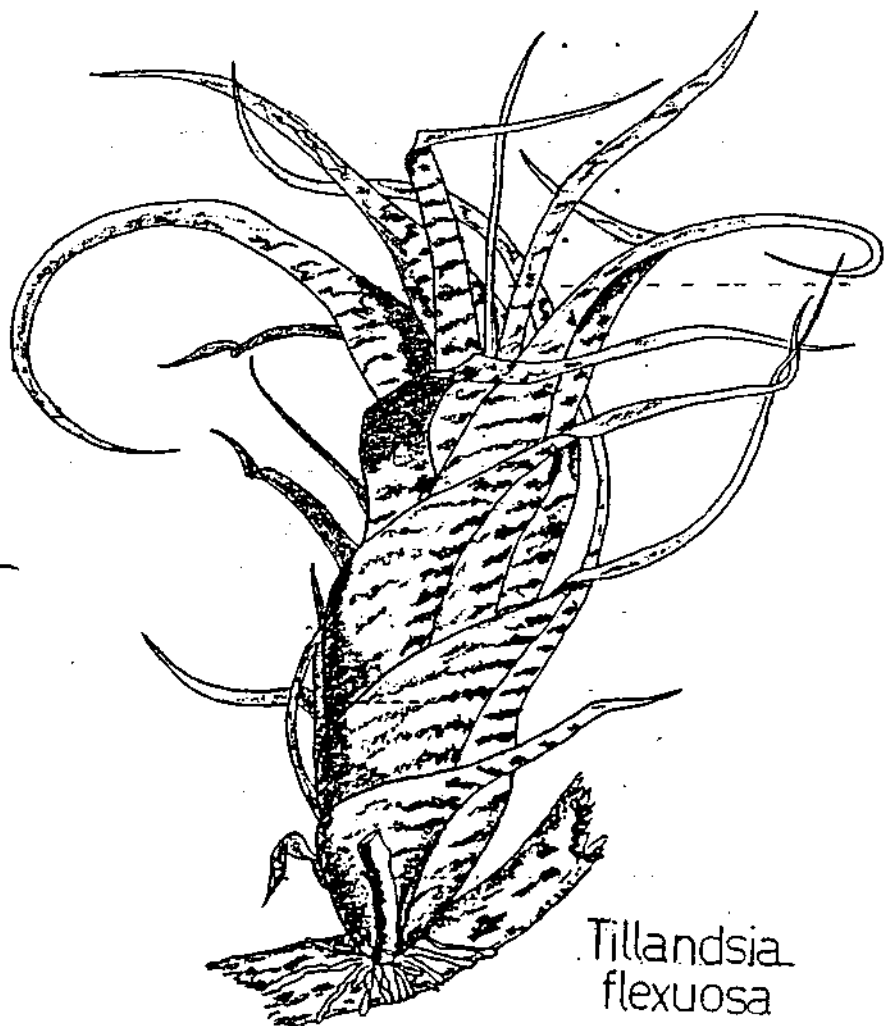


Bromeliaceae

Postal Address: P.O. Box 565
Fortitude Valley Qld. 4006

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION NO. QBH 1849

VOLUME XX1 #5
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1987



Tillandsia
flexuosa

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND:

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 565,
FORTITUDE VALLEY,
AUSTRALIA. 4006

General Meetings are held on the ^{THIRD} Thursday of each month
except December, at the Uniting Church Hall, Warner Street,
Fortitude Valley, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

PATRON:	MR. H. CAULFIELD.	
PRESIDENT:	MR. R. PAULSEN	297 0415
SECRETARY:	MRS. M. MARSHALL.	277 4275
TREASURER:	MR. G. STEWART.	277 9965
EDITOR:	MR. L. BUTT.	848 3515

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PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER, 17th	General Meeting---
	Talk by Mr. R. Marshall from RHEEM Australia. (Shade cloth and matting)
SEPTEMBER, 19th	Bus trip to Grace Goodes place at Alexandria Headland.
OCTOBER, 15th.	General Meeting-----
	Talk by rep. from Alsynite (use of fibre glass sheeting for Bush houses.)

