



Dalyah

Patron: His Majesty the King of Bahrain,
King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa

Established 1964

October - December 2023

Issue #41



Board Members :

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Eng. Zahra Abdul Malik | - Chairperson |
| • Ms. Tahera Jaberi | - Vice Chairperson |
| • Eng. Irina Averinos | - Treasurer |
| • Dr. Nilofer Jahromi | - Executive Secretary |
| • Eng. Thuraya Al-Mansoori | - Program Coordinator |
| • Ms. Kareema Saleh | - Website Coordinator |
| • Ms. Najah Al-Khuder | - Media Coordinator |
| • Ms. Asya Rashdan | - Training and Workshop Coordinator |
| • Dr. Nada Fuleyfil | - Club Garden Coordinator |

Editorial Team :

- Tahera Jaberi
- Eng. Irina Averinos

Dear members, please send your articles about your own gardening experience to the garden club editorial team.

Bahrain Garden Club
P.O. Box 26256
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: 17727625 Mob: 39774194
bahrain.garden.club@gmail.com

Images for newsletter were contributed by garden club members.



Cover image © Zahra Abdul Malik

Bahrain Garden Club Chairperson Word

Bahrain Garden Club Celebrates Milestones and Exciting New Initiatives in 2023



The Bahrain Garden Club has experienced a series of significant events since the beginning of 2023, highlighting the club's ongoing commitment to fostering community engagement, environmental awareness, and personal wellness.

One notable accomplishment is the success of the Bahrain Garden Club's Kids/Youth Initiative, which has received considerable positive feedback from private schools throughout the kingdom. This response followed a series of workshops conducted during the summer of 2022, reflecting the club's dedication to bringing people together to improve the environment and increase physical activity.

These diverse school programs aim to expand students' knowledge of various aspects of gardening while promoting social interaction. The club takes great pride in this mission and its impact on the community.

Another milestone is the highly anticipated return of the Bahrain International Garden Show, which was previously canceled for three consecutive years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event took place at the stunning new Bahrain World Exhibition Center, providing an enjoyable experience for both club management and competitors alike.

The club's Annual Luncheon, a highlight of the yearly calendar, offers members and supporters an opportunity to gather in a relaxed setting. This event features a light program showcasing the latest trends in gardening and provides an overview of the club's activities.

As an affiliate of the Royal Horticultural Society in the United Kingdom, the Bahrain Garden Club proudly announces that four board members, selected based on their years of service, represented the club at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show 2023. This opportunity is generously sponsored by His Majesty the King's Court to recognize the club's tireless volunteering efforts to maintain the kingdom's natural beauty.

The club extends its most profound gratitude for this gracious gesture and looks forward to continuing its work in making the Kingdom of Bahrain forever green.

New members are always welcome.

To become a member of the Bahrain Garden Club,
please contact 17727625 or 39774194

Sponsored by



مَطْبَعَةُ الْمَنَامَةِ
Manama Printing Press
شركة ذ.م.م. CO. W.L.L.

Growing Chrysanthemums In Bahrain

by Eng. Zahra Abdul Malik



For perennial cut flowers to grow in Bahrain, they must tolerate high temperatures of 40 degrees centigrade and groundwater salinity of more than 6000 PPM in summer. Therefore, chrysanthemums are one of the few kinds suitable

to grow in Bahrain.

Research and experiments were carried out at the Ministry of Agriculture on varieties of chrysanthemums from Taiwan and Holland in 1994, and I was part of the technical team carrying out these experiments.

The results of the experimental work on the environmental acclimation of the chrysanthemums show that they are suitable for growing in Bahrain, as they tolerate high temperatures and high salinity of irrigation water in the summer. Most of the varieties growing in Bahrain are originally from Holland and are of the Spray kind.

The Chrysanthemum is the most important cut flower in Eastern Asia and one of the three cut flowers in America and Europe. Its popularity is primarily because the flowering time can be regulated by modifying the natural day length to give marketable flowers throughout the year. The chrysanthemums are short-day plants, meaning plants will grow vegetatively under long days (short nights) and flower under short days (long nights). The critical night length or critical photoperiod is defined as the photoperiod long enough to allow flower initiation to occur. The critical day length has been established at approximately 12 hours for chrysanthemums.

Under natural day length conditions, the critical day length for flower initiation is reached on September 15, after which the day length must continue to shorten under natural conditions for flower development. Incandescent lamps are used for continuous vegetative growth and to combat the shortening of the flower stem, a treatment favored commercially to control flower quality production.

