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Hello Everyone,

Spring is nearly upon us and the time to set seed again. At the beginning of the year John Colwill, Senior Lecturer at VCAH Burnley, gave a very interesting talk on propagation to the Victoria Region monthly meeting. To get almost a 100% germination of hakeashe recommended soaking the seed for 12 hours in a medium strength solution of permanganate of potash (Condy's Crystals before sowing. He also recommended dipping cuttings in a 3% solution of White King before putting in sterilised propagating sand and peat moss (3/1). He did not recommend the bog method of seed raising for hakeas or proteaceae in general.

Melaleuca Study Group N/L No. 16 suggests taking a clean container without holes in it, such as an icecream container, and placing three layers of damp tissue paper in it, place the seed on top, cover the container and keeping the paper moist at all times, put in a warm dark place. When the radicals appear, prick out into propagating tubes, keep in a shady place until hardened off.

The seed suppliers Thompson & Morgan, advise: it is a good idea to sterilise (actually pasteurise) the mix to minimise the danger of any "damping-off" disease or other harmful organisms. Fill a baking dish with moist mix (not wet), seal in an oven bag and place in an oven set for 83°C (180°F). Once the temperature is reached leave for 30 minutes. Do not overheat.

GRAFTING has become very popular with several members, particularly using H. salicifolia or nodosa as stock. Grafting is the general term for the operation of placing a small portion of one plant (bud or scion) into or on a stem, root or branch of another (the stock) in such a way that a union is formed and both parts continue to grow as one complete plant.

The ability of two plants to continue to grow as one, when grafted, depends on both physiological and environmental factors. Thus, if you hope in the future to grow grafted hakeas, you should ensure you choose a stock which is suited to your garden conditions.

The main points relating to establishing a good graft union include:
- Use of a sharp knife
- A high standard of cleanliness around the plants and work area, i.e. no dead material.
- The closest fit possible between stock and scion. The cambium layers must meet tightly on one side at least.
- Proper care of plants following grafting.
- Compatibility.

All the grass-leafed hakeas are very successful grafted on to H. salicifolia (multilineata, bucculenta, coriacea, minyma, francisiana). Evidence shows that grafted hakeas are very strong and can withstand strong winds as mature plants. Doug. McKenzie of Ocean Grove has been grafting at the dicotyledon stage which needs very steady hands and very good eyesight, but most people wait till the true leaves appear and there seems to be nothing to prevent grafting at any stage , however both plants used should be at a similar age. I will be glad to hear of your successes with species that are normally difficult to raise in your garden. Doug. McKenzie gave me a H. suberea grafted on to H. salicifolia which is about 4 years old, very healthy but only about .2m high. It has a mallee appearance and no doubt would be taller if all that energy was channelled into one trunk.

A SIMPLE GRAFT

PUBLIC LIBRARIES HAVE BOOKS ON ORCHARD MANAGEMENT SHOWING SEVERAL STYLES OF GRAFTING.

Just before the devastating rains fell in Sydney, I had a visit from John East who lives at Mt. Kuringai. His garden has excellent drainage but is largely on a steep incline and with heavy rain shrubs and trees tend to fall over. The only thing I could suggest was to plant the hakeas when they were small surrounded by a cairn of stones in order to make the shrubs develop strong rooting systems. In the Lismore (N.S.W.) area the same problem arises so if anyone has suggestions for overcoming this, I would be glad to receive them.

Jeff Barr of Balaklava S.A. reports that in his dry area he has found that by using a dripper line he has very successfully established young hakeas on his property. After the first summer the line is removed and then they are on their own unless it is exceptionally dry.

Les Payne via Sorell, Tas., reports growing a healthy H. ednieana from seed collected just west of Innamincka in 1982. He comments that it is very slow growing, this is probably due to the overall colder climate but it is a very well-shaped tree and we will be interested in its progress. He also mentions he has many predators in his garden: wallabies, possums, rabbits and nephews, garlic spray works well to deter the animals, but has no effect on the nephews!

Chris Settle of Churchill (Vic) reports on a H. laurina which is prostrate and has struck rather well from cuttings. It is felt that this could be due to the use of a new fungicidal solution named PREVICUR which increased the strike rate from 30% to 95%. Some cutting material would be available from Chris at 13 Firman Rd, Churchill 3842.

Late last year I saw a garden grown H. teretifolia, a prostrate form, it will be wonderful if we can find further species with this tendency, particularly for rock garden or very windy situations.

PROJECT HAKEAS In 1982 we started a project using the species H. francisiana, sericea and verrucosa. I have some of the results in with H. sericea being the last to flower but I would be glad to receive more information before drawing any firm conclusions.

REVISION OF HAKEA GENUS I believe the revision is going to be done by the S.A. State Herbarium and I am looking forward to their findings with both pleasure and caution. I have been shown some very attractive plants as yet undescribed but if too many changes in present names are made, our current literature will all be out of date. Several seed suppliers are still using superseded names and commercial nurseries will not be changing their labels for some time - let us hope it will be better not worse.

FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 1986.

