

Leader - Doris Phelps, Loxton North. 5333.

Many of the Callistemons I have growing are still very young, but 24 species and forms have flowered enough to have indicated their normal habit. Of these, thirteen seem to have one definite flowering season; six have one or two extra flushes in summer or autumn, the brushes usually being inferior to those of the main flowering; and five flower almost all the summer, with one flush following another almost continuously. I believe these five all originate in Queensland, and are as follows.

Callistemon polandii. My plant has grown into a 12' shrub, with dense foliage of an attractive green, against which the bright red brushes give a feeling of lightness and gaiety. Although some other species are more spectacular when in full flower, this one is my choice for all-year-round attractiveness.

C. 'Berundah Station'. Small brushes of soft pink fading to white. Small-leaved bushy shrub, 7' tall. Begins flowering in early summer and flowers almost continuously, hardly taking time to make leaves between one flush and the next. Several people to whom I gave plants from the same batch say theirs are more weeping than mine. (I have seen the name spelt 'Baroondah'. Can anyone tell me which is correct?)

C. 'Injune'. Similar to 'Berundah', but more upright. Slightly larger brushes and prettier foliage. 8' tall.

C. 'Tinaroo'. Short chunky brushes of a good rich red, set against smooth, crisp, bright green foliage. Open shrub, 6' tall.

C. 'Captain Cook'. Flowers all summer, but brushes are poor quality. Now 8' tall and still growing, so apparently not true to label.

SEED BANK

Please enclose a stamped envelope when asking for seed. Species available are - Callistemons brachyandrus, citrinus, formosus, linearis, linearifolius, macropunctatus, pachyphyllus (white form), paludosus, pallidus (purple form), phoeniceus, polandii, rigidus, salignus (pink form), shiressii, speciosus, viminalis, violaceus, viridiflorus, 'Berundah Station', 'Compacta', 'Guyra', 'Harkness', 'Injune', Polandii x 'Tinaroo', & 'Tinaroo'.

From Mrs. B.M. Overton, Nenean Avenue, Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.

I have the following plants growing in my garden. The soil is sandy loam with sandy clay about 30 cm down.

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| C. citrinus | Planted Feb. '77, now (Oct. '79) 6', first flower heads showing. |
| C. macropunctatus | Planted Feb. '77, now 5', few flowers in '78, more flower heads coming. |
| C. phoeniceus | Planted April '77, now 2', has new growth. |
| C. salignus | Planted Jan. '78, now 5', new growth was a pretty red and faded to green. |
| C. violaceus | Planted May '77, now 3' by 5', and first flower heads showing. |
| C. 'Captain Cook' | Planted April '78, now 3', and has flowered since planting, almost in full flower again. |

EXPATRIATE BOTTLEBRUSHES.

by Anne Boden.

Australians travelling in overseas countries are often delighted by the sight and smell of eucalypts grown for forestry and horticultural purposes. Strong recollections of the bush are stimulated by the evocative fragrance of gum leaves encountered in park specimens and as cut foliage for sale at flower stalls.

Not all Australian plants are regarded favourably in areas to which they have been introduced. In parts of California some species of *Eucalyptus* have become naturalised along river banks and on hill-sides and are now regarded as weeds. In Florida a species of *Casuarina*, commonly known as Australian Pine, and *Melaleuca Quinquinervia* (Punk Tree), were introduced for use as hedgerows and windbreaks in market garden areas and both are now naturalised and considered serious pests, in terms of competing with indigenous species in natural areas.

During a recent trip to parts of the United States and Ecuador I saw various Australian genera used for ornamental purposes and was especially pleased to see *Callistemon* flowering in private gardens, parks and roadside plantations. So far it seems to enjoy good horticultural status, being a prolific bearer of flowers and apparently disease-free; as well it appears to lack the tendency to become naturalised.

In Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco, I saw healthy specimens of *C. linearis* and *C. pinifolius* (red form) both species in full flower and thriving in the mild coastal climate aided by supplementary watering. *C. viminalis* and a red-flowered form resembling *C. citrinus* are both popular as shrubs, or pollarded where a bare trunk and rounded crown are more desirable as in parking areas and street plantings. Container gardening is a popular form of city landscaping in San Francisco and a form of *Callistemon* with red flowers and soft rather broad leaves is often seen in large tubs with a circle of bedding annuals.

In southern Florida, *C. viminalis* is favoured for mass plantings along freeways where young specimens are thriving in the subtropical climate and limestone-derived soils. Some old and woody specimens at Homestead, Florida, were flowering well but chlorotic foliage spoiled their appearance as a group planting in a park lawn.

At Quito, the capital of Ecuador and elsewhere in the Andean highlands, *C. viminalis* is popular in private gardens and appears to be growing well in the cool dry climate, almost on the equator at an altitude of 9,000 feet.

These few observations suggest that outside Australia, *Callistemon* is desirable and adaptable horticulturally, and no doubt as species and cultivars become more widely grown in Australia the range of bottlebrushes grown abroad will be extended, pleasing local gardeners and Australian visitors alike.

Thanks to Mr. G.J. Cousins, 29 Brighton Avenue, Toronto, 2283, for seed of *C. shiressii*, as requested in newsletter No. 4. Here is his comment on *C. shiressii*.

"It is not a spectacular species in my opinion. My specimen is a many-stemmed paperbark measuring 4m x 3m. The cream brushes are small - 30 mm x 10 mm. The new growing leaves are an attractive red colour. It is suitable for a large garden as a background shrub."

From J.P. Shanahan, 69 Spencer Street, Rockhampton, 4700.

Re the peatmoss controversy. I have used coarse sand and peatmoss for over five years. I have raised hundreds of callistemons, melaleucas, and eucalypts and have not lost one through "damping off". I use the "bog method", My secret? I mix coarse sand and peatmoss with 'Captan' solution. Thereafter I use 'Captan' solution exclusively in the "bog method" instead of water. In fact, the first time the seedlings encounter pure water is when they are potted on. In addition, I do not use soil of any kind at any time in the propagation sequence, and I avoid soil contamination of utensils etc.

Graham Quint, Convenor, Conservation Committee, 16, Evans Street, Peakehurst, 2210.

The N.S.W. Region of the S.G.A.P has formed a "Conservation Committee" to mobilise the resources of the Society in N.S.W. to preserve those plants considered 'at risk'. Action in this regard will be two-pronged. Firstly, efforts will be made to preserve natural stands of such plants. Secondly, these plants will be studied and cultivated as a safeguard against reduction of their numbers or their extinction in the wild.

Would the Callistemon Study Group be able to assist our Committee in our investigations of the N.S.W. Callistemon listed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as being 'at risk'? Any information regarding cultivation and natural distribution of these plants would be greatly appreciated. If your study group could suggest any other N.S.W. callistemons which you consider to be 'at risk' and should be added to our list or feel that the species listed should be deleted, your advice would be gratefully accepted. The only species of callistemon presently considered 'at risk' is *Callistemon acuminatus*.

(I have written to Mr. Quint, drawing his attention to Aileen Black's mention (in Newsletter No.1, and on page 28 of Australian Plants, Dec. 1978) of the threatened destruction of a stand of a good green form of *Callistemon pinifolius* near Lake Macquarie. Do other N.S.W. members have any further information or suggestions?)

C.L. Kendall, R.M.B. 43, Mitchell Road, Clifton Mail, Wagga Wagga.

Of the seed you sent me earlier, there was good germination of all except *C. subulatus*, of which only a few seeds germinated, but I managed to get one plant to grow. This is now planted out with the others. We have a plantation of all the species and cultivars I have been able to obtain so far. Most of our plants are growing well, and the earlier plantings have survived one winter; a few have already flowered. Our main problem is with hares, which cut off any new plants a few inches above the ground, so our land is more conspicuous for wire netting cages than plants at present. I should be able to start supplying you with seed in two or three years' time.