Don't forget Logan City Floral Display September 12th & 13th.

EDITORIAL

Once more the R.N.A., the many questions from the crowd, and the excitement of seeing so much flowers and horticulture displayed.

The Bromeliads stand was very well presented, and congratulations and thanks, must go to the people responsible, especially, as some were entirely new to the job. One small comment I would like to give, is, that not many species of the Bromelioideae were there.

A glorious hybrid gets all the more attention, if, it can be seen, just what it first derived from. For example, Aechmea Orlandiana into Aechmea Orlandiana "ENSIGN" etc.

Hopefully, also, we may be thinking toward upgrading this bulletin in the very near future, and to start this off, this issue has included a Question and Answer column. Please send such queries to me at any time. The Society has enough in-built expertise to answer them for you.

Once again a big thank you for all who helped in any way at 1987 "Ekka"

LEN BUTT.

BUS TRIP REMINDER. SEPTEMBER 19th.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

ONLY 10 SEATS LEFT.

PLEASE CONTACT SECRETARY ON 277 4275 OR AT

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 17th.

M. MARSHALL. (HON SEC)

BIOGRAPHY OF QUEENSLAND BROMELIANS

by LEN BUTT.

NO 1 OF A SERIES.

Born in England 1915, Mary Grasselli is the daughter of an English Army Major, who moved to France with his family soon after World War 1.

In 1923, the family followed the call of duty to India, where they lived until Mary was 14 years of age.

Mary's next home was in Grenada, an Island off the South American Coast, where she first saw the strange hanging whiskery plants of *TILANDSIA USNICOIDES* and many forms of *VRIESIAS*.

Mary states that small monkeys used to peer down through holes in the hanging Spanish Moss. Many more aerial plants were abundant, and she guesses these were probably *TILLANDSIAS*.

At the age of 17, Mary Grasselli left the West Indies, for England, and served in the Army Transport Corps, as a driver during World War 2.

Her great interest was in cattle breeding, and also in dog training, When she migrated to N.S.W. in January 1951.

Working outback, for some time, she finally came to Goondiwindi Qld., where she met and married Carlo.

I first met her, when judging at the Southern Districts Horticultural Society, as she was, and is primarily a plant collector.

In January 1967, Mary, as a foundation member of Bromeliad Society of Qld., became our first Treasurer. A post she held till 1973. From '73 and '74 she filled the position of Society President, then again, was President in 1976 - 7-8, but by this time physically handicapped, Mary was in a wheel chair.

Autobiography contd.

At our first Bromeliad - Succulent combined Show 1977, she also officiated from a wheelchair. She held committee positions from 1967 till 1978., even though, now bedridden, at her home, she is still the enthusiastic Bromelian, and loves species.

Another chore that Mary managed quite well, was editing and printing the "Bromeliaceae" bulletin, . From Nez Misso's death in July 1974, till a few years later, possibly 1977 or 1978 when it was taken over and printed by Peter Paroz.

LEN BUTT.

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VALE

In memory of one of our inaugural Bromeliad Nurserymen, ... and very early members.

Mr. Doug Jackson, late of the "Nursery" Orange Grove Road, Coopers Plains, passed away on July 30th 1987.

Doug was a keen Bromelian, and had, as his early customers, Len Butt, Mary Grasselli, Mrs. Brouggy, Mr. & Mrs. Hyde, Barclay Binnie and many others.

ALWAYS REMEMBERED.

FIELD DAY 19th SEPTEMBER 1987.

DATE: SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 1987.

PLACE: GRACE GOODE & MGRAN'S FERN FARM

COST: \$4 RETURN. CHILDREN FREE.

TIME: 8 A.M. UNITING CHURCH HALL. WARNER ST,
THE VALLEY.

PICK UPS: 8.30 A.M. COUNCIL BUS STOP. SUPER K-MART
CAR PARK. ---
WEBSTER & GYMPIE RDS., CHERMSIDE.
9 A.M. B.P. SERVICE STATION
BURPENGARY.

