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STAGHORNS and ELKHORNS

Please turn to page 189 for information on the cultivation of these exceptional plants.—Editor.

WILDFLOWERS FOR HORTICULTURE

Editor

Are the wildflowers of Australia suitable for horticulture? Without a doubt there are hundreds of plants that would compete with the best of the world's flora in beauty and presentation. What are the factors that have limited their wider use in garden display?

Propagation of the Best Forms of Australian Plants!

Many are not easy to propagate in commercial quantities and this applies especially to the reliable propagation of good forms. This is one area where the society with the scientist and the horticultural trade has still much to do and record. See the excellent articles on pages 176 and 178.

Reliable Cultivation of the Best Forms of Australian Plants!

Here is the major problem. It would seem we know so little; or rather we have recorded a lot over the twenty years of this periodical, but we are still no nearer the production of a guide to the reliable cultivation of the best forms. Articles by field observers and persistent cultivators are needed and this is the reason for the prominence given to Les Norton's article opposite. *Verticordia* have not proved reliable in cultivation but their horticultural potential is enormous. Will readers please contribute notes on their experiences, or grow and report on these beautiful plants.

The Best Forms of Australian Plants!

It is vital that we propagate from and cultivate the best forms. This Society instigated the formation of the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority with the objective of properly recording the best garden plants evolved from the Australian Flora. I personally agree with the comments of Merv Roberts, page 175. The development of horticultural plants from the best forms of true species would appear to me to offer the greatest promise. For instance *Banksia canei* 'Celia Rosser' is a selection of a plant by Alf Salkin which could be a most attractive rockery or tub plant. The selections by Bill Molyneux of good forms of species and registered in this issue as *Austraflo* cultivars is a trend in the trade to be encouraged and supported.

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COVER PLATE:

Platyserium superbum

The cultivation of this staghorn and other species of *Platyserium* is presented on pages 189 and 190.

Verticordia

As I See Them by Les Norton

Introduction by the Editor

I was fortunate enough to have a chat with Les Norton and enjoy a stroll in his garden. He is most anxious to share his methods of propagation and cultivation based on many years of experience. His fondest memories are of many years ago when he was fortunate enough to accompany the late Charles Gardner on an occasional field trip.

The following article is based upon notes prepared during 20 years of careful observation of the plants in the wild and cultivation in his garden, and Les Norton offers them to you with full apology for his limited botanical competence (which in practical terms is really quite extensive), but loaded with practical knowledge gained as an inveterate "bushie" and old-time "sand groper". He is now a keen propagator and gardener.

Propagation the Les Norton Way

Les does not have any secret methods. They are so practical, yet productive, that I felt the reader may like to share what I saw. Les refers to his methods, but they are so obviously commonsense to him that he has not considered it necessary to give precise details.

All his propagation is done in the open with protection from shrubs. His cuttings get morning and evening sun, shade during the day, but not heavy shade, protection from persistent draughts and wind, but very free, even breezy, air circulation.

His seed is in a sand bed 10 cm deep sitting on top of the ground. The seed is sown in rows just as you would sow lettuce or poppies.

His cuttings are in about 15 cm containers or pots set in a coarse sand recovered from a clean sunbleached rain-water gully or drain. Unlike most other successful propagators I know, he prefers heel cuttings. These are 10-15 cm long and are placed in the cutting medium at a 45 degree angle. He acknowledges that he often gets rooting from other nodes (places where a leaf has been removed) that are below soil level and feels his angular planting could be a factor.

His plants are all quite vigorous in a raised sand garden. He does not "poison" them with fertilizer, but mulches heavily with *Casuarina* needles.

Verticordia — Those Magnificent Flowering Plants of the West

To me the most beautiful flowering plant is a *Verticordia*. These magnificent plants are found only in Western Australia; on the sand heath plains of the Darling Escarpment, in the unique floral areas of the south west, and upwards with even a few in the tropical north west. If I can encourage a more determined effort to study cultivation needs and reliable propagation techniques before it is too late, before my beloved *Verticordia* are exterminated, I will be infinitely rewarded.

Survival in the Wild!

Consider the hazards of survival of new plants in their natural habitat. The genus has evolved to contend with the problems of nature itself. Droughts after an early germination, disease, pests of insect nature, fires, animals trampling and eating, and flooding are some of the hazards facing the uphill fight of nature. But! Can these plants survive the onslaught of civilisation for long with roads and tracks being made through virgin bush, the devastation of bulldozers, and especially stock, the increased frequency of fire and the introduction of weeds and pests.

There is a vital need to re-establish plants of all species in secure colonies before it is too late.





Verticordia chrysantha

Photography by J. Glass

The Golden *Verticordia*

There are a number of species of yellow flowered *Verticordia* similar to *Verticordia chrysantha* above. Another, *Verticordia grandiflora*, is featured in colour on page 181 where its characteristic change in colour to red of the flowers as they die, is hinted at. Other yellow flowered species are *V. acerosa* where the flowers are a pale yellow with an orange centre, *V. chrysostachys* which is a tall growing species with numerous flowers of deep yellow, *V. helichrysantha* where the yellow flowers are distinguished by their very long styles (they may be distinguished from *V. huganil* and *V. humilis* with their prominent styles as these very similar species are an orange coloured bronze). *V. leptodophlla* also a tall growing plant but with minute foliage and small lime/yellow flowers in spikes, *V. preissii* with large yellow flowers on a small bush with linear foliage, *V. nitens* which is a narrow erect shrub with beautiful large heads of orange blossom and *V. serrata* with heads of golden blooms of a very small size on a sparsely foliaged bush, very similar to *V. nitens* but with longer stamens.

