

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants
EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 55

May 1995

This newsletter will be a little thin due to very little correspondence over the past few months.

I do, however, have some news to pass on to you.

Firstly, subscriptions are due by the end of June 1995. In order that you know of your current status I have decided to place a red sticker on the front of the newsletter to indicate that you are now due to pay. If no such sticker appears, you can assume that you are financial for at least another year. If you wish to do so you may pay for more than one year at a time, it is doubtful that we will be increasing rates, since we are financially quite buoyant, thanks to the sale of our Eremophila Booklet; which, by the way, is still available at \$6 per copy plus \$2.75 posted anywhere in Australia. In addition the minimal costs involved in the printing of the newsletter due to the generosity of the Botanic Garden and State Herbarium have also contributed.

I had a phone call from Jim Thomson a few days back asking about the display for 1995 at Rouse Hill, New South Wales. Jim and his wife Wilma were responsible for the corresponding show display last year. I am very grateful to them for offering to repeat the performance for us this year. Thank you [to you] both for your continued support of the Study Group in such a tangible manner.

It is some time since a list of eremophilas has been published in the newsletter for the use of members. Several requests have been made by Study Group Members for an update. It is to be included in this issue. Quite a number of new species have been discovered since the last list was published, and quite a few have not as yet been officially published. We have simply listed the species, with a reference number. Many of these names you will not recognise.

Also included in this issue is a return census slip which we ask that you ALL RETURN as soon as possible, regardless of the number of plants that you have in cultivation. Previous requests for information about the plants held in cultivation by members has brought limited response, but I must acknowledge with thanks those of you who did take the time to let us know of you collections. More details of this census further on in the newsletter.

I hope to see a number of you at the next ASGAP Conference, to be held in Ballarat, 23–29 September 1995. A few more details will appear under the Conference heading below.

Colin Jennings

MEMBERSHIP – PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Concern has been expressed by the ASGAP executive regarding the membership of non-SGAP members in Study Groups. One of the requirements is that our members are also to be members of an SGAP group.

It is of particular concern where groups hold meetings, tours, trips, excursions, workshops or public meetings and the consequential liability should an accident or injury occur.

I understand that the majority of our members are also members of a SGAP group. I think that all who have joined since I have been leader of the Study Group have indicated in their request to join that they are already members of a SGAP group, but I am not sure of the status of those of you who joined prior to my taking over the reins. If you are NOT a member of a SGAP group would you please let me know.

It is not the intention of ASGAP to upset or stifle the valuable contribution made by non-SGAP members with qualified expertise. SGAP will offer such people honorary membership.

More details relating to this matter are included in a letter received from the Study Group Coordinator, Helen Morrow, early in March this year.

Although our group does not get involved in too many functions, it is important to be fully covered in the event when we do hold a workshop or make a visit in any capacity as a member of the Study Group.

Colin Jennings

ASGAP CONFERENCE – 1995 – BALLARAT

For anyone who has not yet made arrangements to attend the Conference, or has not received any information about the Conference then I suggest that you contact:

ASGAP 18th Biennial Seminar
17 Craig Court
HEATHMONT Victoria 3135

I am sure that a copy of the information booklet and registration form will be sent to you.

There are a number of pre- and post-conference tours available in addition to the quite comprehensive set of seminars that can be attended.

I, along with other Study Group Leaders, will be attending the Study Group Leaders' Conference/Workshop on 23 September.

There is also a Study Group display time set down for Tuesday 26 September. We will be displaying some of our wares at this time. We have also been advised that a Traders' Night will be conducted at the same time. I am not sure what we can offer in this regard, but if any growers have any ideas and might have material for sale, would you please let me know and I can assess what we will do in this regard.

Colin Jennings

***EREMOPHILA* PLANT CENSUS**

To simplify the return, all you have to do is circle the number corresponding with the species number on the list of *eremophilas*.

Write your name in the space provided.

Return this information to me at the address shown at the end of the newsletter.

The reason for asking for this information is to try to get some indication of what species are presently in cultivation, and where they are being held. In recent times many new species have come into cultivation and cuttings have been distributed to growers through many sources. We would hate to lose track of introduced species, particularly when many of them are rare in cultivation and possibly unobtainable from wild sources again. We need to protect what we have and the more who have the plants growing in a range of conditions the better. After all, one of the charters as members of study groups is to increase the knowledge of the genus and to assist in the dissemination of both information and plant material wherever possible.

If you have 'E' numbers with any of your plants, DO NOT lose track of this number; it does have some 'hidden' meaning and refers to the collections details. Transfer it to any new labels you might write for your plants.

Colin Jennings

FROM YOUR LETTERS

Cynthia & Ted Beasley (formerly Shepparton Victoria, now ACT)

They advise that they have moved to Watson in the ACT. (I have their address if anyone wishes to renew contact).

Still growing their eremophilas in pots, and hoping to be able to establish their garden in the near future, but a little unsure as to how their plants will survive the ACT winters.

(Ed. We have several Study Group Members in the ACT, and from their correspondence from time to time appear to be doing very well with their plants.)

Lyndal Thorburn (Queanbeyan, New South Wales)

Just over the border from the ACT, Lyndal has written to say that they have had a lot of success with their plants in the previous twelve months. Particularly this has been the case with eremophilas imported from the Inland Nursery in Alice Springs. All plants survived their rather bad winter – only 15 mm of rain from June to August, instead of the usual 150 mm.

During the winter small insectivorous birds were scrounging for aphids on the plants. The *E. longifolia* was very badly infested, but since spring the honeyeaters have dominated, with the Eastern Spinebill favouring *E. calorhabdos* and *E. alternifolia*, whilst the Noisy Friarbird has been seen wrestling with the *E. pterocarpa*.

Lyndal has also sent in a very comprehensive listing of her collection of eremophilas, together with flowering times, tolerance to their local conditions etc. Very interesting reading and would be useful to others in the same area. I am sure that Lyndal will not mind if I make it available to others who might like a copy.

Noel Gane (Panania, New South Wales)

Notes that towards the end of February that he still has eremophilas flowering and looking great, and does not recall having a better display.

Eremophila maculata var. *brevifolia* attracted lots of attention and also had a second flowering.

A dwarf, warty form of *E. alternifolia* which is quite a few years old is improving with age, although it has proven difficult to propagate. Noel has been experimenting with a different mix for the cuttings; a very coarse 3 mm quartz, a small amount of peat moss plus river sand.

Two hybrids, *E. bignoniiflora* × *E. polyclada*, which has grown to approximately 2 m × 2 m, and *E. divaricata* × *E. polyclada*, which was still flowering in February, have done very well.

Another pruning carried out at the end of February, followed by the 'Patons' and manure treatment do the trick. By the way, Noel does not use pesticides, fungicides or herbicides, but occasionally applies Aquasol to struck cuttings which are put into his compost mix which gives a pH of 6.5.

Brother Howard (Tabulam, New South Wales)

(Unfortunately the batch of cuttings which I sent to him last year took so long to reach their destination, per Australia Post, that they were in most cases dead or near to. Colin).

The eremophilas have flowered well, with *E. calorhabdos* being spectacular for about ten weeks, whilst several forms of *E. glabra* and *E. maculata* flowered profusely, as did *E. decipiens*. Even the small plants of *E. teretifolia*, *E. weldii*, *E. complanata* and *E. racemosa* flowered well.

They had a large number of visitors for a 'Carols by Candlelight' on Christmas Eve, and many of them were impressed by the eremophilas. Some of the people from Tenterfield are, as a result of what they saw, going to give the eremophilas a try in their own gardens.

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