



EPIFLORA

Volume 11 No. 2

June 2002

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income. The document provides a detailed list of items that should be tracked, such as inventory levels, customer orders, and supplier deliveries. It also outlines the procedures for recording these transactions, including the use of specific forms and the assignment of responsibilities to different staff members.

The second part of the document focuses on the analysis of the recorded data. It describes various methods for identifying trends and anomalies in the financial performance. This includes comparing current periods with previous ones, as well as analyzing the data by department or product line. The document also discusses the importance of regular reviews and the role of management in interpreting the results. It provides examples of how to use the data to make informed decisions about pricing, production, and marketing strategies.

The final part of the document addresses the reporting requirements and the communication of the findings. It details the format and content of the reports that should be generated, including the inclusion of charts and graphs to illustrate key points. It also discusses the frequency of reporting and the channels through which the information should be disseminated to the relevant stakeholders. The document concludes by emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability in the financial reporting process.



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From the President

Dear fellow epiphyte growers

Well why do you belong to our society? Why do you come to our meetings? What do you enjoy most? And what makes you groan and mutter inwardly "Oh no - not again - why did I come!"?

These are the sort of things your committee needs to know in order that they can organise the sort of programmes that you enjoy. Included with this issue of *Epiflora* is a sheet that asks questions like these. Please take a moment to answer the questions. Please do not put it to one side saying "They know what I like" - we don't really - that is why we are asking the questions.

Please bring the sheet to our next meeting on June 8th, or post it to our Secretary Mary Hardgrave. Many thanks for your help - it is only by getting all your views that we can be sure to plan the sort of programmes that you will enjoy.

Our winter is coming - so there will not be many flowers on either epis or hoyas - but there is still some work to be done (for a reminder of what you could be doing - read the item "Now is the time" later in this issue). This is also the time, however, to enjoy the flowers on your schlumbergeras - and to sit by a warm fire and read some of the books and journals from our library.

Remember summer is coming - and in early summer we are planning a weekend trip to Taranaki to visit Yvonne and Andrew Brunton - and several other places of interest. We will tell you more about this at the June meeting. We will soon be needing to make definite bookings - and will need to know who intends to come with us - so if you cannot come to the meeting - ring one of the committee in the week after the meeting to ask for more details

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Happy growing and kind regards

Roy Griffith

30th May 2002

The Programme for 2002

Meetings are at Johnsonville Union Church (Dr. Taylor Terrace) and start at 2.00 pm. Library books etc. are available at 1.30 pm.

Those on duty are responsible for preparing the room, assisting with tea and tidying the room at the end of the meeting and bringing a plant or other item for the raffle. If for any reason you are unable to do your allocated duty please arrange for someone else to do it.

June 8th	Questions and Answers on Epicacti <u>On Duty:</u> Virginia Stead, Keith Greer, Beryl McKellar
July 13th	Midwinter Function <u>On Duty:</u> Marion and Lewis Struthers, Anne Goble
August 10th	Disorders, Diseases and Pests <u>On Duty:</u> Alice and Rex Hannam, Aynsley Taylor.
September 14th	Photography
October 12th	Tissue Culture
November 9th	Visit to Collections
December 14th	AGM and Christmas Function

News about People.

Myra Tarr

It is with sadness that we report the recent death of Myra Tarr. Myra and Morris were two of the first members of our society and together did much to help the society become what it is today. We extend sincere condolences to Morris and his family.

Kaye Keighley

On a happier note it is good to see Kaye recovering so well from her recent operation.

Schlumbergera Workshop.

At our May meeting Virginia Stead and Leita Chrystall led a workshop on schlumbergeras. The reporter is Penny Luckens.

Virginia began her talk by remarking that schlumbergeras were her second love - after hoyas of course. Schlumbergeras are native to Brazil where they are now probably not common, but the plants we grow are hybrids, and not only hybrids formed by crossing species but also plants with two, three, four or more sets of chromosomes caused by treatment with various chemicals.

In nature the plants are pollinated by hummingbirds and the flower shape reflects this. The berries take thirteen months to ripen. When ripe they do not split open to release their seeds but need to be eaten.

Cuttings should be taken from June to September - after flowering (which is usually in April to June in New Zealand). Both the growing and propagating mixes should be well drained as otherwise fungal root rots can kill the plants. Flower colour is partly temperature dependant with white and yellow varieties going pink in low temperatures. They have low nutritional needs and Virginia gives hers slow release fertiliser twice a year.