ARRIVAL: 10 A.M. AT GRACE GOODE'S

LUNCH: 12 to 1 P.M. AT GRACE'S PLACE

DEPARTURE: 1 P.M. TO MGRAN'S FERN FARM.

ARRIVAL: 2 P.M.

DEPARTURE: 3.30 P.M.

BUS WILL STOP AT PLACES OF PICK UPS ON WAY HOME.

ARRIVE: UNITING CHURCH HALL 4.30 P.M.

SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE TEA, COFFEE, MILK, SUGAR AND PAPER CUPS.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LUNCH ETC.,

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1987.SEPTEMBER 17th.BEGINNERS CLASS;-----GWEN GLEESONTALK;-----by RHEEM AUST. (USE OF SHADE CLOTH AND
MATTING)PLANT COMMENTARY;-----Greg Stewart.

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OCTOBER 15th.BEGINNERS CLASS;----- *LEN BUTT*TALK;----- ALSYNITE(USE OF FIBRE GLASS SHEETING FOR
BUSH HOUSES.)PLANT COMMENTARY;----- LEN BUTT.

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"ACUTELY HAZARDOUS"

DISULFOTON GRANULAR INSECTICIDE IS available in a 250gm can, from Garden Supply outlets and in larger quantities from wholesalers. It is specifically for sucking insect pests. By application of Granules to the soil instead of spraying, or dusting. The insecticide is for use on roses, ornamentals, bulbs, ferns as well as potatoes, peas, cabbage, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts.

On the back of the can you'll find safety directions (in tiny print). "Store in original container, tightly closed, in a safe place under lock and key. Do not contaminate ponds, waterways, and drains with the product, or used containers. The Granules are POISONOUS, avoid contact with the skin and eyes, and avoid breathing the dust. When handling, use rubber gloves and face shield.

Even if all instructions are strictly adhered to there are other dangers not mentioned. When the plant is watered, after treatment, the granules start to break down and fumes dissipate. (The smell is very familiar to any of us who have used it.) Although the granules are covered with potting mix/sand, fumes will still be released. Another way you can come in contact with the particles, is from your green house floor or plant area, where you and/or your pets walk; and then walk into your home.

I have had people tell me of horrific headaches from the fumes so be careful. If you must use Disulfoton, try placing your plants as far away as possible. With your face mask, and rubber gloves in place, treat the plant, water it and cover with a garbage can, or if small, place in a plastic bag and seal.

In a day or two come back, uncover them and leave for another day, so the intense fumes can evaporate. Importantly, place a red label in the pot with the date treated, so you know not to handle it for at least 6 weeks. (The approximate period the chemical is active.)

In the past, I have used this product liberally, and thought it to be the best and easiest method of scale control. In 1984 I was warned of its dangers by a friend, Pat Coutts, in Townsville. Since then I have spoken to many people on this subject, and it worries me to think so many people are not aware how dangerous it is.

Recently, in Florida, I spoke to the Agricultural Dept., about this chemical, and they advised it had been listed along with DDT, ALD&CARB, and DIELDRIN.

This is a part of a circular from the Florida Co-Op Extension Service;—

"PESTICIDES ON E.P.A.'S LIST OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

In conjunction with a program for safer handling of Toxic Materials, E.P.A. has released its list of the "MOST DANGEROUS" chemicals, of the 403 Toxic Chemicals identified, the largest group of chemicals on the list, about 140, is that of Pesticides and Pesticide components.¹

Included on the list are such well-known Pesticides such as;— ALDICARB, ALDRIN, DINOSEB, ENDRIN, LINDANE, PARAQUAT, AND PARATHION. Included on the list is NICOTINE, found in various Pesticides, as well as in Tobacco Products. There are about 15 CYANIDE COMPOUNDS included, as well as Ammonia, the THIRD most

"ACUTELY HAZARDOUS" (Cont.)

widely produced chemical worldwide. In addition, there are about 100 intermediates, most of them little known, but including the now NOTORIOUS METHYL ISOCYANATE, the Chemical that leaked in BHOPAL.