Additionally, temperatures affect flower bud division. When the temperature is more than 40C, flower bud division is inhibited. On the other hand, low temperatures may slow or delay flower development, especially in the early stages.

Chrysanthemums are vegetatively propagated using selected stock of specific quality to produce flowering plants true to cultivar, using terminal cuttings from branches of stock plants, mainly from August to October. It is crucial that stock plants are kept in a vegetative state, and the shoots are taken from the maximum potential for further vegetative growth in long day length to avoid premature budding.

Ideally, the cuttings should be 5-9 cm long with 3-4 spread leaves, and the leaves should be kept attached to reduce disease infection. The rooting medium can be any clean and well-drained combination of sand, perlite, bark, or any similar available materials. Any moisture stress to cuttings should be avoided, and misting frequency should be solely to keep the cuttings uniformly moist. Transplanting must be done as soon as the roots are established to minimize shock due to root disturbance. The spacing between plants should be about 15x15 cm. Some shading is needed to reduce the heat stress and must be removed after mid-October for optimum growth. Fertilization of chrysanthemums is crucial during production with a fertilizer containing high levels of nitrogen and potassium.



Climate Change

by Tahera Jaber



As members of the Bahrain Garden Club, we are committed to protecting and conserving planet Earth's natural resources. In recent years, we have noticed the impact of climate change on people's lives, which inspired me to write about it.

Climate change is defined as significant and prolonged changes in weather patterns. While it can occur naturally, human activities, mainly burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas, have been the primary cause since the 1800s. As a result, climate change affects our lives, including our health, food production, homes, safety, and employment.

Scientists affirm that human activities have been responsible for most global warming in the past 200 years. The emission of gases from burning fossil fuels has made the world warmer than in the past 2000 years. Climate change leads to phenomena such as droughts, fires, floods, and storms, threatening plants, animals, and people.

To combat climate change, we must change our lifestyles and production methods. Therefore, it is crucial to reduce our reliance on activities that produce greenhouse gases and work together with

governments, communities, and all sectors of society to bring about positive change.

The First World Climate Conference occurred in Geneva from February 12th to 23rd, 1979. It was the first major international meeting on climate change, attended by scientists from around the world. This marked the beginning of the history of climate change conferences, also known as COPs.

The UN Climate Change Conference in 2023 will allow countries to collaborate in the fight against climate change. As a result, everyone, including young people, can contribute to creating a better world by reducing their use of gas and plastic.

In 2022, Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister attended the UN Climate Change Conference and expressed Bahrain's commitment to working with other countries to improve the situation. Their plans include investing in new methods of production that minimize gas emissions and increasing afforestation efforts to enhance air quality.

In conclusion, climate change is a significant problem primarily caused by human activities. It can worsen the state of our health, nature, and finances. The UN Climate Change Conference offers an opportunity to address these challenges. We should strive to reduce our gas consumption, collaborate effectively, and create a safe world from the adverse effects of climate change for both present and future generations.

BGC Workshops 2023



Jumbo, Jumbolan, *Syzygium cumini*

by **Dr. Nilofer Jahromi**



It is a tree that grows in tropical and subtropical climates. It is an invasive, drought-resistant and tolerant to various soils but gives a bountiful harvest in deep, well-drained lands.

An evergreen plant which can reach heights of up to 20 metres, this tree has flexible and durable leaves with clear veins around their tips.

New leaves and flowers usually grow after the dry weather period in the form of clusters that are combined and can be green, white, red or pale yellow. The fruits are eaten fully ripened.

Classified among the flowering plant family, it is grown for its ornamental value and for its fragrant flowers or as a fruitful tree, and the fruits are eaten fresh or used in manufacturing jelly, jam and vinegar... etc.

Apart from being rich in fat, proteins, carbohydrates, mineral elements and iron, these trees contain a high percentage of vitamin A and C and have many medicinal properties, as its seeds, leaves and bark are used in various alternative treatment systems and Chinese medicine.

Growth Needs:

- **Pruning:** To shape or remove dry, broken and infected branches as needed.
- **Irrigation:** The trees are watered immediately after planting and irrigation must be continued until the seedling is well fixed in the soil, then irrigation is followed up after that as needed.
- **Fertilization:** For newly-cultivated trees, the site is prepared before planting and then the trees are followed up with appropriate fertilization during the months of December and January.
- **Planting Distances:** from 4 to 6 meters.
Reproduction methods the tree propagates by seed, grafting or lignified.