Verticordia monadelpha (plant and flowers opposite)

Photography by Brian Grafters

Excellent photographs of a beautiful shrub. I may have had even better photographs but these are from a plant growing in a garden proving that cultivation of these magnificent shrubs is possible. These shrubs are a real challenge to a gardener. The best chance for a break through is by propagation from plants growing in gardens. Who will nurture the world's horticultural *Verticordia*? —Editor.

Shires should train their personnel to identify these precious and rare plants and take evasive action to prevent their destruction wherever possible. Also, the ignorance of the public in general of our fortunate position in having these beautiful plants should be borne to them wherever possible, especially migrants and new Australians; so they in turn can convey their interest and knowledge to conservation and its aspects. What a terrible sight to go along a road in several shires where previously *Verticordia densiflora*, *V. huegeli*, *V. chrysantha* and Xmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) flourished among other beauties like *Hypocalymma robustum* and *H. angustifolium*, *Hovea trisperma* and the Paws, *Anigozanthos viridis* and *A. manglesii* abounded, to see it all dozed flat, the entire verge to stock fences, etc. Just plain ignorance or deliberate devastation to thousands of acres of natural flora, whereas half could have been saved. And then the shire has the audacity to put up a sign in the next street or lot against picking a flower, or removal of a bit of soil. It makes one wonder!

Notes on Propagation

Nature's way of sowing seed takes advantage of the structure of the feathered petals. These are distributed by the wind, which is very strong at times on these plains, and flowers in their dry condition can be wind-borne over long distances. Wherever they fall or are obstructed they will lie and eventually be pinned down by sand or refuse and the calyx covered sufficiently for the seed to germinate when the autumn rain comes. Hence a new area is propagated. How can we achieve this artificially? Our first problem is getting good seed. One has to remember that owing to man's intrusion with his animals, machinery, burning, etc., the whole natural environment of these plants has been altered. The usual pollinators in the form of bird or insect have in many cases been depleted. Hence a large quantity of certain varieties of *Verticordia* are not being fertilized in their normal manner, and a lot of seed may be necessary in the hope that a few percent have managed to be fertilized.

In an attempt to copy nature I sow seed in a sand bed on the ground in my garden. Success is very variable. With difficult seed I have tried fire treatment. This is done by layering liberal quantities of seed on a sand bed and covering it with 3 mm of sand. Next cover sand with another layer 5 cm thick, consisting of straw, *Casuarina* needles, etc. This is then fired and later the area is lightly sprayed with water. If this procedure is carried out correctly it will assist in the germination of the seed.

Propagation by cuttings has been more successful and reliable. I use node or heel or tip cuttings for propagation. The following points are to be remembered. The location of the cutting or seed beds? Do not attempt to strike cuttings under glass or in hot-houses, as high humidity is usually fatal to them. They require a dry atmosphere as found on dry sand plains, etc., for the greater part of the year. The cuttings should be of modest size, say 10-12 cm long, set in well drained sandy mediums with free air circulation (note: not draughty position) for best results.

Continued on page 179 where Les Norton gives notes on cultivation and descriptions of the species as seen by a genuine "sand propper".

Editor's Note: This interruption of articles and continuing them in back pages of the issue is unfortunate but necessary. Colour plates may be placed on only certain pages, principally near the front of the issue. It is essential that some of the new cultivars to be described be supported by colour plates. All cultivar descriptions should have an accompanying colour plate for adequate presentation but suitable colour slides are not available. Some of the cultivars to be described here have been developed and formally registered for their general landscaping value and a colour photograph of a flower would give a quite unimpressive picture of the real value of the plant. A photograph of such an established plant usually fails to present the impact of the plant with no detail showing up, and the surrounding scene is lost. You will just have to accept the descriptions, purchase a plant and see how it enhances your garden.

The Austriflora cultivars from page 167 are excellent examples, plants resulting from selection and trials by one of Australia's leading horticulturalists, Bill Molyneux.

National Botanic Gardens cultivars such as *Grevillea obtusiflora* 'Little Thicket', and *Kunzea* 'Badja Carpet' are impressive character plants that defy the camera, so go to the gardens to see them for yourself.

Australian Plant Cultivars

An official release by the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority.

The following cultivars using plants from the Australian Flora have been registered in accordance with international rules. The *Grevillea* 'Poorinda' cultivars originated by Mr. Leo Hodge are continued, previous registrations being published in Australian Plants Vol. No. 73. Other cultivars formally registered follow.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA ADORNING'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Adorning' is said to be a seedling resulting from a form of *Grevillea juniperina* from New South Wales.

Description:

It is a low spreading shrub growing to a height of about 1 m.

The pungent leaves are long and narrow and about 25 mm long by 2-3 mm wide. The upper surface is shiny green, whilst the underside is covered with dense silky hairs.

The very woolly flowers are formed into dense clusters and are produced terminally on short side laterals. The perianth is bright pink and about 16 mm long, and the styles are about 25 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from most forms of *Grevillea juniperina*, as it has bright pink flowers instead of the usual for the species of red, orange or yellow flowers.

Colour Coding:

Perianth and Style: red-orange 52A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 66. Cultivar received by the Authority: November 1968. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA ANNETTE'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Annette' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea juniperina* and a small flowered form of *Grevillea alpina*. (Colour pl. 75:293.)

