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Flowering varieties in climbers

M.M.Hussain

Plant lovers have an exhaustive range to choose from climbers as many among them produce beautiful blooms, writes M.M.Hussain



Climbers offer a tough choice for plant lovers with their wide array of varieties, many among them producing beautiful blooms. One has more opportunity of getting lost in the exhaustive range that these creeping, crawling, trailing, and climbing greenies lay, than in that offered by any vertically growing kind.

Some very good flowering varieties of medium growth include plants like *Pseudocalymma alliaceum* (*Adenocalymma* - Garlic vine), *Allamanda grandiflora*, *Allamanda purpurea*, *Allamanda* New Hybrids (Red, Peach, Light Yellow), *Clerodendrum splendens*, *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, *Echitis caryophyllatis*, *Hiptage madablota*, *Jasminum officinale*, *Jasminum jasminoides*, and *Pandorea jasminoides* (see the infobox for more varieties).

All these are good for training over a wall or a structure, trellis or a big arch. Most of them need to be trained and kept a watch upon for proper growth. *C. splendens* or *Quisqualis indica* is a

heavy medium growing creeper which needs to be tied and trained regularly because it does not have Tendrils, Hooks or Roots to have a hold and grow. As the plant becomes heavier by the day forming woody branches, more support will be required lest it should collapse. Such climbers need to be tied to a good structure of wire mesh or a network of wires, at regular intervals.

Pseudocalymma alliaceum, commonly known as Garlic vine, produces garlic-like smell which is not liked by many. However, it is not strong or significant, and can only be smelt by crushing the branch or leaf of the plant. Allamanda's come in many colours these days thanks to the introduction of new cultivars. They flower round the year. Plants like *Echitis caryophyllatis*, *Hiptage madablota*, *Jasminum officinale*, and *Jasminum jasminoides* are highly fragrant and flower almost all the year. *Thunbergia grandiflora*, *Thunbergia. g. Alba*, *Thunbergia mysorensis*, and *Thunbergia alata* are a few fast growing climbers.

Vernonia elaeagnifolia (Brindavan Creeper) is another fast growing climber that can be trained over walls and porticos as trailer, and trimmed at a particular length. It is grown only for its foliage, which is so thick and compact in its fall that even dust cannot penetrate it.

Pyrostegia venusta is a flowering climber, and grows very fast. It blooms during winter alone, but the blooms last for more than two months during which the whole plant looks orange-dyed.

Even *Ipomoea Candy King* (*Stictocardia tiliifolia*) flowers twice a year only, but has reddish large flowers and large attractive leaves. *Antigonon leptopus* is a wild and fast growing climber seen at many places. Being a deep tuberous climber, it is very difficult to propagate. The flowers are bouquet-like and very attractive. *Ipomoea tuberosa* (Wood Rose) is a fast growing climber with yellow coloured inflorescence in bunches. After their life, the flowers will turn into woody fruit which appear like roses made of wood, hence the name Wood Rose.

Ipomoea palmata (morning glory) is also a very fast growing climber but very heavy when compared to all the others.

It is soft-stemmed and flowers round the year. This is a good cover for high fences and one can see it very often over the fences of sports grounds. *Beaumontia grandiflora* has a heavy woody stem and attractive large leaves. Even the flowers are fragrant and off-white in colour.

Ficus pumila repens, which sticks its roots through walls, must be planted adjacent to a wall in a pit filled with good compost. The tiny branches should be initially stuck to the wall with an

adhesive tape so that they will throw out roots sooner. Otherwise, a great amount of time lapses before it gets a hold on its own.

The plant can be sprayed with water once a week so that the moisture is absorbed by the tiny roots. Pruning once in a while will keep the leaf-size small.

(The author is a well-known nurseryman in Hyderabad, and available at plantsland@hotmail.com)

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'Promote sustainable ornamental fisheries'

Staff Reporter

Sustainable ornamental fisheries focussing on environment protection and conservation of biodiversity should be promoted effectively, Leena Nair, chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), has said.

