

## Fuchsia News Winter 2019

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Dear All

I am sorry that this is a little later than I had hoped – where did January go?! I must admit I say the same every year!  
As usual a few points before we get to the main part of Fuchsia News:

- Please feel free to use anything that is within Fuchsia News for your own use – it is produced for that purpose!
- Like all editors, I am always on the lookout for articles – they do not have to be written specifically for us to use, but if you have had something in your group newsletter that you think is suitable then please forward it onto me. It is better to have too much rather than too little! My thanks to all those who send in their newsletters I always thoroughly enjoy reading them! The more the merrier so any other Societies that can pop me one in the post or by email – it would be great.
- Don't forget that now is a good time to renew! Renewing your affiliation - it makes my life easier if it is not done in a rush later in the year. I do try and get renewals processed with in the week now that Christmas is past!
- My thanks to all those who have already renewed I am about to start updating the website with your information that I have had so far – so please have a look at your details towards the end of February to see if all is okay!
- Shows – please let me know the dates/ venues of your shows so that I can publish the normal list later in the year. I will also update your entry on the Society website. Please don't presume that I already know – please tell me again this year!
- Don't forget we are on Facebook – it is a good point of contact for fuchsia enthusiasts! Also, when you look on Facebook there are a lot of other fuchsia sites - why not join a few!
- Thank you to all the Societies that have opted to take part in the insurance scheme –I have emailed your certificates etc. where possible. The others have been posted and should be with you. Any queries please come back to me!

### Arthur's Articles

#### The Tale of Much Travelled Fuchsias

During April 2018 my Sister in Law decided she was going to move from Washington State to Oklahoma. She decided that she could not move without taking her fuchsias, and not wishing to entrust them to the movers decided she would take them with her in her motorhome on the 2,800 mile drive, including crossing the Rocky Mountains. The fuchsias were all trailing cultivars which were growing in wooden pots with hangers.

In Oklahoma's the summer temperatures hovered around 90deg Fahrenheit, topping 100 degrees some days, and yet the fuchsias survived, although they did not bloom until September. Their survival I think was only due to a constant misting and a fair amount of natural shade. When we visited in late October, I pruned these good healthy fuchsias ready to survive the Oklahoma winter.

During December she decided that she was going to return to Washington State, packing these fuchsias into her motor home, brought them back across the Rocky Mountains in winter taking six days of driving to return on Christmas morning. All the fuchsias are still alive and in the same wooden pots in which they were grown before they left, thus shattering the myth that fuchsias require tender loving care to survive.

## **ENCLIANDRA FUCHSIAS**

At first glance, one could be easily mistaken in deciding that the Encliandras are not fuchsias, but you would be wrong. Close examination reveals that they are miniature fuchsias, having sepals and petals just like the ordinary fuchsias. They have very small flowers and usually small leaves. They abhor hot dry conditions, and are perfectly at home in the garden, and usually stand the winter, where they often prove to be quite hardy

They lend themselves quite successfully to hybridisation with quite a large variation in variegated foliage, like for instance *Salt & Pepper*, *Silver Lining*, *Gina Bowman* – all with silvery foliage and variegated *Lottie Hobby*, to name but a few.

Being small leaved and flowered and having a very wiry pliable stem, they lend themselves to be used in growing all different kinds of shapes from simple rings and columns through to rabbits, chickens etc. The support for these shapes to grow your Encliandras around can be obtained from most garden centres.

Encliandras like all fuchsias are voracious feeders, but Encliandras when grown in pots are prone to dropping their leave and this is due to a shortage of nitrogen and need a very high nitrogen content in the feeding to prevent this.

Green tip cuttings are taken in the usual way and root quite easily. I have found to be easier to root if long cuttings are taken rather than the usually recommended tip cuttings. Always ensure the parent plant is well watered before taking the cuttings.

As well as the afore mentioned shapes, Encliandras are favoured by fuchsia bonsai growers as they are ideal with their small leaf and flower to maintain the proportions required in the growing of excellent bonsai.