Description:

It is a compact shrub growing to a height of 1 m by about 75 cm wide.

The leaves are entire, finely pointed and 15-20 mm long by about 3 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is rough while the underside is covered with dense silky hairs. The leaf edges are rolled to the underside.

The flowers are formed into terminal clusters. The 5 mm long perianths are apricot in colour while the deep pink styles are about 10 mm long. This hybrid is said to be sterile.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Grevillea juniperina* in its broader and less hairy leaves and less pointed leaf tips. It is different from *Grevillea alpina* in its more pointed and less hairy leaves. Also the perianths and styles are longer than those usually seen in *Grevillea alpina*.

Colour Coding:

Perianth: Yellow-orange 20c. Style: Red 51 B.

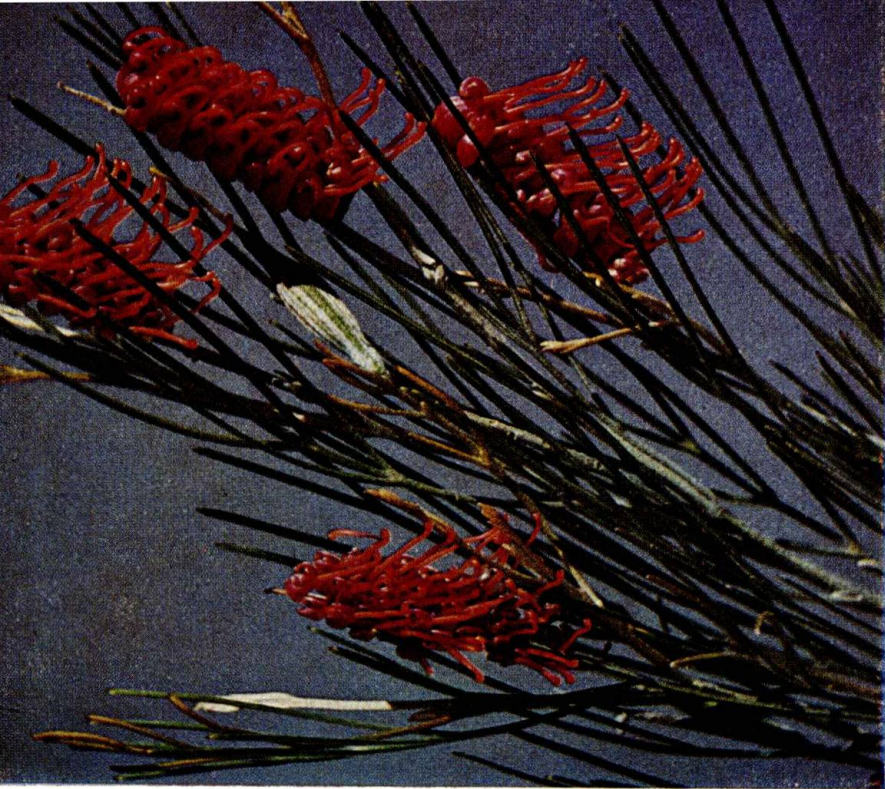
Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 67. Cultivar first received by the Authority: November, 1968. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

Descriptions continued on page 158.

FOOTNOTE BY THE EDITOR: With this formal publication of registered cultivars it is not possible to include additional information on the plants, many of which are worthy of further descriptive advice on appearance and application. Readers are invited to submit short articles on plants worthy of wider cultivation.





The *Grevillea hookerana* 'Poorinda . . .' Cultivars . . .

Grevillea hookerana, the magnificent plant illustrated above, has provided many fine cultivars. The species itself is quite variable and many forms could become separate species eventually. It is a reliable plant in cultivation lending itself to development of good horticultural forms as well as for hybridization.

A comment on the above colour plate by R. D. Royce, then Curator of the Western Australian Herbarium, was: "The plant shown is not really typical but must be called *Grevillea hookerana* at this time. The flowers above are obviously glabrous whereas those of *G. hookerana* are hirsute flowers."

Leo Hodge advises that the form of *Grevillea hookerana* that he used to develop his cultivars differed from that illustrated above, the leaf divisions being somewhat shorter than those shown above.

Leo Hodge advises that there were only three uncrossed seedlings of *Grevillea hookerana* that he retained for horticultural development, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie', *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini' and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' all described in this issue and mentioned below. Others were seedlings of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' as mentioned below.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' — top left

Photograph by P. Tully.

As mentioned in the description on page 158, and as shown opposite, this plant differs considerably from the parent *Grevillea hookerana*. The flower colour shown is a little redder than it should be, the yellow styles prompting the name "Blondie". Other seedlings of *Grevillea hookerana* selected for horticulture and described in this issue are *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini' which is a smaller compact plant than its parent being similar to it in other respects except that in this case the flower styles (bristles of the toothbrush), are pink; and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' where the fine grey hairs on the upper leaf surface give the plant a silvery sheen.

Seedlings of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' are *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah', which has fewer lobes in the leaves and pink styles, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Enchantment' which has more lobes on the leaves than its parent and mauve styles, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Regina' and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Miriam', the latter two not being described or registered here.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Vivacity' (left) *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Stephen' (right) in the colour plate at bottom of the opposite page).