Balance b/forward	40.75
Membership Fees	171.00
	211.75
Less postage, stationery 4.60	
seeds 29.15	33.75
Balance at 31/7/86	$ 178.00

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE - $3.00 per annum from 1/7/86 to 30/6/8.
Those of you who have already paid your subscription this year, please note that you are covered till 30th June 1987.

WELCOME to all new members. My garden is gradually coming under control and I have been delighted to see H. obtusa out for the first time. The flowers were a pale pink but within two days had shaded to a deep pink. Both H. francisiana and H. coriacea are nearly out too. I have met some of you this year and hope to enjoy seeing more of you in coming months. Good gardening.

(Mrs..) .Hazel Blackney, 23 Devon Street Eaglemont 3084.

HAKEA STUDY GROUP

SEED BANK

The following seed is available for members on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Some species are in short supply.

Adnata	up to 3m., erect, needle foliage, white flowers.
Ambigua	1m, white flowers.
Amplexicaulis	About 2m, pinkish flowers, loing heavily-toothed leaves.
Arida	2-3m, terete foliage, white flowers.
Brooksiana	2m. terete foliage, white flowers.
Bucculenta	Up to 3m, red/pink spike flowers, narrow leaf form.
Chordophylla	Small tree of northern inland. Yellow flowers, long terete fol.
Cinerea	2m, yellow flowers in clusters, ashy foliage.
Commutata	3-4m, white flowers, terete foliage.
Coriacea	2-3m, spike flowers - cream/red, pink, etc., strap-like foliage.
Corymbosa	1-2.5m, greenish yellow flowers, narrow leaves with pungent point
Costata	1m. white flowers, short terete foliage.
Crassifolia	3m., rusty cream flowers, long narrow flat leaves.
Cristata	Up to 2.5m, clusters of cream flowers, flat holly foliage.
Cucullata	3m. erect large shrub, pink flowers, cupped light green foliage.
Cycloptera	Up to 1.5m, pink flowers, needle foliage.
Elliptica	4m. white flowers, flat leaves, excellent windbreak.
Epiglottis	Up to 2m, yellow flowers, terete foliage.
Erinacea	1-2m, erect shrub, cream flowers, divided foliage.
Eriantha	7m, tree, white flowers, flat foliage.
Ferruginea	1-2m, white flowers, small pointed heart shaped leaves.
Flabellifolia	.2m, yellowish flowers, fan-shaped leaves.
Florulenta	2m, white flowers, open erect shrub with flat leaves.
Francisiana	Up to 5m, pink spike flowers, flat narrow leaves.
Gibbosa	1-2m, white flowers, needle foliage pinkish when young.
Invaginata	1m. pinkish lilac flowers, terete sulcate foliage.
Laurina	Small tree or large shrub, pincushion flowers, weeping form.
Leucoptera	Up to 3m, cream flowers, open habit terete foliage.
Lissocarpha	1m spreading, white, pink flowers, divided foliage.
Meissnerana	1.5m, cream flowers, terete sulcate foliage.
Microcarpa	2m. cream flowers, terete leaves.
Minyma	2m., cream or pink loose short spikes of flowers, flat foliage.
Muellerana	2m. or large rounded shrub, white flowers, short terete leaves.
Multilineata	3-7m, pink flowers in spikes, flat leaves.
Nitida	1-3m, white flowers, spreading shrub with toothed leaves.
Petiolaris	Up to 5m, mauve/cream flowers, greyish rounded leaves, also low foliag
Platysperma	1-2m, yellowish flowers, terete foliage, cricket-ball fruit.
Propinqua	2-3m., white/cream flowers, terete foliage, attractive fruit.
Purpurea	1-2m. cerise or red flowers, divided foliage.
Pycnoneura	Up to 3m, mauve/cream pincushion flowers, narrow flat leaves.
Rostrata	2m. white flowers, terete foliage.
Rugosa	1m. white flowers, terete foliage.
Ruscifolia	1-2m. white flowers.
Salicifolia	Large shrub or small tree. Used for grafting.
Scoparia	2-3m., cream/mauve or pink pincushion flowers, terete sulcate foliage.
Smilacifolia	2m., white flowers, greyish small folded leaves.
Stenocarpa	1m., white flowers, narrow leaves.
Stenophylla	4-5m, gold flowers, long narrow leaves.
Strumosa	1-2m. red/yellow flowers, curved terete leaves.
Subsulcata	2-3m. pink flowers, terete sulcate foliage.
Suaveolens	2-3m. white flowers, divided foliage.
Suberea	Small tree from northern desert areas, cream fls. in large groups.
Sulcata	Up to 2m. creamy white flowers, sulcate foliage.
Teretifolia	2-3m. white flowers, terete foliage, dagger shaped fruit.
Trifurcata	2m. white flowers, divided foliage.
Ulicina	2-3m white flowers, mixture of flat and terete foliage.
Undulata	1-3m., cream flowers, obovate leaves wavy & prickly margins.
Varia	tall form, profuse white flowers, leaves terete,divided, various.
Verrucosa	Up to 2m. whitish flowers turn red quickly, terete leaves.
Victoria	Up to 4m., flowers cream, grown for its large stiff coloured fol.