They are also very free flowering, it is not unusual to find Encliandras grown in the greenhouse, in the right conditions, flowering all year round. Although all of the flowers are small compared with normal hybrid fuchsias, they have a very wide range of size to their flowers ranging from tiny to small!! *Neapolitan*, carries different coloured flowers on the same plant, giving rise to its name. The colour of its flowers range from white to red, with many shades of pink. Some of them have flowers of white, which fade to pink, and end up as a reddish pink. It is not unusual to see a plant bearing flowers of all these colours on the same branch at the same time. After flowering most will produce small black shiny fruit

At the end of the season, plants which have been grown in pots should have their branches cut back almost to soil level, and the compost kept on the dry side, but must not be allowed to dry out completely. If plants are growing permanently in the garden, cutting back should take place in early spring, when the first new shoots are becoming visible. The branches of plants grown in the garden are likely to die back in the winter, pushing up fresh shoots in spring. All the dead wood should be removed in early spring. Most specialist Fuchsia Nurseries carry a range of these fuchsias and the hybridisers are continually introducing new ones for the grower.

*I would like to add that several including Neapolitan are famous for having a perfume – admittedly not everyone can smell it but early in the day or evening it is definitely there!*

### **Botrytis**

Botrytis is a nasty grey mould which if left unchecked can eventually destroy your plant. The disease is caused by debris, usually fallen leaves left where they fall and rotting, the rotting leaf starting the process of botrytis.

There are two ways of preventing this occurring, firstly by religiously inspecting your fuchsias and removing any fallen material, and I have found that fallen buds or flower heads to be a major cause of the disease. Secondly the other preventative measure is to ensure that your fuchsias have adequate ventilation, even in the winter except on days when we have frost all day, I will open all my vents even only for a few hours.

If you are unfortunate to get a mild attack of botrytis this can be treated with any good systemic fungicide. But as they say prevention is better than cure.

### **John Nicholass - New UK Fuchsia Introductions for 2019**

I would like to thank all the nurseries and hybridisers who furnished me with all the information and pictures of these. More information on the nurseries can be found at the end of the article.

#### **Arctic Challenger**

A new white fuchsia hybridised by Mal Wilkinson with small to medium sized single flowers of pure white with pink stamens when grown shaded. It will pinken up in a lot of sun. It has upright growth self-branching growth and mid to dark green foliage.

Available from POT.

#### **Boogie Nights**

A new single flowered fuchsia introduction from Peter Waving. Upright self-branching growth with mid to dark green foliage. The small to medium single flowers have a white tube and sepals blushed with pink and a deep mauve corolla which fades to magenta.

Parentage: Sophie Louise x (Our Hilary x Orla).

Available from LON.

#### **Ellie's Smile**

Another from Peter Waving first shown at the Bristol Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Fuchsia Show in 2018. A small flowered cultivar with plentiful single flowers of white and mauve.

Parentage: Alphonso x Orla.

Available from LON.

#### **Gail Barber**

A new introduction of show standard from Gordon Reynolds named after a member of the Sutton Coldfield society. This was one of the two new seedlings supplied to Arthur Phillips to carry his name when he finished his term as the BFS President. However, we all knew Arthur would pick the double white one which carries the name President Arthur Phillips! Gail Barber has upward growth, self-branching with plentiful single flowers with white flushed cerise tube, white sepals flushed cerise near the tube and a cerise corolla. This looks as if it will make a good show variety.

Available from RYN.

#### **Hayley Jackson**

This Fuchsia was bred by Noel Jackson and named after their daughter in law. It is a single flowered upright variety of exhibition standard. The flowers have a white tube, white sepals with green tips and the corolla deep rose fading to pale rose and white at the base of the petals.

Available from JCK.

#### **Joan's Smile**

An upright bushy cultivar bred by Peter Waving. It has single flowers with a deep pink to red tube and sepals and a white corolla with scalloped edges to the petals.

Parentage: Sophie Louise x Toby S.

Available from LON.

#### **Just Terry**

A new release from the East Anglian hybridiser Bill Wye and named in honour of Terry Cook. It has medium sized semi-double flowers with a white tube and sepals and a pale lilac corolla.

Available from LTB.

#### **Kate's Smile**

Another new one from Peter Waving, this has small to medium single flowers with a white blushed pink tube, white blushed pink sepals and a mallow corolla.

Parentage: Sophie Louise x Mygal.

Available from LON.

#### **Lyndon Clements**

A new introduction from the late Arnold Nicholls, named after the Nottingham BFS member and fuchsia enthusiast, this fuchsia has strong upright growth and freely produced medium sized single flowers. The tube is white, the sepals white flushed pink and the corolla is rose-purple and fades to jasper-red.