The "butterfly" series was bred in Australia by Andrew Savio. He started in 1981 and released "Madame Butterfly" in 1989. This was a cross between "White Christmas" (a *Schlumbergera truncata* hybrid) and *Schlumbergera orssichiana*; and was followed by "Butterfly Magic" and "Butterfly Sunset". These varieties are usually the first to flower.

The frilled or fringed series includes "Savannah" (coral-orange) "Aspen" and the two unnamed plants at the back of Mark E Cobia's book "Zygocactus" - one being red with a white centre and the other white. There are also the "Charm" series and the "Fantasy" series but the same plants may be known by different names in USA and Australasia.

Originally the *S. truncata* hybrids had stem segments that were deeply clawed ("crab cactus") while *S. russelliana* hybrids had smoother and smaller segments. Today this distinction has gone.

Flowering is controlled by the photo period and the temperature. A short day (less than 12 hours) is needed to trigger flowering at temperatures of 12-15°C. Buds start to form ten to twenty days after the plant has experienced twelve hours of darkness (i.e. the shortening days and lengthening nights from mid-March). Full flowering is seven to eight weeks from bud initiation. Growers with controlled temperature and light regimes can produce plants for sale at Easter or Mother's Day.

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Newly formed buds may drop off if plants are moved suddenly to very different conditions or stressed by high temperatures, lack of air movement. Very low light levels or exposure to ethylene will also cause this effect. Usually fertilising is stopped a month or so before bud set.

Pests

Mealy bugs prefer new growth and flower buds. Root mealy bug is treated with "Lawn Guard" (diazanon prills) Plants grown outside may be eaten by slugs, snails or wetas.

Virginia repots only when necessary and often restarts plants from cuttings rather than repotting. The upright plants are supposed to be pruned, while the hanging varieties are usually left unpruned. If plants drop branches in hot weather Virginia removes the bottom segment of the "branch" before re-rooting the rest.



Virginia then handed over to Leita who said she wanted to start with what was in the soil. Her preferred mix was of bark, potting mix and perlite or vermiculite. The Tradescants¹ were known to make their own fertilisers - and so does Leita. Those she brought along were:

Eggshells - soaked in water. Add two tablespoons of this brew to a large jug of water. This is particularly good for ferns

Sheep droppings - from the paddock, soaked in water. Dilute to a very weak tea colour.

¹ John the Elder 1570-1638 and John the Younger 1608-1662 were both gardeners and botanists. They are credited with introducing hundreds of plants into Britain from Russia, America and the Balearic Islands. The collections of the elder Tradescant included a stuffed dodo and formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. An inventory of his garden plants (*Plantarum in Horta* 1634) is in Magdalen College, Oxford.

The spiderwort *Tradescantia* is named after him. John the younger made three major collecting trips to Virginia in 1637, 1642 and 1654 and published *Musaeum Tradescantium* (1656). This was the first catalogue from a public museum to be printed and published in England. It is a list of all plants from Virginia and Barbados introduced to Lambeth by the Tradescants, as well as birds, shells, insects, minerals, fruits, instruments, coins and other items. Three generations of the family are buried in the churchyard of St Mary-at-Lambeth - now the Museum of Garden History.

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Stinging nettle - soak in water for two weeks and dilute until a very weak tea colour.

Yarrow - soaked in water. You may notice that when sheep go into a paddock the first things they eat are yarrow and dandelion.

Each brew is given to the plants separately for a week or so - while the next brew is in production.

Charcoal in 10 cent sized pieces is added to the potting mix to sweeten it. The plant roots tend to go to the charcoal. It is particularly useful when over-potting plants (putting them into pots that are on the large size for the size of the plant).

Thrips love blue - so to trap them use vaseline (or petroleum jelly) smeared on blue plastic ice cream container lids. Whitefly love yellow so vaseline on yellow plastic or card will trap them.

Leita is happy to be given presents of fertilisers such as Osmocote - and uses what she has available.

Some of the *Schlumbergera* varieties she grows are:

Gold Fantasy, Butterfly Sunset, Cadiz, Hatherton Charm, Orange Fantasy, Rebecca, Murray, Sonata, Stephanie, Rita, Marie and Dark Marie, Just Peachy, Coral Cascade, Rocket, Pasadena, Santa Cruz, Xmas Cheer and Sunburst Fantasy.

For propagation she tends to lie the pieces on wet compost, so they can root from the nodes with less chance of rotting.

In subsequent discussion Merv mentioned that you can cross some varieties and get viable seed. Andrew observed that *Schlumbergera truncata* was nearly extinct in habitat in Esperito Santa at 23° south, but a large seed-bearing population had been found in 1999 at Domingos Martens 20° south in Brazil.

