

Bulb and Seed Exchange 2023

The Southern African Bulb Group will be running its Annual Bulb and Seed Exchange again this year. 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. I know this causes problems for a few of you, but generally it worked very well. 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.

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.

However, 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. These are now also required for material sent to Australia. 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 or Australian 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.

Although UK gardening societies are lobbying the UK government to change the regulations to facilitate international seed exchange, the import requirements set by the EU are outside the control of the UK government, and are unlikely to be affected by any changes.

The timetable this year is as follows:

14th August

- 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 possible containing the following information. If you can send the list by email that would be brilliant.

- Genus
- Species (including subspecies / cultivar name where relevant)
- Source (if the item is derived from wild collected material it is useful to know a location for the collection)
- Notes (any other information about the item you feel is useful)
- Seed or Bulb
- South African or 'Other'
- Approximate quantity (for bulbs and large seeds)

- 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.

16th August

- 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).

30th August

- 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.

Best wishes
Jon Evans