These cultivars are hybrids between *Grevillea speciosa* (the red spider flower of the Sydney region) and *Grevillea oleoides* also a reliable and showy plant in the garden. As described on page 166 a feature of these plants is their small stature, delightful shrubs to one metre high. In *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Stephen' the red flowers are borne in leaf axils along short branchlets whereas with *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Vivacity' the flowers are formed into clusters and borne on the ends of branchlets as well as from leaf axils.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA BEULAH'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Beulah' is said to be a seedling resulting from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'.

Description:

It is a dense shrub growing to a height of about 1.5 m by 2 m wide.

The leaves are often up to 100 mm long and are usually lobed. The width of the leaves at their widest is about 30 mm. New growth is an attractive bronze colour, whilst the upper surface of the older leaves is dark shiny green. The underside is covered with dense silky hairs.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne terminally on short branches. Occasionally flowers are produced on the stem opposite a leaf. The perianth is smoky-pink with a prominent style which graduates to yellow at the tip. Flowers are 10 mm long and styles 25 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its stated parent in leaf shape and colour of style. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah' has an average of three lobes per leaf compared with an average of 14 for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'. The perianth colour of both cultivars is the same, however the styles vary from pink in *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah' to yellow in *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: greyed-purple 187D. Outer perianth tube: near greyed-purple 186 C. Style red 49A. Limb: greyed-orange 172 B and C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, 75. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA BLONDIE'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' is said to be a seedling resulting from *Grevillea hookerana*. See page 156 for a colour plate.

Description:

It is a large shrub growing to a height of about 4 m by 5 m wide.

The leaves are long and narrow and very deeply lobed. Each lobe is pungent. The average number of lobes per leaf on the specimen examined is 14. The leaves are about 120 mm long and up to 40 mm wide across the lobes. Occasionally entire leaves are produced. New foliage exhibits an attractive bronze colour whilst the older foliage is dark green on the upper surface and grey on the underside with a covering of silky hairs.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne terminally on short branchlets. The perianth is about 8 mm long and is covered with dense hairs. The prominent yellow styles are about 20 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its stated parent in leaf shape and colour of styles. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' has wider, about 4 mm, and shorter, about 10 mm, lobes than *Grevillea hookerana*, which had on the specimen examined lobes 2 mm wide and up to 40 mm long. This cultivar has yellow styles compared with red for *Grevillea hookerana*. See page 157.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' is different from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah' in number of lobes per leaf and colour of styles. This cultivar has an average of 14 lobes per leaf, compared with an average of three for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah', and has yellow styles compared with pink for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Beulah'. The perianth colour is the same.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: greyed-purple 187D. Outer perianth tube: near greyed-purple 186C. Style: near yellow-orange 21C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 80. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA DIADEM'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Diadem' is a seedling selection from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Leane'. (See page 236 of No. 73 issue.)

Description:

It is an upright shrub reaching a height of 2-3 m. Colour plate, page 161.

The entire leaves are about 30 mm long, about 8 mm wide and end in a fine point. The upper leaf surface is shiny green while the underside is grey being covered with short silky hairs. Colour plate on page 161.

The flowers are formed into clusters and are borne in the leaf axils. The perianths are buff-apricot, up to 18 mm long, the yellow styles 24 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Leane' in size of plant, leaf size and flower colour. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Diadem' is not as tall nor does it spread as wide as *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Leane'. The leaves are shorter but wider, about 30 mm long by 8 mm wide compared with 40 mm long by 4 mm wide. The flower colour is less orange and the styles are yellow compared with red for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Leane'.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb; greyed-orange 165D. Style: yellow-orange 23C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 83. Cultivar received by the Authority: 4th November, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA EMBLEM'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Emblem' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea caleyi* and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Peter'.

Description:

It is a large shrub growing to a height of about 3-4 m by the same width.

The leaves are very deeply lobed and are about 250 mm long and about 80 mm wide across the lobes. Individual lobes are pungent and about 7 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is dark shiny green, whilst the underside is covered with dense silky hairs. The leaves arch downwards and tend to twist to one side. The new foliage is very densely covered with copper-coloured hairs.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne terminally on short branches and occasionally on the main stem opposite a leaf. The perianth is purple-red and about 12 mm long, and the styles, also purple-red, are about 30 mm long.

Diagnosis:

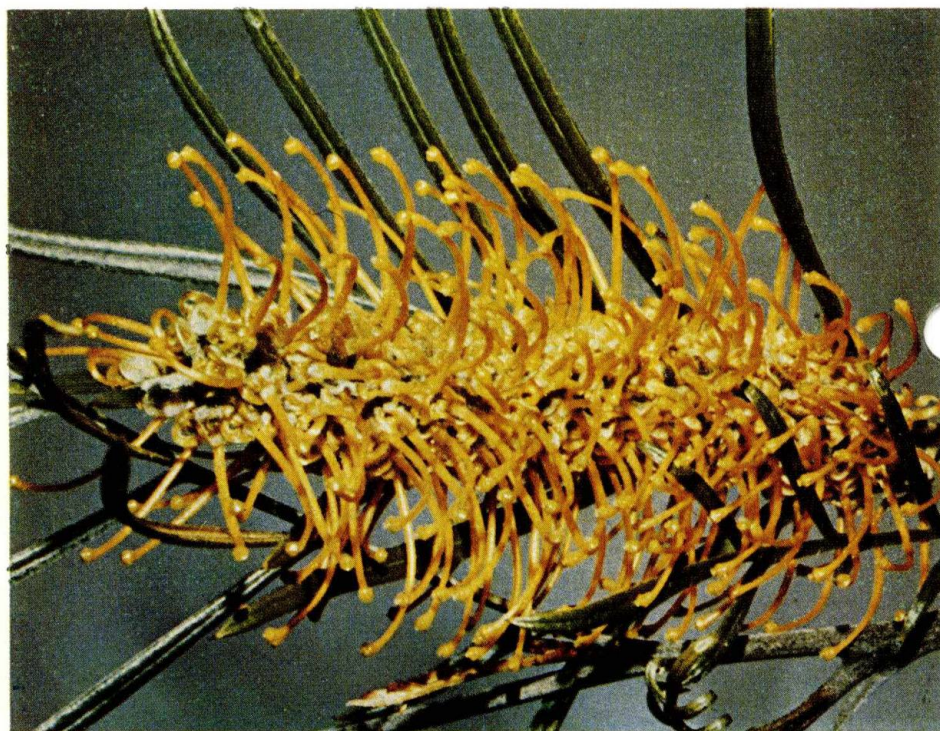
Grevillea 'Poorinda Emblem' is different from *Grevillea caleyi* in its leaf shape and less hairy foliage and stems. The leaf lobes are more pointed than those of *Grevillea caleyi*. Flower colour is not significantly different. It differs from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Peter' in flower colour. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Emblem' has a dark red perianth, while *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Peter' has a dark purple perianth.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: greyed-purple 187A. Outer perianth tube: near greyed-purple 186D. Style: greyed-purple 187D.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 77. Cultivar received by the Authority: 8th September 1974. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.





***Grevillea* 'Poorinda Diadem'** (above)

This is a seedling selection from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Leane' that was described in Issue No. 73 and illustrated in colour on page 236. This plant is smaller with shorter but wider leaves, the flowers being yellow with less orange tinting. See page 159.

***Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon'** (opposite)

Mr. David Gordon, who introduced the now famous plant *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' (illustrated in colour and formally published in Issue No. 59, dated June, 1974), now presents this fine plant. The parents are the robust *Grevillea sessilis* and that magnificent plant from Queensland, *Grevillea pteridifolia* as illustrated on the rear cover.

Grevillea pteridifolia would be one of the finest of the many magnificent *Grevillea* of which Australia may be very proud. The bush is graceful, upright with slender often silvery leaves; not dominating a landscape but lending grace and character. The yellow flowers are thrust out in large plumes of colour demanding admiration and respect. To have crossed this plant with the more hardy *Grevillea sessilis* is genius that even nature has recognised and *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' could well rival *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' for a place at the peak of horticulture excellence.

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' is a bush very similar in form to *Grevillea pteridifolia* of Central Queensland but instead of having the flowers arranged in a head with the flowers on one side only like a hair brush as shown on the rear cover, the flower head is complete, bottle-brush-fashion, as shown opposite and as with the other parent, *Grevillea sessilis*.

With *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' there will inevitably be a range of plants and forms. We look to the nursery trade to develop the best and most reliable form and until then there could be some disappointments. Nurserymen, where are the plants you have developed as the best? — Editor.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA EMPRESS'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Empress' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea hookerana* and *Grevillea caleyl*.

Description:

It is a large compact shrub growing to a height of 3-4 m.

The leaves are extremely deeply lobed and about 120 mm long by about 55 mm wide across the lobes. Individual lobes, which are pungent, are narrow, being about 3 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is dark shiny green, whilst the underside is covered with dense silky hairs. The edges of the lobes are rolled under.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne terminally on branchlets and occasionally on the main stem opposite a leaf. The perianth is red to purple and 10-12 mm long, and the deep pink styles about 30 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its stated parents in width and shape of the leaf lobes. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Empress' has wider lobes than *Grevillea hookerana* but narrower lobes than *Grevillea caleyl*. It has pointed lobes resembling *Grevillea hookerana* but unlike *Grevillea caleyl* which has distinctly rounded lobes. See page 157.

The styles are the same colour as *Grevillea caleyl*, but darker than *Grevillea hookerana*.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: purple 79A. Style: red-purple 61A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, 85. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA ENCHANTMENT'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Enchantment' is said to be a seedling originating from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'. See page 158.

Description:

It is a tall and open shrub growing to a height of 4 m by 2-3 m wide.

The leaves are very deeply lobed and about 90 mm long by about 45 mm across the lobes. Individual lobes are pointed and narrow being 2-3 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is shiny dark green while the underside is covered in short silky hairs. The leaf edges are rolled under.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are produced terminally on short branches and occasionally on the main stem opposite a leaf. The perianth is pale pink to purple and about 8 mm long whilst the mauve styles are up to 25 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from its stated parent in its very much finer foliage and colour of styles. The number of lobes per leaf differs from about 22 for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Enchantment', compared with about 14 lobes per leaf for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'. The lobes are about half the width of those of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Enchantment' has the same coloured perianths as *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' however the colour of the styles is significantly different. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Enchantment' has mauve (which colour codes to a red-purple group) styles compared with rich yellow styles for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: red-purple 72A. Outer perianth tube: near greyed-purple 186C. Style: red-purple 73C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 78. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodga.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA GEMINI'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Gemini' is said to be a seedling of *Grevillea hookerana*. See page 157.

Description:

It is a small shrub growing to a height of about 1 m.

The leaves are deeply lobed and about 130 mm long by about 45 mm wide. Individual lobes are pointed, and narrow being about 3 mm wide. The upper surface is dark shiny green while the underside is covered with dense silky hairs.

