

Green Dreams by Fran Benton

Hello fellow garden enthusiasts!

This month's Cow Press article was for beginners, so hardly the kind of thing the garden club members enjoy. So I thought to myself, what are my fellow garden enthusiasts thinking of tonight? Seeds? Garden design? Possible plant treasures to purchase? How about the dream plant that we just can't grow here?

This reminded me about the lady that Liz and I talked to last week. She was at Dinters and was buying a Fajiola plant for her husband. Huh? Chimed both of us, what is a Fajiola? Well her husband is from New Zealand and missed eating the fruit of the Fajiola, the pineapple guava.



After consulting books, online articles, and Elaine, we discover that this is a delicious fruit that can be grown here but will never flower or produce fruit. I felt very sorry for the ladies' husband. Missing a plant is a very sad thing. After 2 years of the pandemic I miss every tropical plant there is. I also deeply miss big fat cactus and horribly spiny chollas. But here we are getting to the end of things and maybe soon we can go and see fantastic plants again.

I have to admit I have a plant bucket list (also a fossil bucket list). There are some plants that live in weird inaccessible parts of the world that I want to see. I don't want to see anymore ancient churches or cultural relics, I want to see the world's wildest weirdest plants (and rocks). Every time I watch any of David Attenborough's documentaries I find a whole pile of new plants I want to see. How about Welwitschia a truly bizarre plant that grows in the arid deserts of Namibia? Or the Dragon blood tree that grows on an island off Yemen? There are so many cool plants out there to see. Many years ago I had a chance to work in the arctic tundra. I was blown away by the concept of "open lichen woodland" where the grasses we are used to are replaced by a carpet of lichen. So on this cold miserable March night I am dreaming of all the cool plants I have yet to see. I hope your dreams are as green and as amazing!