Available from JCK.

#### **Mrs Audrey Berkley**

Another new introduction from Sid Garcia, this has bright green foliage and semi-double flowers with tube and sepals of shiny aubergine-red and a corolla of aubergine-purple.

Available from LTB.

#### **My Charlotte**

Upright growing fuchsia with single flowers and mid green foliage. The single flowers have white tube, white sepals slightly with pink edges and a pale pink corolla. Hybridised by Sid Garcia.

Available from LTB.

#### **Myriad**

Single flowers with a pale pink tube and reflexing pale pink sepals. Corolla is light purple. A sister seedling of Jan Everett.

Available from LTB

#### **Our Michelle**

New upright fuchsia from Sid Garcia with single flowers with a white blushed pink tube, white blushed pink sepals and a pale violet corolla.

Available from LTB.

### **Rebecca Ward**

A new introduction from Mal Wilkinson. This is an exhibition quality fuchsia with profuse upward facing single flowers with red tube and sepals and a white corolla displayed perfectly against the mid to dark green foliage.

Available from LTB.

### **Sir Bobby Robson**

A new introduction from the Cumbrian hybridiser Barrie Flemming. This is a very floriferous single cultivar with a small to medium sized single flower with a pinkish white tube, pinkish-white sepals with green tips and a mauve corolla with a darker picotee edge to the petals. Introduced by Fantasy Fuchsias near Newcastle, every plant sold will result in a 50p donation to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

Available from FF.

### **Ten Cents**

A new release from Peter Waving, this fuchsia has upright self-branching growth with light to mid green quite narrow leaves. The single flowers are of a classic shape with a deep rose tube and sepals and a violet-blue corolla.

Available from LTB.

### **Nursery Key**

FF Fantasy Fuchsias: Tel: 07949116646 website [www.fantasyfuchsias.co.uk](http://www.fantasyfuchsias.co.uk)

Mail Order Only. PO BOX 1LA, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE99 1LA.

JCK Jacksons Nurseries: Tel 01827 373307, Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Jacksons-Nurseries-792562174200302/](https://www.facebook.com/Jacksons-Nurseries-792562174200302/):  
72 Main Street, Clifton Campville, Tamworth.

LON Lonsdale Fuchsias: Tel: 01278 452046. West End Court, Chedzoy Lane, Bridgwater TA7 8QS No Mail Order. Closed Wednesdays.

LTB Little Brook Fuchsias; Tel 01252 329731;  
website <http://www.littlebrookfuchsias.co.uk/>: No Mail Order.

POT Potash Nursery; Tel 01449 781671;  
website <http://www.potashnursery.co.uk/>: Mail Order.

RYN Roualeyn Fuchsias; Tel 01492 640548;  
website <http://www.roualeynfuchsias.co.uk/index.php>: Mail Order.

### **A new Society!**

I have been asked to contact the BFS on behalf of the **Ayrshire Pelargonium & Fuchsia Society (APFS)** to inform you of our plans to raise the profile of fuchsias on the local show scene. We have recently become affiliated to the BFS as we are keen to promote awareness of fuchsias.

Our group was formed a few years ago after a merger of the West of Scotland Pelargonium Society and the Ayrshire Fuchsia & Geranium Society. We have our own small show held annually, but historically we (and our parent societies) have also had a close association with Ayr Flower Show. This was a prestigious event held annually until 2017. Fuchsias were well represented in the schedule with several competitive classes in open competition. The South West Scotland Championship Trophy was awarded to the grower gaining most points over the fuchsia section of the show. In 2017 the show was axed due to cuts in funding and the organising committee was disbanded. However, due to public demand a new organisation was created and the new Ayr & District Flower Show was launched in 2017. In the inaugural year this was a very scaled down version of the old Ayr Flower Show. The show schedule remained largely the same as in previous years. One of the significant changes was that none of the traditional trophies were awarded. This meant that the South West Scotland Fuchsia Championship was no longer contested. The new show is still something of a work in progress, and there has been an ongoing consultation process between the A&DFS committee and local societies over the past few months. We (the APFS) were invited to review the schedule and we have submitted some changes for 2019. We are planning to introduce a new "Ayrshire Challenge" championship with a trophy awarded for most points in selected fuchsia classes. We hope that this will raise the profile of fuchsias at the show by encouraging growers to exhibit their plants and therefore providing an interesting display on the show bench for visitors to admire. All of the classes in the fuchsia section will be judged under BFS rules. Our society (APFS) will have a display table and members will be present over the 2 days of the show to offer advice to growers and the general public in attendance. We are also able to provide show stewards to assist during staging and judging. We hope that these plans will meet with your approval.

