

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO.12.
JUNE 1998

Dear members,

Once again the moment of truth , I would like to report heaps of thriving Calytrix sps. The sad truth differs from that optimistic outlook, however all is not lost with the help of interested people we have been able to increase the number of species to grow, also we were able to send small parcels of cuttings to members who made requests. If our propagation improves in the next growing season we will try sending small bare rooted plants as outlined in the Correa Study Groups Newsletter No 14 December 1996. We feel that this method may have a higher rate of survival. Anyone who receives a bare rooted plant should be aware that they should be treated as rooted cuttings at least till they make new growth. Our Calytrix fraseri has flowered continuously over the last 3 mths. approx. As it is now mid winter with still an odd flower showing, the performance of C. fraseri is quite outstanding. Getting viable seed is another story of 100 + seeds from this plant not one had a true seed developed dissected out under the microscope, most seeds were filled with a chaff like substance instead of a plump 1-2 mm. white to cream embryo.

Seed sown mid Oct. started to germinate very sparsely, by mid Nov., using the bog method and smoke water we had the following results.

Calytrix	angulata	1
C.	exstipulata	10
C.	fraseri	3
C.	glutinosa	6
C.	leschenaultii	5

Since whenever we have tried to transplant tiny seedlings they mostly die I was going to let these plants grow on, take tiny cuttings, and then plant on. The seedlings just hung on. By Dec. they had not grown at all. As Ted & Cynthia's Christmas in Melbourne was on the agenda with the water reservoir topped up off we went for our few days of festivities, on our return fungal activity had wiped out all but 2 C. extipulata and even these had a nasty looking colour, a quick dash to our local native nursery for any anti fungal preparation resulted in an interesting conversation on the likely things I had got wrong, air movement across the seedlings is one of the best fungicides I was told. Was my seed raising mix level with or domed slightly above the top of the pot? NO I replied,

His next question, was the air able to move across the seedling NO I replied, thinking of the solid sided polystyrene box that my seed pots nestled in. Don't be afraid to let air move around your seedlings was his advice and as an afterthought don't sow seeds too close together, My mind went back to the careful spacing of the seeds in sterile mix, I concluded that spacing seed when sowing could be beneficial. As I type this in, the thought crosses my mind, how long will the mix stay sterile, not very long I suspect. Winter is here now and I intend to plant seed at the beginning of Spring. Fingers crossed. I will continue to use smoke water just to soak the seed before planting.

Thankyou to all members who have written to us , it was appreciated.

Jan Glazebrook . Qld. wrote to tell of success in grafting various *Calytrix* sps. onto *Kunzea ambigua* and *K. flavescens*, some failed but some were surviving well. This sounds most encouraging.

Dr. Kerry Rathie, Qld. is also having success in grafting using the same stock as Jan. (*Kunzea ambigua*.)

We wish you both continuing success with this method of propagation.

Mabs Maddern, S.A. is trying her hand with seed propagation and we wish her success too, and hope to hear of any results sometime in the future.

Norma Boschen, Vic. has grown *C. smeatoniana* successfully from cuttings which she has planted out into the garden along with a prostrate form of *C. tetragona*. Others she is growing in pots are *C. alpestris*, *C. fraseri*, *C. ericifolia*? *C. glutinosa*, *C. smeatoniana*, and 3 forms of *C. tetragona*, white , pink and the Gippsland deep pink form.

C.ericifolia does not appear to be a valid name. We are soon having Norma & Keith visit us and as we have a plant labeled *C.tetragona syn.ericifolia* also not a valid name it may be that the plants are from the same source.

Jo Walker , N.S.W. Jo has several *C. tetragona* planted in the garden , an upright local form, a decumbent form and a prostrate form. Several others are in pots which will eventually be planted out into the garden. These include pink, cream and white flowered forms . A *C. angulata* with creamy white flowers has survived for 5 years or so on heavy soil near to a water tank flowering sporadically.

Jo mentioned several local locations where *C. tetragona* is growing , one form which could be a seedling from the National Botanical gardens was interesting as it carries viable seed as several young plants were growing up around it. Seed we have obtained from various sources have poor viability which makes one wonder if the right pollinator is involved with this plant. We would appreciate any feedback in this area.

Esma and Alf. Salkin. Vic. They are filling in gaps in the garden with various forms of *Calytrix* which they purchased on a recent trip to W.A. We look forward to hearing how they perform in Melbourne suburbs.

As our newsletter is being printed by an interested wellwisher, and our plants are rather depleted of suitable cutting material as we have had a number of requests for propagating material, we have decided to use the money so saved for the purchase of plants on behalf of the Study Group, cuttings from these plants will be made available to any member.

Our collection at the moment consists of :--

Calytrix	tetragona	Gippsland form	deep pink upright
C.	tetragona	Samaria Wells	large white fls. upright
C.	tetragona	Rushworth	small fls. pink tint upright
C.	tetragona	?	prostrate white
C.	tetragona	?	prostrate pink small plant (weak)
C.	tetragona	Mt. Zero	not flowered yet. small plant
C.	tetragona	Grampians	Syn,sullivanii not flowered yet upright
C.	tetragona	?	Syn ericifolia? more on this one later
C.	tetragona	Gurramundi	white upright
C.	tetragona	Black Range	not flowered yet
C.	tetragona	?	mid pink 1.2m.x 1.2m.
C.	alpestris	?	pink buds white fls.
C.	alpestris	?	pink fls.
C.	angulata	?	pale lemon fls.
C.	aurea	?	golden Yellow fls.
C.	affin. aurea	?	(Maybe one of the new described species)
C.	desolata.	?	purple fls. in profusion.
C.	sps.	?	yellow fls. possibly C. depressa.
C.	leschenaultii	?	purple fls.
C.	sps.	?	mauve/pink fls.
C.	fraseri	?	dark/red fls., grown in water pot
C.	glaberrima	S.A. Kangaroo Island,	rooted cutting.
C.	longiflora	N.S.W.	rooted cutting.
C.	smeatoniana	S.A. Kangaroo Island,	rooted cutting

Fees for 1998 / 99 are now due and we will appreciate response from members who wish to continue with the Study Group . We are keeping the fees at \$5.00 for the year as we do not see any need for increase .

We would also like to hear from members, nurseries that stock forms and species of Calytrix. We will be pleased to include a list in a future newsletter.

GROWING CALYTRIX IN CONTAINERS

One of the problems we get with any plants in containers especially black plastic pots is the buildup of heat in the summer resulting in the root ball getting too hot and dry, if the root ball is wet it seems that the roots are almost steamed so to speak, In the winter these same pots are subject to frosts and the plants to every predator that passes by. To overcome some of these problems I take two polystyrene boxes of equal size, in the bottom of one I cut a hole just a little smaller than the plant pot. I get five 14-15 cm. pots in an average box. Most plastic pots have a ledge on the outside, I cut the hole just large enough to let this ledge rest on the bottom of the polystyrene box and prevent the pot falling through. Put the box with the holes on top of the complete box and place pots with plants in this upper box. Presto the root ball is nicely shaded in the summer and the sides of the upper box protect foliage from frost, also I believe lifting the plants higher out of the cold air stream in winter by this method is beneficial.

I have used many methods to get the holes in the polystyrene box. Perhaps the easiest way is to use a heavy duty snap off knife, I have also used a heated blade that will slice through polystyrene like butter.

Cynthia and I are just getting on top of our new computer with more bells and whistles, also a scanner, so we hope to include more pictorial features in future issues.

Lots of luck growing plants love to hear from you

Cynthia & Ted