

14 SEP 1987

ISSN 0705-081X

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS  
CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 7. AUGUST 1987.

Dear Members,

I know this is a long awaited newsletter, but there was really so little news to give. However we have some new members and I would like to introduce you to them.

Peter Ray. Welcome to our first W.A. member. Peter lives at Mahogany Creek and is growing 8 different species on his 1 acre block.

*C. glutinosa* grows there naturally. Some of the other species have beengrown from seed.

Please tell us how you grew the seeds and also about your soil and weather conditions.

Fred Rogers. Horsham Vic. Fred is lucky. He lives in an area with similar weather patterns to those of W.A. where many of the Calytrix grow. Also his area has some attractive forms of *C. tetragona*.

Bill Molyneux. Montrose Vic. Bill is interested in grafting some of the less stable species onto selected Myrtaceae.

Now for an old member:- Peter Cox. Garfield Vic.

Aims:-1. To grow as many species as possible for long periods in the garden or in containers.

2. To experiment with seed raising in Autumn and spring.

Problems:- Calytrix spp. have been short lived (3-6 yrs.) in the garden. Good growth may have resulted in wind rocking- resulting in root damage and infection.

Editor:- I have found Calytrix to succumb to:-

1. Grey mould in still, humid conditions
2. Collar rot in winter. I topped pots with 3 cms W.R. Sand to help prevent this. It appears to be successful.
3. Pest eating young shoots. This can eventually cause death of affected branches and even the whole plant.

What are others' experiences with pests and diseases of Calytrix?  
Dot Brown from Caboolture Q. has been a great help in providing seeds and cuttings of Queensland spp. She is able to grow many Calytrix in the deep sand that abounds on her block. Recently I was able to send her some plants, including some *C. longiflora* prostrate form. Dot had sent me the original material for these plants so I was glad some of them grew. It has beautiful deep pink flowers and fine crowded foliage. I am always happy to receive cutting material and seed. If it comes from the wild could you please let me know the provenance.

As for my doings:-

Seed Germination:- I decided last October to try soaking some seed before planting. I used this technique only with those seeds I had had problems with before.

*C.aurea*- soaked in hot water for 1 week, then sown as previously. No germination to date, but still in the pot.

*C.tenuifolia*- soaked in hot water for 1 week, then sown as previously. April 87 two seedlings appeared and have survived winter. I will take seedling cuttings as soon as possible.

*C.glutinosa*- no water treatment, sown as previously. 50% germination. 30 seedlings potted on. Seedling cuttings taken Feb 87. Only two successful and both looking sickly.

*C.brachyphylla*- no water treatment, sown as previously. Very low germination rate. 2 seedlings Dec 86. 2 seedling cuttings taken both successful. Also seedlings still growing well.

I am getting ready to have another go at seedlings in W.R.sand in a capillary bed.

Cuttings:- I am having no problems with *C.tetragona*, *alpestris*, *angulata*. They strike well, and are doing well in pots, and in the garden.

I am not sure what is the problem with the others. Maybe it's the humidity in the hotbed. Any suggestions?

Others I have tried:- *C.fraseri*, sp *Gurulmundi*, *strigosa*, *brachyphylla*, *leschenaultii*, and sp aff. *angulata*.

Grafting:- Something I want to try but haven't attempted yet. Maybe this spring.

Slide collection:- Thanks to Dot Brown, and my husband this is going well. Lyn Craven helped identify some of our slides and has promised some others.

I wish you all much success with your *Calytrix* projects. If I can help in any way please let me know. I will send back numbers of newsletters if you would like them.

Keep writing.

Gwyn Clarke.