

Australian Plants

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Photography by Patricia Palmer

A Study of *Corybas dilatatus* STATELY HELMET ORCHID

The flowers are on a short stalk above the leaf. The labellum is deeply notched.
Read of the other "Helmet Orchids" and how to grow them.

GROW AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS

The Australian Lily-like Plants, A Tree Hibiscus, The Leatherwood Tree,
Woolisia, Epacris & Isopogon

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

The principal subjects of the issue are the Australian natives (Lily-like plants) belonging to the plant family *Amaryllidaceae* and the terrestrial orchids *Corybas*. The articles have been compiled in the order of interest to the home gardener but it is appropriate to index them more systematically as follows:

- AMARYLLIDACEAE**, The Classification by A. M. Blombery—page 268—There has been considerable confusion and disagreement over which genera of plants are included in the family. The most recent classification that is now generally accepted is defined and the difference between the other three closely related families *Haemodoraceae*, *Agavaceae* and *Hypoxidaceae* fully described with clear sketches.
- AMARYLLIDACEAE**, The Australian Species by A. M. Blombery—page 259—A clear review of the three genera *Calostemma*, *Crinum* and *Euryclis* is given with excellent advice on their cultivation.
- CALOSTEMMA**—"The Garland Lily" by N. Lothian—page 256—These lovely plants are described first as a colour plate presents the coloured species in the family.
- EURYCLES AMBOINENSIS**, "The Cardwell Lily" by K. Kennedy—page 258—Flowers are white but similar to *Calostemma*.
- CRINUM**—These Lily-like plants are introduced by L. S. Hannibal as the GENUS **CRINUM**—page 262—and the AUSTRALIAN **CRINUM**—page 263. All Australian species recorded are described with special sections on propagation. Two species **CRINUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM** (page 266) and **CRINUM PEDUNCULATUM** (page 267) are then described by K. Kennedy.
- LEATHERWOOD**—Species of the genus *Eucryphia* are described by A. M. Gray (Tasmanian species, page 253) and by J. H. Willis (Extra Tasmanian Species, page 255). Beautiful trees with "rose" like flowers.
- PYRAMID TREE OR NORFOLK ISLAND HIBISCUS**, *Lagunaria patersonii*, an excellent specimen tree for park, street or garden planting by H. Oakman (page 272) and L. J. Butt (page 273).
- WOOLLSIA** by E. R. Jackes—page 276—Second article in a series on *Epacris* like plants of the family *Epacridaceae*. The cultivation of these beautiful heath plants were the subject of our last issue.
- EPACRIS** by J. Simmons—page 274—The Tasmanian species are described.
- ISOPOGON CUNEATUS & I. LATIFOLIUS**—page 287—The third article in a series on the genera *Isopogon* and *Petrophile*.
- GARDENING TO ATTRACT BIRDS** by K. Stucker—page 274.
- FROST HARDY WILDFLOWERS**—Second report this time by M. Simmons—page 275.
- TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS**—Each issue describes species of Australian orchids. In this issue it is: **CORYBAS**—"Helmet Orchids"—page 245—Leo Cady describes all Australian species—page 279. A. W. Dockrill describes those species found in the tropics: Page 243—M. J. Firth delights in his description of the Tasmanian species in the wild: Page 249—R. C. Nash describes the S.A. species with details on how to grow them. He defines some simple experiments on the following page. In defence of his proved methods of cultivation, he makes the following important points.

GROWING TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS

Some people have tried my sand/sawdust mixtures and have complained that it is no good. Some I have investigated and find that the sand used is too fine, the coarser the sand the better. The best sized sand grain to use is one that will just pass through fly wire, even if it is too large to pass through it is still good sized.

With the sawdust, the coarser the better, buzzer chips are good, but should be lightly powdered in the hands.

Most of the failures with terrestrial orchids can be traced to too much water. Some tubers are lost in the dormant period from dehydration, this can be over come by always storing in a cool place.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

The objective of this publication is to assist in the cultivation of Australian Wildflowers. To do this an understanding of their habit and certainly correct naming of the thousands of species is important. For those not interested in the simple botanical descriptions, please be patient as in most articles very clear and simple descriptions are given on their propagation and cultivation.

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DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF WEST AUSTRALIAN PLANTS. Price \$1.20 plus 16c post & pack
This book lists all the wildflowers indigenous to Western Australia, giving for each species, kind of plant, general size, flower colour, flowering months, localities of occurrence and type of soil and/or vegetative type. Illustrated with many full colour photographs and supplemented by articles such as "Planning, Making and Growing A Native Garden", "Notes on Growing W.A. Plants", "Recommended Subjects for the Beginner", "Propagation", etc., it is fantastic value.

