

Association of Societies For Growing Australian Plants

*Thysanotas* And Related Genera Study Group Newsletter Number 5

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There have been a number of interesting developments in the last few months. Firstly, a commercial tissue culture laboratory has become interested in producing plantlets of *Thysanotus multiflorus*. Secondly, we have our first collection of seed from the field. Finally, the editor of the newsletter has moved to Sydney.

There are a number of tissue culture laboratories that have expressed general interest in developing *Thysanotus* for the nursery industry. As always, the problems have been of a technical and genetic kind. I think that the technical problems are less than first thought. Before I left Adelaide, I had managed to get seedlings of *T. tenellus* growing in tissue culture and had multiplied a few plants from the original seedlings. A commercial firm is now working from this beginning. I hope that they manage to get the plant growing in reasonable numbers with few problems. They may need to consider broadening their genetic base material some time in the future. However, for the moment things seem to be progressing satisfactorily.

Andrew received a telephone call from a member in the S.A. Riverland who had *T. tuberosum/baeuri* growing in their paddocks. I went for a drive

to look see and we have now some seed and some plants in pots.

The number of species and the number of collections of seed are growing slowly. At last count, there were some five species of *Thysanotus*, two species of *Dichopogon* and two of *Arthropodium* in pots, some of which have produced seed. On the subject of seed, the catalogue of seed from Nindethana (WA) has a few species of *Thysanotus* available, if you are interested. I have not yet bought any, but intend to soon.

Which brings me to my final point. I have just moved to Sydney and we dont yet have a home. I hope that we can afford a small backyard, as I want to try a few ideas on growing *Thysanotus* in pots and in small gardens. There may be some changes to the way we distribute the newsletter in the future. Just hang in there and bear with us. There are currently 23 members and the logistics of coping with them all means that we are going to become a little more efficient.

For the moment, happy gardening.

Peter.