Named cuttings (with flowers) brought in by Leita were quickly snapped up by eager members.



Hoyas..

At our March meeting Jane Griffith talked on Hoyas, Merv Keighley reports ..

Hoyas are members of the Asclepiadaceae family, to which ceropogias, stapelias, huernias, carallumas and even the common swan plant belong. There are about 250 genera in the family, and 2000 species, depending on which expert you listen to.

Characteristics of Asclepiadaceae:

- they occur in temperate regions of the world – mainly from the tropics and sub-tropics
- they are mostly vines, scrambling plants, dangling plants, herbs and rarely trees or shrubs
- most of them have a milky sap – *H. carnososa* has a clear sap
- their leaves are simple and nearly always opposite, or whorled – exception is *H. imbricata* (means overlapping) where one leaf aborts
- their flowers are bisexual (consisting of both male and female parts)
- their flower parts are in 5's except for 2 pistils – 5 fused petals (the corolla). In the flower central area are 5 fleshy parts (the corona) overlying the anthers which contain pockets holding the male parts (the pollen). Pollen is not powdery as in most plants, but paste-like (similar to orchids)
- they have distinct ovaries
- the fruit is a follicle (a dry fruit derived from a single carpel, opening on one side only to release its seed)
- their seeds usually have a tuft of hair at one end

Hoyas are found from Sri Lanka through India, the Himalayas to Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, New Guinea and

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many Pacific Islands. New hoyas are being discovered regularly as previously botanically unexplored regions are visited. The New Age botanical explorers are generally knowledgeable regarding conservation and take cuttings or collect seed rather than uproot a whole plant, as used to be the norm.

Winter Care

Take care with watering when temperatures drop. In two months watering should cease – or water sparingly over winter. Use tepid water and give little – as in dew dripping from trees

Some plants are multi-flowering ie. more than one crop of flowers eg. *H.diptera*, *H.fungii*, *H.multiflora*, *H.tsangii*

Propagation

This is generally by cuttings, which root quite readily.

Some growers sit the cutting in water – roots appear after a time. Cuttings in pumice on a heat pad root quickly. If seed is available germination is rapid if fresh. Growth is reasonably slow.

Pests

Mealy bug is the main pest. A systemic spray is the best treatment (Orthene). Treat twice a year in late spring and early autumn, with 2 treatments within a fortnight. Spray the whole plant or water the pot. Wipe with white oil to clean leaves.

Good growing.

Travels of a Tillandsia Grower.

At our April meeting Andrew Flower came to show slides and tell us about his whirlwind trip to Uruguay and north-west Argentina in November 2001. Mary Hardgrave reports.

Andrew's wife, Lisa, was off to attend an international Dermatology conference in Montevideo so Andrew decided he wasn't going to be left at home to watch his plants grow. Not only had he never been to South America, but this was where his beloved Tillandsias grow in their native habitat. This was definitely an opportunity not to be missed. Three months before departure Lisa was given the task of mastering the Spanish language while Andrew attended to booking arrangements and checking out what photographic equipment might be required. He finally settled on a totally manually operated camera with a 120 mm lens - just as well his subjects couldn't take flight!



Mid South America - including Argentina and Uruguay

From their hotel room in Montevideo they could look out onto the bay where, in 1941, the German pocket-battleship Graf Spee lay at anchor while her captain considered his options. Rather than be taken by the British battle fleet he decided to scuttle his ship in the bay.

Montevideo was quite primitive - compared to some other cities. Rubbish was still collected, mainly at night, by horse and cart. There seemed to be a noticeable absence of people so the streets seemed quite empty.

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Tillandsia Zecheri (growing on a cactus near Quilmes in the high Andean Desert)



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Rhipsalis Habitat - in lower mesic forest on the Eastern foothills of the Andes, Northwest of Salta.



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With Lisa's conference over they went to pick up the mid-size rental car they had ordered. It turned out to be more the size of a Fiat Bambina. They set off with some trepidation. As they had only three days available - they would have to cover some five hundred miles per day. Near Tucuman they passed through the Andalgalá mesic forest which was home to many epiphytic bromeliads, aechmeas and ferns. It was a very typical forested landscape. On reaching the top of the pass (which proved to be about four times higher than the Rimutakas) the landscape changed totally. It seemed like being in another world. They had reached a very arid moon-like plateau some 900 m. above sea level where there were cacti as tall as telegraph poles. Only these old gnarled cacti - some over 60 years old - had tillandsias growing on them. They saw *T. seckeri* and *T. popiseckia*.