The deep red flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are produced terminally on short branchlets and occasionally on the main stem opposite a leaf. The perianths are about 8 mm long and the pink styles are 20 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from its stated parent in size of plant. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini' grows to a height of about 1 m whereas *Grevillea hookerana* usually attains a height of approximately 2 m. The differences in leaf size and flower colour are not significant. It differs from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' which is also said to be a seedling selection of *Grevillea hookerana* in colour of styles. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini' has pink styles compared with red for *Grevillea hookerana*.

Colour Coding:

Inner perianth tube: greyed-purple 187B. Style: red 55A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 102. Cultivar received by the Authority: 9th September, 1976. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA HULA'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Hula' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea trinervis* and *Grevillea linearifolia*.

Description:

It is a small dense shrub growing to a height of about 1 m.

The pointed leaves are entire and 15-35 mm long by about 3 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is shiny green with 3 distinct veins while the underside is covered with silky hairs, particularly on new growth.

The flowers are produced in terminal clusters on short branchlets. The rich deep pink perianths are 7 mm long while the persistent styles are initially bright pink and between 12-14 mm long. They later turn green.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from *Grevillea trinervis* in flower size. The perianth is about half the length of that usually seen in *Grevillea trinervis*. It differs from *Grevillea linearifolia* in size of plant. *Grevillea linearifolia* usually grows to about 3 m in height compared with about 1 m for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Hula'.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: red-purple 67B. Style: red-purple 67B. Persistent style on developing capsule: red-purple 61B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 70. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA JEANIE'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Jeanie' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea alpina* and *Grevillea juniperina*.



***Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet'**

One of the parents of this hybrid, *Grevillea laurifolia* is widely cultivated as a ground cover, the deep green entire leaves of this prostrate plant providing a rich blanket to dress the ground especially in those exposed sunny parts of a garden that need a cloak of green. The deep red flowers are of the tooth-brush type.

Grevillea willisii belongs to the group of "holly-leaved" *Grevillea* found in Victoria near Omeo. It has a grey foliage and terminal flower heads of cream to white and is more fully described in our No. 73 issue, page 222.

Description of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Jeanie'

It is an upright shrub growing to a height of about 2 m.

The leaves are entire and 15-20 mm long by about 3-5 mm wide with slender points. The upper leaf surface is slightly hairy, particularly when young, while the underside is at all times densely hairy. The leaf edges are rolled under.

The flowers are formed into small clusters borne on short branchlets. The perianth is red and about 12 mm long while the style is the same colour but about 20 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Grevillea alpina* in having much less hairy leaves and stems. The leaves are also sharp pointed. The perianths and styles are larger and longer than those usually seen in *Grevillea alpina*.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Jeanie' differs from *Grevillea juniperina* in having wider and hairy leaves. The flowers are broader than those of *Grevillea juniperina*.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube: red 47B. Perianth limb: red 48D. Style: red 47B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 89. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA ROYAL CARPET'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Royal Carpet' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea laurifolia* and *Grevillea willisii*.

Description:

It is a prostrate plant with long stems spreading up to 6 m.

The leaves vary from entire to lobed and have pointed tips. The entire leaves are between 60-70 mm long by about 20 mm wide. The lobed leaves are about 80 mm long and about 25 mm wide across the lobes. The upper surface is smooth and dark green while the underside is grey with a dense covering of silky hairs.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne in the leaf axils. The 10 mm long perianths are maroon, while the prominent red styles are 25 mm long and have a yellow-green stigma.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from its stated parents in leaf shape and in comparison with *Grevillea willisii*, in flower colour. The leaves vary from *Grevillea laurifolia* in that some are lobed. The entire leaves are similar. The lobed leaves of this cultivar are very much less lobed than those of *Grevillea willisii*. Leaf colour is dark green compared with grey-green for *Grevillea willisii*. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet' has maroon flowers compared with cream for *Grevillea willisii*. Flower colour is not significantly different between *Grevillea laurifolia* and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet'.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: greyed-purple 187D. Style: red 53D.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 79. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA SILVER SHEEN'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' is said to be a seedling of *Grevillea hookerana*. See page 157.

Description:

It is an upright shrub to a height of 2-3 m with a spread to 2 m.

The leaves are deeply lobed and about 90 mm long by about 30 mm wide. Individual lobes which end in a small point are about 4 mm wide. The upper surface has fine grey hairs which give a silvery sheen, while the underside is grey being covered with dense silky hairs.

The flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are borne in the leaf axils. The deep red perianths are 5 mm long while the prominent light orange styles are 25 mm long.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from its stated parent in leaf shape and size and colour of style. The leaves are shorter, about 90 mm long, compared with about 130 mm for *Grevillea hookerana*. The styles are light orange in colour compared with red for *Grevillea hookerana*.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' is also a seedling selection from *Grevillea hookerana*. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' differs from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie' in flower and style colour. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' has deep red perianths compared with maroon for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'. The styles vary in colour from pale orange for this cultivar compared with yellow for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Blondie'.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Gemini' is another seedling selection from *Grevillea hookerana*. It differs from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Silver Sheen' in size of plant and style colour. This cultivar grows to a height of up to 3 m compared with only 1 m for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini' and it has pale orange styles compared with pink for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Gemini'.

Colour Coding:

Outer perianth tube and limb: near red 54C. Inner perianth tube and limb: red 53A. Style: near orange 29A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 103. Cultivar received by the Authority: 9th September, 1976. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA STEPHEN'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Stephen' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea speciosa* and *Grevillea oleoides*. See page 156 for a colour plate.