At the time of writing I cannot confirm show dates, and the schedule is still in draft format – but please contact me if you require any further advice.

Julie McCamilly – Secretary of Ayrshire Pelargonium & Fuchsia Society

[drjmc43@outlook.com](mailto:drjmc43@outlook.com)

Show Business – a useful chart

Sunday	Wks To Go	Activity	Pinch
2 Jan	31	Prepare or buy fresh plants.	
9 Jan	30		
16 Jan	29	Mist dormant plants and clean pots and equipment ready for new season.	
23 Jan	28		
30 Jan	27		
6 Feb	26	If buds are visible, start pruning.	
13 Feb	25	Over-wintered plants can be potted back.	Species
20 Feb	24	Pinch out doubles and semi-doubles.	Doubles
27 Feb	23	Start nitrogen feed to all (¼ strength all feeds).	
6 Mar	22	Pinch out singles.	Singles
13 Mar	21		Triphyllas
20 Mar	20		
27 Mar	19		
3 Apr	18	Pinch out species (final pinch).	Species (final pinch)
10 Apr	17	Pinch out 1st or 2nd pair of leaves on doubles and semi-doubles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Doubles
17 Apr	16		
24 Apr	15	Pinch out every growing point on singles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Singles
1 May	14	Pinch out every growing point on triphyllas (final pinch).	Triphyllas (final pinch)
8 May	13		
15 May	12		
22 May	11	Pinch out every growing point on doubles and semi-doubles (final pinch).	Doubles (final pinch)
29 May	10		
5 Jun	9	Pinch out every growing point on singles (final pinch).	Singles (final pinch)
12 Jun	8		
19 Jun	7	Start double and semi-doubles on high potash feed.	
26 Jun	6	Start singles on high potash feed.	
3 Jul	5		
10 Jul	4		
17 Jul	3		
24 Jul	2		
31 Jul	1		
7 Aug	0	<b>SHOW DAY</b>	

The above timetable is only intended as a general guide. Specific timings will depend on specific cultivars, some of which may flower earlier and some later and also very dependent on which part of the country that you are in.

## Top Ten 2018

### 2017

1. Lynne Patricia
2. Lyndon
3. Anne Reid
4. Shatzey B
5. Toby S
6. Alison Patricia
7. Angela King
8. Lillian Annetts
9. London 2000
10. Boogie Woogie

### 2018

- Anne Reid  
Lynne Patricia  
Shatzey B  
Walz Jubelteen  
Lyndon  
Angela King  
Toby S  
I'm in Charge  
June Marie Shaw  
Lillian Annetts

The exceptional weather in the summer – seems to have caused all sorts of changes to the top ten! The weather suited some plants better than others. Anne Reid was a run-away winner more than 30 points ahead of Lynne Patricia. Walz Jubelteen came back into the top ten after a long break – I think that it was a fuchsia that thrived in the heat! It was very close between the last few fuchsias and those that were just outside the top ten – Alison Patricia, Margaret Viscountess Thurso and Boogie Woogie. As usual over 200 cultivars were used by exhibitors in the results that I was sent for the 13, 15cm and any size pot classes. It is interesting that some of the old favourites such as Pink and Rose Fantasia, Shelford and Wigan Peer rarely win prizes these days – perhaps with a different summer in 2019 things might change again! The 9 and 10 cm pot classes as ever produced a fine mix of small flowered fuchsias. The top five were – Shatzey B, Margaret Viscountess Thurso, Anne Reid, Border Raider and Sweet Hollie. Just outside the top five were June Marie Shaw, Bryn Y Baal and Lyndon. Just under 130 different fuchsias were shown in these classes

In the baskets and hanging pots, there were again changes with Putt's Folly coming first ahead of Sylvia Barker, Daisy Bell, Cascade and then Janice Ann. A real old favourite Marinka came next followed by Time after Time and then Waveney Gem. It is so nice to see Marinka being grown and shown – it can look quite spectacular with the dark red flowers – it is not always easy but well worth the effort. Only just over 70 different fuchsias were included this year – again I imagine it was the weather that reduced the numbers this time especially as a number of the Societies had few entries in the basket classes this year – the heat having got to them - hanging pots have become so much more popular

As usual my thanks to all the Show managers and their volunteers that compile the results on show day – it is always a busy day, so I appreciate the time that it takes. I couldn't keep this project going for so many years without you! Who knows what 2019 will bring for the shows – we will just have to wait and see!