They arrived, very tired, about 6.30 at Cachi where they had accommodation in a bed and breakfast establishment. There was no-one there, but they could walk right in. Eventually, at about 9.30 pm, someone arrived. To pass the time they had made friends with some vicunas² that seemed to be part of the establishment. Andrew showed us a picture of the ceiling - it was made of slatted, dried cactus stems.

Down a ravine in this desert moonscape Andrew collected some Puya seed (*P. Deuteroconia* or *P. berteroni*?). This seed resembled dust. At the meeting he showed a punnet of the germinated seed. Andrew noted that some Americans fly DC3's down to this area, and fill them with desert collected plants which is a sacrilege - as well as being illegal. They are obviously too impatient to grow their own plants from seed.

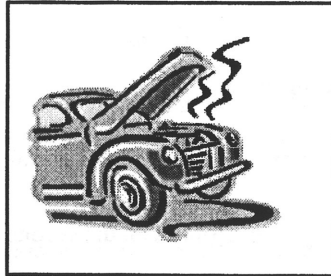
North from Salta they encountered lots of horses, and lots of lichen in the trees - sometimes four or five different species in one tree. They also saw rhipsalis in trees. Near Jujuy (pronounced HuHui) there are wet and dry belts. Round Tilcara, in southern Bolivia, the landscape is most unusual with barren rocky hills and green valleys. The altitude was now 4250 metres and abromeitiellas (cushion plants) can be found on the ground. These can spread up to 20 metres across. They also saw a number of bromeliads and *T. bryoides* - which is moss-like. Andrew has been growing such bromeliads, mostly from seed, for some 35 years which he thoroughly enjoys.

² Members of the alpaca family

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And yes - the little Bambina did give up the ghost - it couldn't handle the high altitude. However Lisa's command of the Spanish language ensured they didn't have to spend the rest of their lives on the slopes of the Andes.

Photographs by Andrew Flower



Now is the time.....

Epicacti - *prune and repot if necessary.*

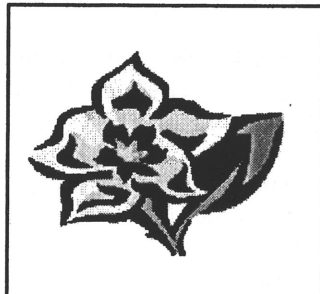
Hoyas - *best not to water unless the plants look really dry and then only give a small amount of water on a fine day.*

Schlumbergeras - *enjoy the flowers and water sparingly*

Rhipsalis - *water very sparingly..*

Aporophyllums - *infrequent water. Prune lightly - and repot with care (mind the spines).*

Ceropegias - *lay off the water unless the plant looks very dehydrated. Then give a small amount of water in the morning on a fine day.*



Help our Society to GROW...

- Bring along a friend to the next meeting.
- Introduce a Neighbour to Hoyas or Epis, then bring them along to meet the group.
- Plant a seed in conversation, "pop in and join us on the second Saturday of each month."
- Distant members are always welcome
-

Odd Cuttings and Seeds

A New Book in our library...

*Anne Goble writes*A new book in the library is a pictorial guide of "The World of Hoyas" by Dale Kloppenburg. We already hold a copy of his publication "Hoya Basics" which is the companion to our new purchase.

Dale Kloppenburg has studied and collected hoya species in their native habitats for 60 years. His writings are easily understood by amateurs and appreciated by specialists.

The Table of Contents in this book is set out more clearly than in "The Hoya Handbook" which he wrote with Ann Wayman, leading the reader quickly to any particular subject or species.

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Each species is allocated a full page of text alongside a full page photograph of its leaves in black and white with an inset of the flowers in colour.

The book is a real asset to our library and I recommend each of you borrow it for a month.

Choose Chemicals carefully....

A number of people have commented that chemicals like Orthene can damage plants. The problem is actually not the Orthene, it is the solvent used to make the

liquid form! Many small quantity containers of pesticides contain EC's (emulsifiable concentrates). Most pesticides are not water soluble so are dissolved in organic solvents called variously "aromatic distillates", "BTX's" or "benzene, toluene and xylene" and who knows what else. BTX's kill many succulents!!

Orthene is water soluble, but you can't buy a water solution. The shelf life of water solutions is only a few hours. To use Orthene, buy the SP(soluble powder) form and make it up into a liquid, with water, yourself.

And a watering hint.....