Description:

It is a small shrub growing to a height of about 1 m.

The narrow pointed leaves are entire and about 20 mm long and 3 mm wide. The upper surface is pale green with prominent veins while the underside is grey and covered with dense silky hairs.

The flowers are formed into clusters and borne in leaf axils along short branchlets. The deep pink perianths are about 14 mm long while the styles are about 25 mm long. The flowers are said to be sterile.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its parents in size of plant and when compared with *Grevillea oleoides* in leaf length and width. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Stephen' grows to a height of about 1 m compared with the usual heights of approximately 2 m for both parents. It differs from *Grevillea oleoides* in leaf size. This cultivar has leaves about 20 mm long by 3 mm wide compared with leaves 100 mm long by 7 mm wide.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube: red 52 between A and B. Perianth limb: brown 200C. Style: red 52A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 86. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October, 1975. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

GREVILLEA 'POORINDA VIVACITY'**Origin:**

Grevillea 'Poorinda Vivacity' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea speciosa* and a large leafed form of *Grevillea oleoides* from Hotham Heights in Victoria. See page 158 for a colour plate.

Description:

It is a small shrub growing to a height of 1 m with an equal spread.

The leaves are entire with a small point. Each leaf is about 30 mm long and about 8 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is grey-green and faintly hairy with prominent veins while the underside is grey being covered with dense silky hairs.

The flowers are formed into clusters and are borne terminally and in leaf axils. The perianths are deep rose in colour and up to 12 mm long. The red styles are up to 30 mm long. The flowers are said to be sterile.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar differs from its stated parents in habit and leaf shape. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Vivacity' does not grow as tall as *Grevillea oleoides*. It also has a denser habit. The leaves are larger and have more hairs on both sides than *Grevillea speciosa*, however they are not as long as those of the large leafed form of *Grevillea oleoides*.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: red 50A. Style: red 45B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 50. Cultivar received by the Authority: 7th April, 1964. Applicant: Mr. L. Hodge.

More Australian Cultivars

Including those from Austraflorea, Howies and The National Botanic Garden.

GREVILLEA 'AUSTRAFLOREA COPPER CREST'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Austraflorea Copper Crest' is said to be a spontaneous hybrid between *Grevillea aquifolium* and *Grevillea acanthifolia* which arose at "Austraflorea Nurseries" at Montrose, Victoria in 1975.

Description:

It is a dense mainly prostrate shrub reaching a width of 3-4 m but also tends to produce upward arching branches to a height of about 600 mm. These branches give an unusual saucer shape to the plant.

The leaves are deeply lobed and up to 90 mm long by about 40 mm wide. Individual lobes which are pointed, are up to 7 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is green with prominent veins while the underside is greyer with very prominent veins. A feature of the plant is that new growth is copper-coloured.

The flowers are soft pink and produce in the leaf axils. They appear throughout the year with the main flowering period in late spring to summer.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its stated parents in the copper to bronze leaf colouring.

Colour Coding:

Young leaves; near greyed-purple 187C. Older leaves; yellow-green 196A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 132. Cultivar received by the Authority: 31st August, 1977. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries Pty. Ltd. Description previously mentioned in "Your Garden" September, 1977.

Footnote:

It is reported that this cultivar is fast growing and will tolerate most soils. Will tolerate wetter soils than most grevilleas.

GREVILLEA 'AUSTRAFLOREA PENDANT CLUSTERS'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Austraflorea Pendant Clusters' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea chrysophaea* and *Grevillea baueri*. It occurred spontaneously at "Austraflorea Nurseries" at Montrose, Victoria in about 1973.

Description:

It is an open growing plant to a height of 2 m by 1.5 m wide.

The leaves are pointed, up to 35 mm long by up to 6 mm wide. The upper surface is green and somewhat rough to the touch while the underside is covered in dense silky hairs. The leaf edges are rolled under.

The flowers are grouped in pendant clusters. Individual flowers are yellow-cream and about 9 mm long while the deep red styles are about 20 mm long. The old flowers turn black. The plant often flowers throughout the year.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its stated parents in its pendant clusters. It is also taller than is usual for *Grevillea chrysophaea*. The older flowers turn black which is not the case with flowers of *Grevillea chrysophaea*. It is different from *Grevillea baueri* in flower colour. This cultivar has yellow flowers compared with red for *Grevillea baueri*.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: near yellow 9C. Perianth tube sometimes blushed with red-purple 59C. Old flowers: black 202A. Style: red-purple 59C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 133. Cultivar received by the Authority: 31st August, 1977. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries.

GREVILLEA 'AUSTRALFLORA FANFARE'

Origin:

Grevillea 'Australflora Fanfare' is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea* x *gaudichaudii* and *Grevillea longifolia*. The plant arose as a spontaneous seedling in the garden of Dr. Ann Warren of Warrandyte, Victoria.

Description:

It is a plant exhibiting a generally prostrate habit with a spread of 4.5 m.

The leaves are deeply lobed and up to 150 mm long by up to 45 mm wide across the lobes. Each lobe is about 10 mm wide and ends in a point. On the specimen examined there were up to 18 lobes per leaf. The leaves are dark green on the upper surface with a sparse covering of long silky hairs when young. These hairs are lost as the leaf matures, however the underside retains a dense covering of silky hairs much longer.