57th 2023 Annual Award Ceremony



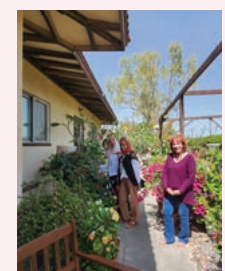
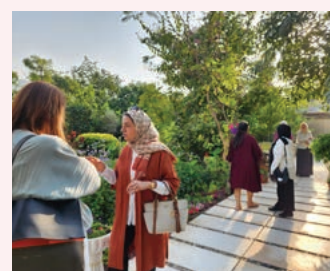
BGC Annual Luncheon 2023



BGC Annual 2023 Students Award Ceremony



Visiting Winning Gardens



The Olive Tree: A Symbol of Peace, Wisdom, and Harmony

by Eng. Dana Al Shihabi



The Olive tree, *Olea europaea*, hails from the Mediterranean region and is commonly known as Zayton. This large, vigorous, yet slow-growing evergreen features a robust trunk and a broad canopy. Its narrow, leathery leaves are gray-green on the top and silvery-gray from below, while its tiny, fragrant flowers are yellow-white. An Olive tree can grow up to 10 meters high and 10 meters wide.

I have fallen in love with the Olive tree, which has become popular among my friends, who are relatively new to various horticultural aspects of gardening. Here are some reasons why the Olive tree is so special:

1. The Olive tree is referred to as "the blessed tree" in the Quran, where it is mentioned seven times.
2. It offers numerous environmental benefits, such as combating global warming by fixing carbon in the soil.
3. The Olive tree promotes sustainable cultivation.
4. Both the fruit and its oil are highly nutritious.
5. Olive trees are economically significant in oil-producing Mediterranean countries like Spain, Italy, and Greece.
6. They are low-maintenance, drought-resistant, cold-hardy, and can tolerate heat.
7. Olive trees are excellent for small spaces and can be grown in containers. With proper pruning, they can be kept indoors, offering a decorative touch even if they don't bear fruit.
8. The Olive tree symbolizes peace, friendship, and tradition, making it a thoughtful choice for wedding decorations and housewarming gifts. In fact, my first Olive tree was a gift.

Olive trees can be propagated with seeds, semi-ripe cuttings, or grafting. They require at least six hours of sunlight daily, need little water, and can tolerate wind. However, they are only moderately tolerant to salinity.

Here are four additional fascinating facts about Olive trees:

1. The average Olive tree has a lifespan of 300-600 years.
2. Greeks consume an impressive 5.5 gallons of olive oil per person each year.
3. Olive trees provide a renewable energy source, as they produce 2.5 times the heat generated by burning wood.
4. The wood of an Olive tree is resistant to decay.

Literature also reveals the following remarkable aspects of Olive trees:

1. The oldest certified Olive tree is over 2,000 years old. It is located in Greece and still bears fruit.
2. In Greece, Olive trees are protected by law, meaning they cannot be removed from one's land without permission.
3. The Olive tree is often called the "tree of life" due to the numerous health benefits of its oil.
4. The use of an Olive branch as a symbol of peace dates back to ancient Greek mythology.

The Olive tree's extraordinary resilience, allowing it to thrive in harsh environments, inspires our love for this remarkable plant. While gracing our gardens with its presence, the Olive tree also radiates peace, longevity, and friendship.



Teach Them Young, Teach Them to Protect the Environment

by Farzana Shaker



In today's fast-paced and technology-centric world, promoting environmental education among school students is more imperative than ever. This is the Youth Gardening Initiative's ultimate goal, launched in August 2022 under the Bahrain Garden Club. I am delighted to have been assigned as coordinator of this initiative, and I am grateful to the Bahrain Garden Club for allowing me to support the club, teach the younger generation, and play a role in protecting our environment.

When we encourage our children to form sustainable habits, they are likelier to stick to them as they grow older, and eventually, it becomes second nature. Not only does the Youth Gardening Initiative aim to preserve our nature and reduce pollution, but it will also create future eco-friendly consumers. Additionally, this inspires children to become more engaged in their communities, encourages them to take action to protect the environment, and provides them with creative and sustainable thinking skills.

My great hope is that the Youth Gardening Initiative will raise awareness among school students about the importance of planting trees, increasing the greenery surrounding us, and protecting our planet. The circle of life will only be sustainable if we teach the next generation how to keep it going.