In her inaugural address at the conference on 'Sustainable Ornamental Fisheries - Way Forward' organised by the School of Industrial Fisheries here on Friday, Ms. Nair said that efforts to popularize sustainable ornamental fisheries will help in conservation of the environment.

Sustainable ornamental fisheries will also strengthen the economy of the country, she said.

Pointing out that ornamental fisheries' has emerged as a major revenue earning sector across the world, Ms. Nair said that the country needed to step up its presence in the global market to tap the emerging opportunities. MPEDA has been actively supporting such ventures in the ornamental fisheries sector through initiatives like the green certification or eco-labelling, she said.

Vice-Chancellor Ramachandran Thekkedath presided.

Svein A. Fossa, president of European Pet Organisation (EPO), delivered the keynote address on the occasion.

A. Ramachandran, Director of School of Industrial Fisheries, said that the conference will create awareness among people about the employment opportunities and economic benefits offered by the ornamental fisheries industry.

Nearly 250 experts from the country and abroad are attending the programme.

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Credit plan focuses on agriculture

Staff Reporter

The Annual Credit Plan (ACP) prepared by the Lead Bank for Tirupur district for 2012-13 financial year envisages a total credit flow of Rs. 5,801 crore, about 15 per cent increase in the outlay when compared to the ACP targets this fiscal.

Of the total advances projected, the estimated credit flow to agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SME) sector and other priority sector stands at Rs. 1,501 crore, Rs. 3,660 crore and Rs. 640 crore, respectively.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that the credit flow in agriculture for 2012-13 was calculated almost 50 per cent above the ACP targets of the current fiscal, while the advances projection in other priority sectors pegged almost 20 per cent higher than the current fiscal.

However, the Lead Bank had given only a 5 per cent increase in the projections in SME sector for 2012-12 considering that the lending in the segment during the current fiscal was not much encouraging.

At the end of the first three quarters of the current fiscal, the advances to the sector was Rs. 2,350.53 crore against the projected ACP targets of Rs. 2,546.26 for the period.

“The sluggishness in the advances to SME sector has been primarily owing to the high interest rates on working capital and term loans consequent upon the increase of short term bank rates by Reserve Bank of India almost 13 times in the last two years,” banking sources said.

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Training to help revive traditional crops

Special Correspondent

Forest College and Research Institute, a constituent college of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, organised a one-day training programme on underutilised crops for the tribal population from the Nilgiris.

Fund

The programme was funded under tribal sub-plan (TSP) as a part of the All India Co-ordinated programme on underutilised crops of Indian Agricultural Research – New Delhi.

Dean of the Forest College P. Durairasu highlighted the importance of traditional crops such as minor millets, cereals etc. He pointed out the alarming increase in number diabetics due to food habits and stress. Among them, nearly 60 per cent of them were in urban areas. The training was organised to revive crops such as grain amaranth, rice bean, annatto and simaruba.

The first two crops are rich source of protein and the other contain vitamin s and minerals. Simaruba is a shade tree for the tea and coffee estates and a source of edible oil.

As many as 176 tribal people representing 30 villages of Nilgiris particularly Kotagiri taluk attended the meeting held in association with the Nilgiris Adi-draavidar Welfare Association (NAWA) and Care India Rural Livelihood took part.

Training to the tribal people was imparted by resource persons K. Kumaran, A. Nandagopal, A. Balasubramanian, C. Sekar, I. Sekar, M.P. Divya, S. Manivasaka, D. Saravanakumar and Pratheepkumar faculty of the college through lectures, field visits and demonstrations.

Crops such as grain amaranth, rice bean, annatto and simaruba to be revived

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'Sell black gram and green gram'

Staff Reporter

The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has said the price of black gram will be between Rs. 34 and Rs. 37, and for green gram it will be between Rs. 34 and Rs. 36 in April. Since there is no chance for the price of both the grams to increase till the end of May, growers are asked to sell immediately without going in for storage.

