2023 Bulb & Seed Exchange

- **List of bulbs and seeds available until 30th August 2023**

Jon Evans reports that the Southern African Bulb Group will be running its Annual Bulb and Seed Exchange again this year. This is an abridged version of his announcement, including the timetable - read the full version which includes more instructions for participants and a description of difficulties in exchanging material with overseas members.

We are hoping to run the exchange on the same timing as recent seasons, so material is sent out in early September, and can be planted and started into growth in a timely fashion. … There will be a further exchange later in the year for autumn ripening seed etc.

This Exchange is a key part of our activities, so we are hoping as many of you as possible will provide your spare bulb or seed material for the benefit of other members! Please note that although we call it an exchange, if you don't yourself have material to offer, you will still be able to request seeds or bulbs from the list in exchange for a suitable donation to cover at least the cost of postage and packing.

The timetable this year is as follows:

- If you have bulbs or seeds available, please post them to Jon Evans, 46 Upper Way, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8RF, UK, to arrive by Monday 14th August. Please try to clean the donations as well as you can – if you don't, I have to. Please store them in paper bags if possible (items stored in plastic bags can sweat and rot). And please seal them carefully – Newsletter 36 contained instructions for making seed envelopes out of sheets of blank paper. Please include a list of your donations, … If you can send the list by email that would be brilliant.
- If you expect to have items available later, by the end of August, please send me a list of your intended donations, with any supporting information, by email or post, to arrive by Monday 14th August. My email address is jonevans46.uw@btinternet.com. Please send any such donations to me by Sunday 27th August at the latest.
- I will then prepare the Bulb and Seed Exchange list of available material which I will email out to Members by 16th August. Should you require a paper list to be sent to you by post, please send me before this date a self-addressed envelope suitable for five to ten folded sheets of A4 paper (with the correct postage attached if you live in the UK).
- After you have received the Bulb and Seed Exchange list of available material, please send your wishlist to me, to arrive by 30th August. I will then start the despatch process. I expect all orders to be sent out by 8th September.
- Then it's up to you to grow the plants and enjoy them!

I hope you find this exercise valuable and perhaps obtain some new plants. Of course, its success depends on the generous efforts of the donors, so please check whether you have some spares you can donate.

Bulbs and seeds from the summer exchanges are sent out in early September, and can be planted

and started into growth in a timely fashion. Seeds from the autumn “ephemeral” exchanges are sent out in late November, to be sown immediately.

Jon Evans, who does all the work, says “*This Exchange is now a key part of our activities, so we are hoping for many of you to provide your spare bulb or seed material for the benefit of other members! … I am hoping that many of you will have had more time to spend in your garden collecting seeds, and will have a chance to get the summer repotting done nice and early. Please note that although we call it an exchange, if you don’t yourself have material to offer, you will still be able to request seeds or bulbs from the list in exchange for a suitable donation to cover at least the cost of postage and packing. The page on Payments provides some information on ways to pay.*”

Overseas Members

I would like to clarify our policy regarding sending items to overseas members. We are only able to send material to overseas members in ways complying with their government’s regulations (i.e. no mis-labelling of contents etc), and only when conforming with those regulations is neither too onerous, nor expensive (e.g. we cannot issue phytosanitary certificates etc). We expect the relevant member to be able to guide us in following their government’s requirements. Although we’ll do our best to comply with the regulations where possible, we cannot be held responsible for any bulbs or seeds which are confiscated.

All **donations from all overseas members** must now, sadly, be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate. We recognise that this makes it difficult or impossible for these members to donate to the exchange. This requirement applies to EU members from 1st January 2022, so EU members can unfortunately no longer donate material.

Also, because the UK is no longer part of the EU, any packages sent to EU members would need to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate. This would be a difficult and expensive administrative burden, and we regret that as a result **we are unable to send bulbs or seeds to EU members at this time**. We are still able to send seeds to some countries outside Europe, provided that the members receiving them are conversant with their own regulations.

We are participating in endeavours with other UK gardening societies to lobby the UK government to change the regulations to facilitate international seed exchange, but the import requirements set by the EU are outside the control of the UK government, and are unlikely to be affected by any changes.

There is more information about our Exchanges at Bulb & Seed Exchange.

From:
https://sabg.uk/ - **Southern African Bulb Group**

Permanent link:
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