world.

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