The forecast was made based on the analysis of price of the grams that was prevalent in the Villupuram Regulated Market for the last 10 years. The current price for black gram and green gram is Rs. 37 and Rs. 36 respectively. The decline is due to bumper production in 2010-11.

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Judges supervise paddy harvest

Special Correspondent

Collector Jayashree Muralidharan on Thursday led a team of judges to supervise the paddy harvest in the fields of P.Ayyakannu, a progressive farmer at Musiri, who is vying for the Rs.5 lakh cash reward announced by the Chief Minister for farmers achieving the highest yield by adopting the System of Rice Intensification technique. An official release, however, did not specify the yield achieved by Mr.Ayyakannu, who is also the State vice president of Bharathiya Kisan Sangam.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

24 MAR, 2012, 05.41PM IST, PTI

Groundnut oil spike up on heavy demand

MUMBAI: Groundnut oil prices spiked to new highs at the oils and oilseeds market here today due to heavy demand from stockists and exporters on the back of restricted arrivals from producing regions.

Refined palmolein also spurted on good retail offtake amidst higher Malaysian advices.

Meanwhile, castorseeds bold, castor oil commercial and linseed oil all remained steady owing to the absence of market moving factors.

In the futures market, castorseed slipped on speculative selling following subdued export enquiries.

In the edible section, Groundnut oil climbed by Rs 10 per 10 kg Rs 1,185 from Thursday's closing level of Rs 1,175 and refined palmolein also went up by Rs 9 per 10 kg Rs 603 from Rs 594 previously.

In futures, castorseed for June contract resumed slightly lower at Rs 3,640 and drifted further to Rs 3,608 before ending at Rs 3,620 from Rs 3,642 previously, showing a loss of Rs 22 per tonne.

However, moving to non-edible section, Castor seeds bold, castor oil commercial and linseed oil all were unaltered at Rs 3,550, Rs 740 and Rs 900, respectively.

24 MAR, 2012, 05.35PM IST, PTI

Bajra, barley rise up on increased offtake

NEW DELHI: Bajra and barley prices rose by Rs 10 per quintal on the wholesale grains market today on increased offtake by consuming industries.

However, other grains after moving in a tight range on alternate bouts of trading pegged around previous levels.

Traders said increased offtake by consuming industries mainly helped bajra and barley prices to move up.

In the national capital, bajra and barley traded Rs 10 each higher at Rs 1,060-1,065 and Rs 1,260-1,310 per quintal respectively.

24 MAR, 2012, 05.33PM IST, PTI

Mustard, coconut oils edge up on local demand

NEW DELHI: Prices of mustard and coconut oils edged up on the wholesale oils and oilseeds market today mostly on the back of pick up in local demand.

However, other edible and non-edible oils moved in a narrow range in scattered deals and settled around previous levels.

Traders attributed the rise in mustard and coconut oils to rising demand from local parties. In the edible section, mustard expeller oil (Dadri) oils strengthened by Rs 30 to Rs 7,900 per quintal. Coconut oil also seen in demand and gained Rs 25 to Rs 1,575-1,625 per tin.

24 MAR, 2012, 04.22PM IST, PTI

Arhar and its dal up on improved demand

NEW DELHI: In limited deals, arhar and its dal prices rose by Rs 50 per quintal on the wholesale pulses market today on improved demand from retailers.

Other commodities after moving in a tight range in thin trade settled around previous levels.

In the national capital, arhar and its dal dara variety rose by Rs 50 each to Rs 3,550-3,850 and Rs 5,000-5,200 per quintal, respectively.

24 MAR, 2012, 04.14PM IST, PTI

Edible oils extend gains on increased buying, firm global cues

NEW DELHI: Wholesale prices of edible oils continue to rise for the third week at the local market here on increased buying by vanaspati millers amid a firming global trend.

A few oils in the non-edible section, also showed firmness on increased offtake by industrial units and other consuming industries.

Sentiment also bolstered as palm oil climbed to the highest level in more than nine months in global markets on concern that output in the second-largest producer Malaysia will decline.