Coral Hughes, Little Hills, Koonwarra, 3954.

I have some two-year-old plants of *C. Mauve Mist*, *C. Reeves Pink*, *C. Captain Cook*, *C. citrinus*, *C. salignus*, *C. sieberi*, *C. subulatus*, and a couple from Mr. Bill Cane at Maffra in the pink-purple shades. They are all going quite well despite one of the wettest years ever (1978), 52" instead of the usual 38"-40". Our soil is a grey loam over clay, and becomes rather water-logged.

CALLISTEMON 'HANNAH RAY'

In response to my request for information about C. 'Hannah Ray', I have had three replies, for which I thank the following members.

Rodger Elliot, Belfast Road, Montrose. 3765.

"It should be called C. viminalis 'Hannah Ray', as it is a selected form of C. viminalis. The bright red brushes are usually up to 10 cm by 5 cm. Young leaves and branches are hairy, leaves to 6 cm by 0.6 cm and becoming glabrous when mature."

S.M. Reynolds, Paterson. 2421.

"C. 'Hannah Ray' is a soft foliage plant - grey leaves, almost appears to be a weeper, but main difference is very soft foliage. Mine are only about two feet high so far."

Anne Boden, 36 Carstensy Street, Griffith. A.C.T. 2603.

"C. 'Hannah Ray' is described in the Australian Encyclopaedia of Gardening published by Day Books as a scarlet flowered form of C. viminalis growing to 4 metres. My plants have not yet flowered but the foliage is light green and downy, especially when young. I recall reading (but cannot trace the article) that it is named in honour of the wife of one of the Hazlewood Brothers, a firm of Sydney nurserymen. According to Mr. Geoff Butler of the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, it has not yet been registered with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority."

MEMBERS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE LISTED IN NEWSLETTER No. 4.

C.E. Kendall, R.M.B. 43 Mitchell Road, Clifton Mail, Wagga Wagga.

S.M. Reynolds, "Old Duninald", Paterson. 2421.

Pam Watson, 12 Knights Road, Galston. 2159.

Anne Boden, 36 Carstensy Street, Griffith. A.C.T. 2603.

Jack Benham, 12 Somerset Square, Goonellabah. 2480.

Greg Williams, 28 Condamine Street, Wulguru. 4811.

Margaret Haupt, 34 Scenic Street, Bayview Heights, Cairns. 4870.

Lorna Murray, 18 Pantheon Street, Jindalee. 4074.

A.I. James, 4 Hardman Street, Woody Point. 4019.

Janet Stiller, "Hilldale", Nagoorin. 4680.

Andrew Burnett, 86 Bamfield Street, Sandringham. 3191

Margaret Date, 24 Outlook Drive, Doncaster. 3108.

Wannon Conservation Society, R.V. Fitzgerald, Box 2, Coleraine. 3315.

Hess Strengers, Box 29, Meeniyan. 3956.

Hawthorndede Primary School, Suffolk Road, Hawthorndede. 5051.

Mr. M.C. Campbell, 48 Millswood Crescent, Millswood. 5034.

Beverley Overton, 1 Nepean Ave., Kingscote. Kangaroo Island. 5223.

Callistemon viminalis. "In the natural state, C. viminalis occurs in coastal regions from as far north as Cape York to Newcastle in the N.S.W. central coast. This extensive range highlights a problem which sometimes occurs when seed of the native plant species is collected for propagation. If the forms from warmer regions are in Canberra, they may suffer frost damage. Specimens in cultivation at the National Botanic Gardens, many of which have been raised from seed collected in the coldest part of the range of the species, withstand temperatures as low as minus seven degrees Celsius."

(From an article in the Canberra Times, 16.2.1980, prepared by staff of the National Botanic Gardens, and S.G.L.P. Canberra Region)