### Starting a New Year – Len Clark ( from Fuchsia News in 2006!)

Now that we have entered a new year, fuchsia growers will be thinking about what to grow this year and where to get it from. If you have sent to the nurseries for their new catalogue and seen all the new cultivars that are on offer and decided that you would like to try the ones that you saw winning the prizes last year, please remember that these plants may have been grown by the exhibitor for several years before they were able to produce a winning plant. Some of the new cultivars that have been released may be very difficult to grow into a show plant and can be very disappointing so choose carefully and be very patient. We will soon be seeing fuchsia cutting for sale in the large DIY stores and large garden centres at very reasonable prices and they may be cheaper than those at the specialist fuchsia nursery, but please remember that these plants have been grown in a very warm greenhouse possibly at 65° F/19°C or higher and unless you can keep them in similar type of conditions they may prove difficult to grow. It may be wiser to wait a little bit longer and buy a plant that has been grown a little bit slower and at a lower temperature.

If you are like me and grow most of your own cuttings now is the time to look at your plants that have been kept over winter and they should be showing signs of growth. It is advisable to give them a spray over with tepid water once or twice as this helps to soften the hard wood and encourages new growth. A spray over with an insecticide will also help to kill off any pests that have over wintered on your plants before they wake up and start to breed.

This year some of my plants have been grown in a cold greenhouse under a single layer of fleece and the temperature has dropped as low as 28°F/-3°C inside the greenhouse. The plants in this greenhouse are not recognised hardies and include six different Triphyllas and five different species; so far I have only lost two plants - both normal cultivars. All the plants are starting to grow, and the heating has now been switched on the temperature set at 40°F/ 5°C some plants have growth large enough to take cuttings.

Plants that have been kept in another greenhouse at minimum temperature of 37°F/3°C are growing quite well and the temperature has been increased and they are now producing cutting material. Cuttings that were taken at the beginning of December have all rooted and have grown large enough to have the tips taken out for cuttings. When I take a cutting the shoot has two pairs of leaves and the bottom pair are removed it is then inserted into a mixture of peat and ten per cent fine vermiculite. The cuttings are watered in and placed in the propagator which is a bed of sand covering a warming cable with the thermostat set at 18°C this gives me compost temperature of approx 10°C and cuttings root in about 2 weeks. I do not use hormone rooting powder and at this time of the year find that 98 to 100 per cent of my cuttings grow. When the cuttings have rooted, I give them a weak feed with a balanced liquid feed as there are no nutrients in my rooting mixture. When the cuttings have produced a good root system they are potted into a 7cm square pot using universal compost and watered then placed on the bench with a greenhouse temperature of 45/50° F. but please remember that these young plants are in large pots and watering has to be done very carefully and just because the compost is dry on the top it does not mean that the plant needs more water and if in doubt leave and look the next day. There are more plants killed by over watering than by drying out. These methods work for me but may not work for everyone.

If you only want one or two cuttings these can be taken in a small pot and covered with a clear plastic bottle with the bottom removed and placed on a window sill remembering to bring them inside the curtains at night to keep them warm. Some of you may have a small electric propagator that holds one or two seed trays, these are very handy for taking cuttings in at this time of the year but be very careful as the days get longer and warmer. If you use it in a small greenhouse even with propagator thermostat set at a reasonable level the temperature can raise very high when the sun comes out drying out and roasting your cuttings.

One very important thing to remember is that if you have a method that works for you do not change it just because someone uses a different method. But if you think that anything in these articles will help you please try them and if they help that's ok otherwise carry on the way that works for you.