Meanwhile, palm oil rise 0.7 per cent to 1,114 dollar a metric tonne this week on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the highest since June 6.

Traders said pick up in demand from vanaspati millers and retailers, driven by beginning of navratras and ongoing marriage season, supported the uptrend in edible oil prices.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) advanced by Rs 120 to Rs 10,650 per quintal on restricted arrivals from producing regions. Groundnut solvent refined held steady at Rs 1,670-1,720 per tin.

Mustard expeller oil (Dadri) added Rs 80 to Rs 7,900 per quintal on pick up in local demand, while mustard pakki and kachi ghani oils ruled steady at Rs 1,070-1,225 and Rs 1,225-1,325 per tin of 15 litre, respectively.

In line with a general trend, sesame and cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oils rose by Rs 20 each to Rs 7,720 and Rs 6,820 per quintal respectively.

Taking positive cues from overseas markets, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils moved up by Rs 50 each to Rs 7,600 and Rs 7,150 per quintal respectively.

Palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (Kandla) oils followed suit and traded higher by Rs 50 each to Rs 7,650 and Rs 7,300 per quintal respectively.

Increased offtake by industrial units and other consuming industries helped few non-edible oil prices to move up, they added.

In the non-edible section, linseed oil attracted fresh buying support from paint's industries and shot up by Rs 150 to Rs 5,050 per quintal. Neem oil also moved up by the same margin to Rs 4,300-4,400 per quintal on increased demand from soap units.

THE HINDU Business Line

Clear cane arrears of Rs 3,355 crore

A. M. Jigeeesh



New Delhi, March 24:

The first political challenge for Mr Akhilesh Yadav, new Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, is to expedite the proceedings to ensure that farmers get at the earliest the Rs 3,355-crore cane arrears due to them.

According to the State Department of Sugarcane Development, sugar mills, both in the co-operative and private sector, owed Rs 3,354.58 crore to the farmers as on March 19. Mr Yadav is yet to announce any measure to ensure that farmers get their money.

“There is a Supreme Court directive for making the payment to farmers. The Government has to abide by it,” said Mr V. M. Singh, President, Rashtriya Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan.

According to the Department, co-operative societies owe Rs 455.62 crore and private sugar mills Rs 2,898.96 crore to the sugarcane farmers.

Out of the total Rs 14,747.84-crore dues, the mills have already paid the farmers Rs 11,393.26 crore, which is 77.25 per cent of the amount, Compared with the performance of his predecessor, Ms Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party, there is a huge gap in payments to the farmers.

In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the BSP Government had ensured that almost 99.9 per cent of the payments reached the cane farmers.

The Opposition is already up in arms.

“Apart from this, about Rs 1,000 crore awarded in a court verdict is also pending. The State Government has to take immediate measures as the planting season is about to begin,” said the Rashtriya Lok Dal leader and Union Civil Aviation Minister, Mr Ajit Singh.

“Unless stern steps are taken, farmers will have to agitate against the Government,” Mr Singh said, and added that he would soon meet the Prime Minister to request that more sugar exports be allowed.

Farmers' interest

An official in the Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Department told *Business Line* on conditions of anonymity that the new Government was yet to take a look at the issue. The Samajwadi Party, however, is confident that the farmers will get their dues.

“The Government will work to protect the interest of farmers,” Samajwadi Party leader and MP, Mr Shailendra Kumar, said.

Punjab govt to frame farm policy: Minister

PTI

Moga, Mar 24:

The Punjab government would prepare a comprehensive agricultural policy with special focus on research and development to boost farm productivity, a state minister said on Saturday.

The SAD—BJP alliance would take all possible steps to raise the income of small farmers so that their debt burden could be reduced, the state Agriculture Minister, Mr Tota Singh, said.

He further said that free power to farmers would continue in the State.

“Our priority will also be to promote cooperative system which will lend farm equipment such as tractor and paddy transplanters to small and marginal farmers,” he said.
