

GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

OCTOBER 1980

As you may know, you now have a new leader. I want you to know that I am not an expert nor a botanist. Any requests for service should bear this in mind. Nonetheless, I hope to be able to organise some worthwhile activities for the 'keenies' and get more of our lesser known grevilleas into cultivation. It was interesting to read your correspondence which Merv Hodge handed over on the weekend of Sept. 21/22. We spent a most rewarding weekend together. Merv wishes me to express his regrets about the study group falling into neglect, which he readily admits was his own fault.. However, he is not superman and his commitments to the Horticultural Guide, a publication which I commend to you, have, by their unforeseen workload, prevented him from doing the necessary work involved. I was somewhat stunned to see that we have some 100 names on the books. Some of you are growing large numbers of grevilleas. Two from Victoria would have over 100 different species each. Another active grower comes from Toowoomba with close to this number. Out of the 250 odd species described, we are only growing 130 of them between us. Let us seek to improve that.

CORRESPONDENCE: My address is 138 Fowler Road, ILLAWONG 2234. This is 16 miles from the centre of Sydney so if anyone is passing through or you live nearby, please call me on (02) 543 2242 and arrange to come over.

AIMS: Initially, all we can hope to achieve is to increase the number of species in cultivation, report on them and hopefully advise other growers as to their suitability for a particular area. As we are not geared to proper scientific research, we shall leave that to the experts. However, much intuitive knowledge and experience can be gleaned from our expert growers and I am seeking to tap this kind of knowledge. I would add that it is no less valid from our point of view than properly conducted scientific research. It is just arrived at in a more haphazard manner.

RECORDING: Many of you have responded to the first newsletter published by Merv and have forwarded a list of species you wish to record. For the moment I want all intending ACTIVE members to forward a list of the plants they wish to record. From there I will be sending you assignments to do with the plants you are growing. In your own records, I want you to record in some way the following facts:-

1. Whether SEED or CUTTING grown.
2. Planting date.
3. Flowering period.
4. Age of plant at initial flowering.
5. Month of seed release.
6. Soil type.
7. Full sun, Part sun, Morning sun, Afternoon sun or Full shade.
8. Any special treatment for cultivation (e.g. grown on mounds).
9. Obvious pest or disease problems.
10. Date of plant death.

* Additional notes on RECORDING:- see Page 3.

Grevillea alpina. Many of our grevilleas are extremely variable in form. I would be interested to know of someone who would be willing to research the variability of *Grev. alpina*. We need only have a layman's description of the variations and the locality from which they come at this stage. Any volunteers? Similarly with *Grev. ilicifolia*.

ARBORETUM: Peter Althofer is, as always, willing and ready to grow the plants in Burrendong Arboretum. If you can forward him any material or live plants, please do so. In this way the material will continually become available to us from a central source. For instance, in a recent conversation with Peter, he indicated he would like to grow all the forms of *Grev. ilicifolia* side by side to see how variable it really is. Any volunteers? This applies in some measure to most species of course. I think it would be worth while recording any variations of species endemic to your area. Off you go, ACTIVE members. Don't bother with minute variations however as I think this could go on endlessly. Please forward any results to me.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION: We need to acquire a good photographic record of all species and forms of grevillea with a view to publication. Good quality photos please. If you have two of the same plant, could you spare one for the study group? Don't forget to include the name of the plant and where it is growing, whether in cultivation or in the wild.

SEED COLLECTION: Now is the time to think about collecting seed. Many of my grevilleas have green pods which are ripening now and should be ready to collect within a few weeks. We have virtually no seed in the seed bank. Please forward seed so that we can begin to grow those hard to get species. I have found the best way to collect seed is to place a section of pantyhose (make sure they're old ones before you cut them up fellas) over the green capsules and tie them onto the branch with a twist tie. When the seed has ripened and the pod opened, just snip off the branch at the tie. You can then undo the twist tie at your leisure. Please ensure you place some naphthalene flakes in with the seeds to discourage any stray bugs. Merv had some problems with bugs in the seed he received last year, mainly from yours truly. At any rate, if you have a better method of collection, let us know. When forwarding seed please let us know if it is from your garden or the wild and the date of collection. You are probably aware that grevilleas readily hybridise and that we cannot guarantee the purity of garden seed. Nonetheless when you have nothing, you must begin somewhere.

SEED BANK: I intend to make a charge of 50cents per packet of seed to passive members to enable them to assist finances. In some cases it will be necessary for me to purchase seed commercially. Seed will be free to ACTIVE members except when it has been purchased.

LIST OF CURRENT SEED IN STOCK: *Grevillea* Burra Range hybrid, *G. triloba*, *G. banksii* (white), *G. longifolia*, *G. sp.* Coochin Hills, *G. longistyla*.

CUTTING EXCHANGE: I intend to allow active members to participate in a cutting exchange or live plant exchange. Initially, it will be assumed that the plant lists forwarded will also be a catalogue for reference to cutting material. All requests for cuttings or live plants must come through me. I will forward the requests on with the next newsletter to the person nearest or best able to assist. Naturally, those with the largest plant lists will receive the largest number of requests in the beginning but I don't intend to plague people with requests just because they are the only ones growing it. If you don't have enough material on the plant please annotate your list to indicate that the plant is not available for

dispensing material from. Naturally, all expenses are to be met by the receiver. If you are prepared to offer struck cuttings for sale to members, please let me know so that I can make a list in the newsletter for members to write direct. Struck cuttings can be exchanged by washing the sand from around the roots and packing with moist peat moss. The whole package is then wrapped in damp newspaper, placed in a plastic bag and sealed. The plant can then be posted in a carton. Maybe some others have had some experiences in this and would let us know a better way in which it could be organised.