#### **A Bit of History – by Jim Muil – Past president of the BFS**

International collaboration has always been an important aspect of the contact between fuchsia lovers of different countries. Most of us enjoy seeing how the other lives and how they grow their fuchsias. Sometimes the results of this cooperation are long lasting and remain constant over a period of years. Some ten years after the formation of the American Fuchsia Society, the British Fuchsia Society came into being and one of the founder members was a certain Mr Bert Brown, a specialist fuchsia nursery man from Chingford in Essex.

There were very few specialist fuchsia nurseries in the country at that time. The public's flirtation with the fuchsia as a popular flower had withered considerably during the previous forty years. However, Mr Brown's connection with the American Fuchsia Society went back to 1930 when, as a young nursery man, he had been approached by Professor Sydney B Mitchell, one of the Directors of the newly formed American Fuchsia Society. Professor Mitchell, accompanied by his wife, visited Europe but before he left the States, he obtained what he called a "blank permit to import fuchsias" back into the United States.

His stay coincided with a fuchsia trial being conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society at its gardens at Wisley. Professor Mitchell spent a whole day there in June 1930. The plants in the trial had come from a number of different nurserymen and when Professor Mitchell made his final choice of plants to take back to the US, he discovered that no one nursery carried all the plants in the trial. However, at a subsequent visit to the Chelsea Flower Show he was introduced to a man he described as a small grower, Mr H A Brown and it seems there was something of an instant rapport between them.

A subsequent visit to Mr Brown's nursery at Chingford saw Professor Mitchell's order of fifty plants ready and waiting for onward shipping to the United States. In addition, Mr Brown suggested that another plant worth having was Victor Lemoine's "Rolla" – a semi double pale pink and white variety that the Frenchman had introduced in 1913. Professor Mitchell accepted the advice and "Rolla" became one of the imported plants that were not thought to be available in the United States at that time. The United States seems to have had the basis of some good collections of fuchsias long before this date, of course. As a result of another collaborative effort, in this case between Sali Dahl and myself, I have been fortunate enough to acquire copies of some 19<sup>th</sup> century nursery catalogues that go back to the 1850s and many of them carry the same varieties that appear in the English press at the same time. These collections seem to have contained a high proportion of plants that were introduced in the latter thirty years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. "Mrs Marshall" and "Mrs Rundle", two favourites of yesteryear were among his choices, although I notice that among Sali's catalogues the New York nursery man Peter Henderson & Co. included a "Mrs Marshall" in his 1879 catalogue.

However, the significance of this visit is that the American breeders, particularly those in California had new stock to exploit in their constant search for something new and different. "Rolla" became the parent of "Cascade," "Sunset" "Blue Moon" and "Brentwood" all varieties that flourished in the US although part from the first named, they were less popular on this

side of the Atlantic. There has been a good liaison between BFS and AFS members ever since those early days and this has inevitably rubbed off over the border into Canada as well.

And what about the young nurseryman Mr H A Brown? As well as being a founder member of the BFS, his nursery flourished for many years as the Society worked hard to rediscover many of the favourites of the previous 75 years or so. But Bert was also to answer a different calling after the Second World War. He studied for the Church and eventually qualified to become a missionary. His calling took him abroad and he spent much of his life with the people of Papua New Guinea.

His family looked after the nursery- particularly by a younger sister whose wealth of fuchsia knowledge probably ultimately matched his own. Her married name was Margaret Slater and she served for many years on the BFS Committee as well as being a popular speaker and judge throughout the country. Her achievements for the BFS were ultimately recognized when she became President of the Society in 1970.

The Reverend Bert Brown, as he became, returned to England on a number of occasions. He kept in touch with former fuchsia fiends and the Society and was made President in 1976. I had the pleasure of meeting him when he attended one of the AGMs when I was getting interested in fuchsias some thirty years ago. Writing in the Fuchsia Annual in 1988, Bert Brown confirmed the details of his meeting with Professor Mitchell and added, "There was a peculiar satisfaction in sending to America the descendants of plants that had originally come from that side of the Atlantic." A satisfaction, no doubt, experienced by many a fuchsia grower since Professor Mitchell's visit to England.

### **Some other Facts of Life...possibly!!**

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.

The average human eats 8 spiders in their lifetime at night.

A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.

Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

Shakespeare invented the words "assassination" and "bump."

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

"Go!" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

That is it for now!

Best Wishes

Carol, Arthur, John and Ric