If you have left too long a time since last watering - or for some other reason you are trying to wet the root ball thoroughly, use tepid water and use a teaspoon to a tablespoon of dish soap. The soap acts as a wetting agent and the tepid water is just warm enough to help it dampen the soil without hurting the plants.

Paradise

As a footnote to the article on Andrew's travels to South America - here is a brief note picked up on an internet discussion group..

"Friends,

Epiflora

We present to you a vision of Paradise.

The cacti and the bromeliads of Brazil, and part of the nature that they exist in. Along with some words about the need to preserve their habitats.

Take a look. - www.cactos.com.br

If you like, speak to us and show our site to all your friends. Thank you..”

Where do Rhipsalis come from

Another note from a discussion group...

With regards to what cacti is endemic to Africa I should have said Rhipsalis, which is found both in the New World, US (Florida), Caribbean south through Brazil and the Old World: tropical Africa eastward through the western Indian Ocean to Sri Lanka. There is some considerable discussion about where the genus arose: Old or New World with some leaning toward New World origination and bird dispersal to the Old World. An interesting site is rhipsalis.com and, in particular, the reproduction of a paper³ on the subject at <http://www.rhipsalis.com/framepage3.htm>.

Back Numbers of “Epiflora”

The first edition of Epiflora appeared in March 1992. We have limited stocks of back-numbers for most issues from Volume 2 - issue number 1 (March 1993) onwards. Prices are 50c per copy plus postage (if applicable) - contact the Editor ..

³ This is the Paper Dr Phil Maxwell wrote for the New Zealand Cactus and Succulent Society some while ago - isn't it amazing where things turn up!!

Finally - remember summer will come back ...

In the English newspaper The Guardian there was, a little while ago, an article that started:

Stop stumbling about - evenings out doors should twinkle and glow ...

The writer went on to discuss ways of arranging lighting and providing music to help you enjoy long pleasant summer evenings out of doors. Finally - to complete the experience - they turned their attention to perfume:

Some plants are true night owls, saving their scent for you to enjoy when you get back from work. Here's my top 10.

Tobacco plant (*Nicotiana sylvestris*) Biennial or short-lived perennial with long, trumpet-shaped, white flowers.

Night-scented stock (*Matthiola longipetala subsp. bicornis*) Open blooms of pink, mauve and purple, pouring out a spicy fragrance at night.

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) You may have noticed that honeysuckle is most sweetly scented as the sun goes down.

Datura or Angels' trumpets (*Brugmansia aurea* and *B. * candida*) With night-scented white or soft yellow blooms up to 30cm long, this is the ultimate performer. It is frost tender, so needs overwintering inside.

Moonflower (*Ipomea alba*) Perennial usually grown as an annual, its big, trumpet-shaped, white flowers unfurl slowly each night at sunset. During the day, the 15cm blooms close and retreat back into the foliage.

Evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) A tall, hairy biennial producing bowl-shaped, large yellow blooms fading to dark gold. The flowers open each evening and remain open until dawn.

Wax plant (*Hoya carnosa*) Though strictly a houseplant, this succulent climber is so bizarre, it has to be included in my list: strange, dense bundles of fleshy, white flowers release their scent after darkness falls. Move it to the window in the evening, so the scent catches the night breeze.

Perfumed fairy lily (*Chlidanthus fragrans*) Unusual bulb, resembling a small amaryllis. Although it opens its clear yellow flowers during the day, its fragrance is best at night. Best lifted in the autumn and overwintered.

Four o'clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*) As the name suggests, in mid-afternoon this bushy perennial's red, pink, magenta, white or yellow blooms unfurl to release a rich, jasmine-like perfume. Each bloom is dead by morning, but is soon replaced by another.

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Sword lily (*Gladiolus tristis*) Opens its funnel-shaped, creamy yellow blossoms in the evening.

Greenhouse for Sale

We have an 3.7 metre by 2.5 metre greenhouse for sale - for further details please ring (04) 9041954.

Future Publication Dates..

EPIFLORA is published quarterly by the Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.

Comments and contributions are most welcome. The society aims to encourage discussion and debate; opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the society. It is the policy of the society to publish corrections of fact but not to comment on matters of opinion expressed in other publications. All material in Epiflora may be reprinted by non-profit organisations provided that proper credit is given to WEHS, Epiflora and the author.

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<i>Members -</i>	<i>\$12.00</i>
<i>(overseas members</i>	<i>\$NZ24.00 or \$US12.00)</i>
<i>Additional Associate Members -</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>
<i>(At same address as a member)</i>	

Society web address:

Find us on the web at : www.anwyl.com/epihoya