Another inadvertent effect of the Youth Gardening Initiative will be leading children back into the great outdoors. Smart technology has taken over our lives, and our children increasingly depend on gadgets. And unfortunately, this generation is raised indoors, with little understanding of their environmental

responsibilities. Therefore, we are striving to reunite our children with mother nature by showing them that there is beauty in our environment and that they can have fun planting trees.

By instilling these values among our young children through the activities I plan at the Youth Gardening Initiative, we will cultivate love for the environment and curiosity to find innovative ways to protect it for future generations.

In the last few months, the Youth Gardening Initiative has been very active in terms of school visits and awareness programs. For example, in November 2022, I visited the St Christopher's School, where I taught the school's ECO Club members how to plant seeds. I was highly impressed with these young students who were eager to learn and step in to protect their planet.

On March 13, I visited the Quest School, where I delivered a plant transfer and repotting workshop. It was an engaging interaction with young students keen on connecting with the environment. A few days later, on March 15, I visited the British School of Bahrain, where the students learned how to plant Rocket seeds. The students were so excited to learn about environmental sustainability that I went back on March 30 to teach them about reducing pollution and how to plant other types of seeds. The Youth Gardening Initiative also raised awareness at the Bahrain School, where I conducted a repotting workshop for the students on April 19.

Seeing the young generation interact and reconnect with the environment gives me hope for the future. A Chinese proverb close to my heart says: "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." I have tried to live by this value and hope that I can transfer this to the next generation through the Youth Gardening Initiative.



CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2023

by Eng. Zahra Abdul Malik

In 1964, the Bahrain Garden Club was established, affiliated with the prestigious Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) of the United Kingdom. For the first time in the club history, four ladies from the club board attended the renowned Chelsea Flower Show 2023, thanks to the gracious support of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain and the Patron of the Bahrain Garden Club.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show, held for over a century in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, is a place where cutting-edge garden design, new plants, and innovative ideas come to life. The event attracts top garden designers and nurseries from across the globe, creating a vibrant and diverse atmosphere.

Organized by the Royal Horticulture Society, the Chelsea Flower Show has a rich history of embracing international participation and diversity within horticulture. The main pavilion is a massive 11,775 square meters, providing ample space for creativity to flourish, impressively, three firms from the first show in 1913 still exhibited in 2023.

The team gained valuable insights and ideas for future events from their attendance at the Chelsea Flower Show



BGC 2023 Open Day



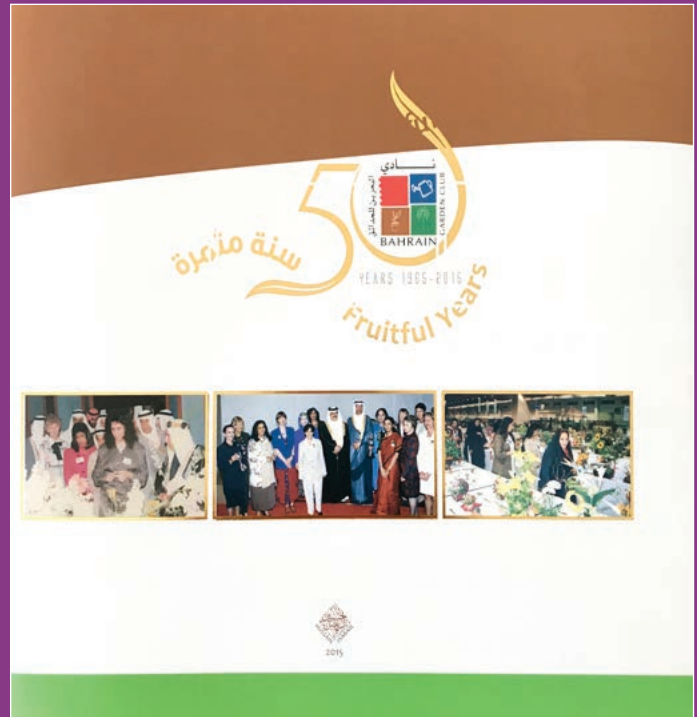
BGC Activities



This historical book “50 Fruitful Years” was published on the occasion of the Golden Anniversary of the Bahrain Garden Club in 2015. It takes an in-depth look at the history of gardening experience in Bahrain from early days to the present time.

our book is on sale at
THE BAHRAIN GARDEN CLUB.
Tel.: 17727625

*Gift your friends or family with this
memorial gardening history in Bahrain.*



**If you have a garden and a library,
you have everything you need.**

– Marcus Tullius Cicero

*Marcus Tullius Cicero was orator and
philosopher of the ancient world*

To advertise your business here please contact Bahrain Garden Club: 17727625