There are hundreds of Pesticides in the official lists of Hazardous waste chemicals in R.C.R.A. of that list, however, near 50 materials are now discontinued in this country, (Including such names as EDB and DDT.) The following pesticides are listed as "ACUTELY HAZARDOUS" under R.C.R.A.;-----
ALDICARB, ALDRIN, DIELDRIN, DIMETHOATE, DINOSEB. DISULFOTON, ENDOSULFAN, ENDRIN, HEPTACHLOR, METHOMYL, METHYL, PARATHION, PHORATE, SCHRADAN, TOXAPHENE."

It has been 20 years, since the U.S.A. banned DDT., wonder how long AUSTRALIANS will go on using other "ACUTELY HAZARDOUS" chemicals without being properly informed of the consequences.

Reprinted from copy sent to us by;-----

ROS BUCHANAN,

PINE GROVE NURSERY,

WARDELL, N.S.W.

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Don't forget the ¹⁹⁸⁷ Royal Horticultural and Floral Art Show to be held in The Mt. Cootha Auditorium

DATES:-----10th and 11th October, 1987

Show Times:----- Saturday 9.30 am-----5.00p.m.

Sunday 9.30 a.m.-----4.30p.m.

Setting Up Time:-----Noon until 9.00p.m. Friday 9th October.

Judging:----- Saturday 8.00a.m.-----9.30p.m.

Admission:-----\$1.00 for all adults.

RANDOM OBSERVATIONS

Investigations into the nutritional requirements of pine-apples have shown the importance of potassium in relation to growth and fruit yield. Ornamental bromeliads share this need of adequate potassium for good growth, flowering and offset production.

Field trials of pineapples have shown that adequate potassium levels improve the plants resistance to light frosts. In one instance, plants with leaf potassium levels of 1200ppm showed frost damage while plants with the recommended level of 3000 ppm showed no damage at all. This should not be interpreted that high potassium levels will prevent frost damage; rather that adequate potassium will increase the plants resistance to light frosts.

If you are using extra potassium in your nutrition programme, or using an N.P.K. mixture which is high in potassium, then you probably should be adding some magnesium as well. High availability of potassium tends to suppress the uptake of magnesium with a subsequent slowing of plant growth. Potassium sulphate is the preferred source of potassium for bromeliads, and Magnesium sulphate - Epsom Salts - at approximately one-tenth the amount of potassium sulphate or potassium in the fertilizer is an appropriate addition rate.

Tillandsia duratii var saxatilis is not for the impatient. It has taken eleven weeks from the time I first noticed a change in the growth of the plant, until the first flowers appeared. The flowers are circular in outline, about 12mm in size and strongly perfumed. When they first open, the petal colour of my clone is dark blue, fading a little as the flower ages. This is an undemanding plant to grow, but untidy in its manner of growth and not very prolific in its production of offsets. While admiring the flowers, I was surprised to find a bumble bee hovering nearby and then to methodically visit the recently opened flowers. I have been quite unsuccessful in pollenating this plant at previous flowerings and am watching anxiously to see if the bumble bee was more successful.

Peter Paroz.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PANELQUESTIONS;

Mrs. Theodore of Mission Beach asks;----- the parentage of the clone Aechmea Chantini Silver Goddess.

ANSWER.

This is a Grace Goode cross. Aechmea Chantini crossed with Aechmea Chantini "Dark Goddess."

QUESTION;

Len Butt of Yeronga desires to know the parentage of Neo. "Firebird."

ANSWER.

According to latest check list 1986 Neo. Chlorosticta X Neo Farinosa is correct. Grace Goode clone.

QUESTION;

Mrs. Grasselli asks for information on the Tillandsia - Rothii.

ANSWER;

The plant Till. Rothii is a natural hybrid between Til. Xerographica and Til. Roland - Grossellini occurring in the Mexican Peninsular.

Please keep those questions and answers coming in.