Merv Hodge writes that he finds cuttings keep better in a plastic bag with no water added. He feels that the water added aids break-down - particularly if there is any lush growth or the weather is hot. In my opinion, cutting exchange would not work properly in Summer and should be restricted to Spring and Autumn.

CULTIVATION: If you are growing successfully a species which is regarded as difficult, rare, unusual or a long way from their natural environment, please let me know. If you have had success with mounds, what materials did you use? How high was the mound? What watering techniques, fertiliser techniques or other techniques did you use which materially assisted the good growth of the species in your opinion. Was the plant a success? The extremes of climate and soil type will generally govern which species will be successful in any district. For a plant to be really successful, it should do more than just survive. It should be a good example of the species both in flowering and growth habit. It will be interesting to find the useful lifespan of each species in the garden and the conditions in which they were grown. Sometimes light pruning is beneficial whereas heavy pruning of old plants may result in their death.

HYBRIDS: At this stage I do not intend to record hybrids. Please don't forward them on your lists. In the future, we will look at the success of various hybrids in the garden and their use as stock plants for grafting.

CORRECT SPELLING: You will see from the enclosed list of grevilleas that many of you are spelling the name incorrectly or are using the name for a plant that no longer exists or indeed never existed. Some common errors are:-

Grevillea hookeriana	should be	<u>G. hookerana</u>
Grevillea endlicheriana	" "	<u>G. endlicherana</u>
Grevillea punicea	" "	<u>G. speciosa</u> (result of a name change)
Grevillea sp aff decora	" "	<u>G. glossadenia</u>
Grev sp Carrington Falls	" "	<u>G. rivularis</u>
Grevillea rankinsii	" "	<u>G. glabella</u> . There is no such species as G. rakinsii. Some have confused this as it grows near Rankins Falls.
Grevillea asplenifolia	" "	<u>G. aspleniifolia</u>

* **RECORDING:** We will require information on propagation too. ACTIVE members should record for CUTTINGS or SEED.

Date of setting cutting/seed.

Date of strike/germination.

Propagating medium.

Time of setting cuttings.

Any special technique.

Type of cutting material used.

GREVILLEA LIST.

NOTE: The genus is currently being revised and this list should only be used as a guide. If your favourite plant is missing, it means that it has not yet been described botanically or your plant does not exist.

- acanthifolia A. Cunn.
 ssp. acanthifolia N.S.W. - higher parts of Blue Mountains.
 ssp. stenomera (Benth.) McGillivray NSW - Nthn Tablelands
 (Ebor area)
- acerosa F. Muell. WA - Wongan Hills - Salt River area.
acrobotrya Meisn. WA - Jurien Bay - Moora area.
acuaria Benth. WA - Coolgardie area.
aqrifolia R.Br. WA - Kimberly area; NT - Victoria River
 Arnham Land Gulf.
 QLD - Gulf area.
- albiflora C.T. White QLD - Warrego dist. (East of Cunnamu 11a)
alpestris Meisn. V - Grampians (? = G. alpina)
alpina Lindl. ACT; NSW - Southern, V - Eastern
sp.aff. alpina Lindl. ACT
amplexans Benth. WA - Geraldton area & Northern dists.
anethifolia R.Br. NSW - Griffith area & Peel's Range.
angulata R.Br. WA - Kimberley area; NT Vic River.
annulifera F. Muell. WA - lower Murchison R. area.
apiciloba F. Muell. WA - bet Merriden & Southern Cross.
aquifolium Lindl. V - Grampians & Wimmera district.
arenaria R.Br. NSW - Coast, T'lands & Western slopes.
 var. canescens R.Br. (Benth) NSW - Tablelands
- argyrophylla Meisn. WA - Dongarra, Kalbarri, Murchison R.
arida C.A. Gardner WA - Widgiemooltha
armigera Meisn. WA - Between Wubin & Dowerin
asparagoides Meisn. WA - Salt River & Phillips Range area.
aspera R.Br. SA - Eyre Peninsula; WA - King Georges
 Sound to E. Mt. Barren.
aspleniifolia Knight NSW - Central Coast, Central &
 Southern Tablelands.
- asteriscosa Diels WA - between Kulin & Bruce Rock
 near Stirlings.
- australis R.Br. Tas, NSW, V, ACT (High Ranges)
 var australis
 var brevifolia Hook.f. Tas - Western Mountains, V - Bogong,
 NSW
 var erecta Hook.f. Tas - Lake St Clair.
 var linearifolia Hook.f. Tas - East coast near Swanport,
 N. Esk River.
 var montana Hook.f. Tas - Western Tiers.
 var planifolia Hook f. Tas - Lowlands between Launceston
 & Devonport
 var subulata Hook.f. Tas - S. Esk River.
 var tenuifolia (F.Br) Meisn. Tas - River Nile c.7000'

MORE NEXT TIME.

Please direct all correspondence to:-

Peter Olde
 138 Fowler Road,
 ILLAWONG N.S.W. 2234