

From the editor

A long cold winter, a short soaking spring, then a fierce summer: a decidedly strange year in which the majority of our hardy plants have proved they're worthy of that epithet, and we too have been resilient!

The recent extreme weather has been the dominant topic of conversation, and what a heatwave, testing both plants and people. The drought was unusually widespread, as Peter Williams' photograph of their East Yorkshire 'lawn' indicates.

Not only the lack of rain but also the burning temperatures meant that despite targeted watering some plants succumbed, though it may be some time before we discover what has been lost. The advantage, of course, is that we now have spaces to fill! So, if you're wondering which must-have plants to try, you'll find here plenty of recommendations for good doers, and suggestions for how best to grow them. As always we are indebted to our expert contributors, amateurs and professionals; I

for one am grateful that I can enjoy and learn vicariously from their extensive knowledge and dedication without enduring the slightest discomfort!

Finally, if on looking at the back cover you have a sense of déjà vu, you've been a reader of this journal since at least 2009 when Keith & Lorna Ferguson's *Zantedeschia aethiopica* 'Glencoe' first graced this journal. There were so many appreciative comments then that I make no apology for giving more recent members the chance to enjoy a choice plant.

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A personal note from the far North: our heatwave ended just before the start of the school holidays(!) and we have 'enjoyed' a normal August with 96% of average rainfall. Travellers from the South – that is, from North Yorkshire and further afield – still remark on how green Northumberland is. With a few thunderstorms and rainy days, fields and gardens revived spectacularly, as shown here when Heather and John Russell welcomed the NE Group to their stunning garden in late July.