So we new comers can learn.

***** 00000000*****

"WANTED:-----One set of NEOTROPICA (3 volumes).

Required by Cairns & District Bromeliad Study Group,
C/= 26 Bauhinia Avenue, Earlville, Q. 4870."

STUDIES IN BROMELIAD NUTRITION

The art of making good potting mixes is to be able to blend cheap readily available ingredients to achieve the desired properties in the mixture; and there are probably as many recipes for potting mixtures as there are bromeliad growers. I have been using shredded pine bark as a main ingredient for some time and have found that it is suitable, and readily available.

My standard mixture uses a ten litre bucket measure, and consists of one bucket each of coarse sand, peat moss and shredded pine bark.- in this case hoop pine bark,- although chopped pine bark should be just as suitable. To this, I add about 125grms of blood and bone meal, and dry mix all the ingredients. The mix is then lightly watered, with further mixing until it is just moist. This mixture can be used straight away, but I prefer to let it mature for a week or so before use.

Recently, I have been experimenting with the addition of dolomite,- a mixture of calcium and magnesium carbonates- to the mixture. The results from these experiments are listed below;--

ANALYSIS

DOLOMITE ADDED, PH.	NITROGEN	POTASSIUM	PHOSPHORUS	CALCIUM	MAGNES.
Nil	5.8	350ppm	470ppm	130ppm	2000ppm-400ppm P.P.M
125 gm	6.3	"	"	"	2150ppm 470ppm
250 gm	6.5	"	"	"	2400ppm 570ppm

(ppm= parts per million; a convenient way of listing small concentrations: 1ppm= 1 millegram/kilogram, or 1gram/tonne)

These concentrations show that this is a very rich mixture; too rich in nitrogen for some uses; and that I should at least halve the amount of blood and bone that I have been adding. Certainly, the mixture is too high in nitrogen to achieve good colour in the red foliaged Neoregelias. There is more than adequate calcium and magnesium without the addition of the dolomite. Although it is above the recommended level, the higher pH resulting from the addition of dolomite does not seem to have caused any problems. In this mixture, I have

STUDIES IN BROMELIAD NUTRITION (CONT.)

successfully grown vriesea, orthophytum, ananas, aechmea, quesnelia, etc. It is quite good as a general purpose potting mix and I use it for ferns, cycads, palms and bulbous plants, as well as bromeliads.

The sand component can be substituted in part with perlite, vermiculite or pulverised rigid foam plastic without materially changing the mixture.

Milled peanut shell can be substituted in part for the pine bark, but it often contains small fragments of nut which attracts ants and sometimes mice as well.

Peter Paroz.

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The following is a list of books for sale in our library.

<u>CRYPTANTHUS</u> (ONE OF THE BROMELIAD FAMILY)	
	by KATHY DORR \$2.75
A BROMELIAD GLOSSARY (B.S.I.)	\$ 2.50
INTERNATIONAL CHECKLIST OF BROMELIAD	
HYBRIDS (B.S.I.)	\$ 2.50
BROMELIADS FOR MODERN LIVING	\$4.00
BROMELIADS BY WALTER RICHTER.	\$ 4.50
BROMELIADS FOR EVERY ONE	
by BEA HANSON	\$ 2.50
The BEAUTY OF BROMELIADS	
by TONY LEA.	\$ 4.00
THE COLOURFUL BROMELIADS	
by VICTORIA PADILLA	\$ 15.00

These books are available, plus POSTAGE.

ODDS AND ENDS

Heard over the garden fence., the other week.

I know it is supposed to help your plants to grow if you talk to them. But, I do think the following is going a bit far.

"Well! Mr. Snail, I know you like living in my plants, but you know, you are not allowed in them, I am very sorry but, I will just have to kill you. SWAT!!!!!!

-----00000000-----

Heard any more good garden yarns? If so, and they are printable, send them to:----

The Editor.

Mr. Len Butt,
25 Ortive St.,
YEERONGPILLY. 4105

I can't guarantee that he will print them all.

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