

IN THE GARDEN

WITH MR. GREENJEANS

by Randy Arnowitz

Randy – Mr. Greenjeans – resides in a potting shed with 200 orchids and his golden retriever “Peaches.” He enthusiastically welcomes your gardening questions; address them to greenjeansmr@verizon.net.

Going Green

Dear Mr. Greenjeans,

I have a “Yesterday-Today-And-Tomorrow” growing in my garden and it is one of my favorite plants of all time. I think of it as an old-fashioned type of plant and I especially love the white, lavender and purple flowers. My question is this: although it blooms, the foliage is pale yellow and not a rich green color like when I first bought it. What can I do to remedy the situation and “green up” my plant? Thanks.

Signed,

Sentimental on San Ysidro

Dear Sentimental,

“Yesterday-Today-And-Tomorrow” or *Brunfelsia pauciflora* ‘*Floribunda*’ also commonly called “Morning-Noon-And-Night” or “Today-Tomorrow-And-The Day After Tomorrow” or “Tomorrow-The Day After Tomorrow-And-The Day After That” or... does seem like one of those reliable, comfy shrubs that your granny might have grown in her garden.

The pansy-like, white-throated flowers, which appear from spring through summer, open up purple, turn pale lavender and then fade to white. But wait. There’s more. All three colors occur on the plant at one time. *Brunfelsia* does best in full sun with a little relief from direct, full afternoon heat and should be kept evenly moist.

This plant prefers an acid-type food, especially in our alkaline soils and, in my experience, is a heavy feeder. During the warmer months I feed



Yesterday-Today-And Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia pauciflora*) showing its true colors

mine often with whatever I have lying around including Gro-Power, Organite or Fish and Kelp. If yours doesn’t green up after a hefty meal you can add some iron to the menu and that should help.

I’ve noticed that during the cooler months *brunfelsia* will stop growing, can turn yellow and lose a few leaves. During this time I’m careful not to overwater and I withhold food until the weather starts to warm in February.

Be aware if growing this plant: the berries and other parts can be toxic to children and pets.

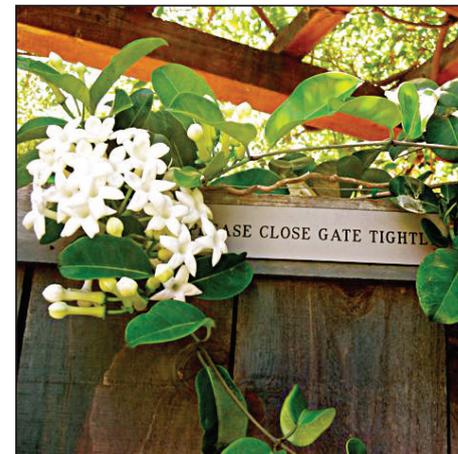
Not So Neighborly

Dear Mr. Greenjeans,

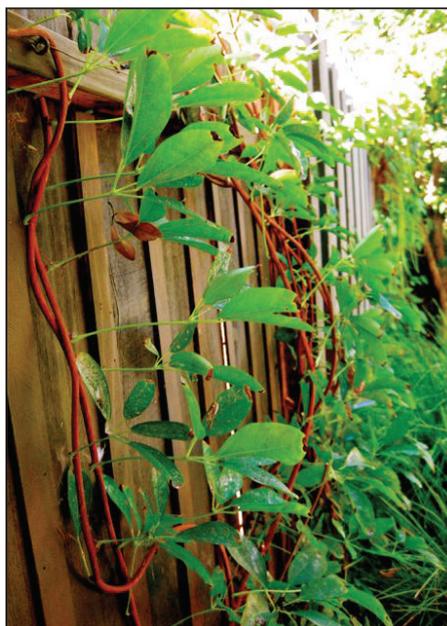
I’d love to grow some sort of vine or climbing rose on my fence but I’m



‘Flutterbye’ rose knows its place and won’t swallow your fence



Madagascar Jasmine (*Stephanotis floribunda*) is another manageable vine that is easy to keep within bounds



It takes vigilance to make this Chocolate Vine (*Akebia quinata*) behave

very sad to say that my neighbor chops down everything from my yard that grows over into his. Also, most vines eventually get so out of control that I worry about them pulling down my fence. Do you know of a manageable type of vine that I could try that won’t eat my house?

Signed,

Tangled Up and Blue in the Hedgerow

Dear Tangled,

Unruly vines and Edward Scissorhands for a neighbor can sure harsh your mellow when all you want to do is enjoy your garden. The vines I may be able to help you with. The neighbor, well, I do know a guy named Big Louie but ...

Many vines such as Red Trumpet Vine (*Distictis buccinatoria*), Royal Trumpet Vine (*Distictis* ‘*Rivers*’), Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata* ‘*Tangerine Beauty*’), Easter Lily Vine (*Baumontia grandiflora*), Purple Vine Lilac (*Hardenbergia violacea* ‘*Happy Wanderer*’), Passion Vine (*Passiflora*), Blue Sky Flower (*Thunbergia grandiflora*), Pink Jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), Butterfly Vine (*Mascagnia macroptera*), Climbing Cecile Brunner rose (*Rosa Cl. Cecile Brunner*) and Chocolate Vine (*Akebia quinata*) are all commonly grown in Santa Barbara and often outgrow and overwhelm the fences, trellises or pergolas they

are grown on.

You too can grow these energetic vines on your fence but considering their ultimate size and your neighborly situation you’d have to do the work to keep them in bounds.

First, in order to keep them from visiting your neighbor you’d have to attach them to your side of the fence with wire or some sort of ties and not allow them to drape over the fence for support.

To manage them you’ll have to continuously thin them out to just a few main lengths or branches to prevent them from getting all heavy and “hangy-downy.” This is quite a task and depending on the monster vine you choose, there’s a good chance it will grow faster than you can keep up with it.

Another way to keep your big guy down is to take the whole vine back to almost nothing once a year. Most of these vines will readily bounce back from this regimen but I’d recommend asking a nurseryman (or me) about your particular vine before taking the chainsaw to it.

A better solution to this big vine-little space problem would be to plant a more manageable type of vine. That is, a plant that either doesn’t grow so fast or as vigorously or will “max out” at a more appropriate size and length. Keep in mind that these tamer vines will still need to be tended, trimmed, poked and prodded but probably less often. Here are just a few to consider that might work out for you:

- Star Jasmine: (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)
- ‘Flutterbye’ climbing rose: (*Rosa Cl. ‘Flutterbye’*)
- Mandevilla: (‘*Alice du Pont*’)
- Bower Vine: (*Pandorea jasminoides*)
- ‘Altissimo’ climbing rose: (*Rosa ‘Altissimo’*)
- ‘Iceberg’ climbing rose: (*Rosa Cl. ‘Iceberg’*)
- Japanese Honeysuckle: (*Lonicera japonica ‘Halliana’*)
- Creeping Fig: (*Ficus pumila*)
- Chilean Jasmine: (*Mandevilla laxa*)
- Madagascar Jasmine: (*Stephanotis floribunda*)

My

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