

BOOK REVIEW: BROMELIAD CULTIVATION NOTES

Bromeliad Cultivation Notes was mainly written by Lynn Hudson from North Queensland, with a contribution from David Langley. It was published in 2005 by Lynn.

This booklet of 38 A5 pages constitutes a beginner's guide to growing bromeliads. It is illustrated by black and white line drawings.

The first chapter illustrates a bromeliad's "components" e.g. inflorescence, flower bracts, and offshoots or pups, while the second chapter describes, from a non-botanical perspective, the bromeliad genera. In the third chapter, the importance of using bromeliad names, and some important points about them, is discussed. Chapters follow on flower pollination, seed raising, removing offshoots (pups), and potting bromeliads..

Chapters then follow on mounting bromeliads e.g. on trees, some observations on hybrids, tillandsias, intergeneric hybrids, fertilising bromeliads, treating scale, and the light requirements for various types of bromeliads (as defined by their leaf shape and colour).

After these chapters, there are ones on bromeliad leaf forms, more on the importance of naming bromeliads correctly, variegation patterns e.g. medio-picta, and, finally, experiences with importing bromeliads.

All of these chapters are packed with helpful hints that are useful to both the beginning, and more advanced, grower

Most of this booklet's contents are relevant to any part of Australia. Some of the cultural information is oriented towards North Queensland, which has quite different growing conditions to most of Australia.

Overall though, this booklet is highly recommended for purchase by people starting out with bromeliads, and is well worth reading by even very experienced growers.

Year of Review 2005