The dark flowers are of the "toothbrush" type and are produced in the leaf axils. Individual flowers are about 8 mm long while the dusty pink styles are about 25 mm long. The colour of the style is the dominant flower colour.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Grevillea longifolia* in habit and leaf shape. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' is generally prostrate compared with a height of up to 5 m for *Grevillea longifolia*. The leaves and lobes of *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' are wider than those of *Grevillea longifolia*. The leaves of *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' are 45 mm wide at the widest point compared with up to 20 mm wide for *Grevillea longifolia*. The width of individual lobes varies from 10 mm for *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' to 5 mm for *Grevillea longifolia*.

This cultivar is different from *Grevillea* x *gaudichaudii* in shape of leaf. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' has longer; 150 mm, and narrower; 45 mm wide leaves compared with leaves up to 85 mm long and up to 65 mm wide for *Grevillea* x *gaudichaudii*.

Two similar registered cultivars with lobed leaves and a prostrate habit are *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet' and *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' is different from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet' in leaf shape and style colour. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet' has both entire and lobed leaves. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' does not have entire leaves and they are also longer and wider than those of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet'. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' has dusty pink styles compared with deep pink styles for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Carpet'.

Grevillea 'Australflora Fanfare' is different from *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' in size of plant, leaf shape and style colour. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' has both entire and lobed leaves. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' does not have entire leaves. Its leaves are also longer and wider than those of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'. *Grevillea* 'Australflora Fanfare' has dusty pink styles compared with deep pink for *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: between brown 200D and greyed-orange 177A. Style: grey-purple 186B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 172. Cultivar received by the Authority: 2nd February, 1979. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries Pty. Ltd.

GREVILLEA OBTUSIFLORA 'LITTLE THICKET'

Origin:

Grevillea obtusiflora 'Little Thicket' is a naturally occurring form of the species from near Braidwood, N.S.W. This form was brought into cultivation at the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra in 1972.

Description:

Individual plants are 1 m high by about 1 m wide however dense thickets are formed due to the growth of neighbouring suckers. Tufts of new shoots appear above surface shoots up to 5 m from a main stem.

The leaves are green on the upper surface and silvery on the underside due to dense hairs. They are up to 18 mm long and 3 mm wide. The leaf edges are rolled under.

The pale yellow flowers which have a red tinge are 8 mm long while the yellow styles are 20 mm long. The flowers are produced in small terminal clusters. On occasions the flowers do not always form, but abort at an early stage.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from known naturally occurring forms of the species in its low suckering habit.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube: near yellow 4C blushed with red 47B. Perianth limb: red 47B. Style: near yellow 4B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 106. Cultivar received: 11th January, 1977. Applicant: National Botanic Gardens.

GREVILLEA 'SANDRA GORDON'

Origin:

This cultivar is said to be a hybrid between *Grevillea sessilis* and *G. pteridifolia*. It resulted as a spontaneous seedling about 10 years ago on Mr. David Gordon's property, 'Myall Park', at Glenmorgan, Queensland.

Description:

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' is described as being a very hardy and robust small tree producing yellow flowers in profusion over a long period.

Leaves are shiny green on the upper surface but densely covered with silvery hairs on the underside. Individual leaves are long, about 20 cm, very deeply lobed and fine in appearance. Each lobe is 1.5-4 mm wide. Occasionally the lobes are sub-divided into two. All the leaf edges are rolled under.

Flower heads are bright yellow, about 12 cm long by about 8 cm wide and are produced terminally. The very woolly perianth tube is about 8 mm long. The styles, which are the colourful parts of the inflorescence, are about 3 cm long. See page 160 for colour plate of plants and flowerhead.

Diagnosis:

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' can be distinguished from its parents in that the flower colour is lighter than that usually seen in *Grevillea pteridifolia* and a much richer colour than is usual in *Grevillea sessilis*. The foliage is intermediate between the two parents with perhaps a greater affinity to *Grevillea pteridifolia*.

Colour Coding:

Perianth tube and limb: near yellow-orange group 16D.; style: yellow-orange group 15A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, 114. Cultivar received by the authority: 15th September, 1976. Applicant: Mr. D. Gordon.

ACACIA AMBLYGONA 'AUSTRALFLORA WINTER GOLD'

Origin:

Acacia amblygona 'Australflora Winter Gold' is a seedling which arose spontaneously in a batch of normally upright *Acacia amblygona* seed sown about 1973 by Molynieux Nurseries Pty. Ltd., Montrose, Victoria.

Description:

This cultivar reaches a height of about 300 mm and spreads about 2 m.

The phyllodes taper to a sharp point from a broad base. They are up to 10 mm long by 4 mm wide. A number of prominent veins are visible.

The rich yellow flower clusters are borne on flower stalks 10 mm long. The "pom-pom" or globular flower head is about 5 mm in diameter.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from the known normal forms of the species in its prostrate habit. *Acacia amblygona* normally reaches a height of 1.5 m.

Colour Coding:

Filaments and anthers: yellow-orange 17C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 131. Cultivar received by the Authority: 31st August, 1977. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries Pty. Ltd.

ACACIA PRAVISSIMA 'GOLDEN CARPET'**Origin:**

Acacia praviissima 'Golden Carpet' is a chance seedling which arose in a batch of normal *Acacia praviissima* seedlings. The seedling was selected about 1969.

Description:

It is a prostrate plant that will reach a height of about 400 mm and attain a spread of about 6 m.

The phyllodes are triangular, being about 10 mm long by about 8 mm wide. The lower edge of each phyllode ends in a sharp point.

The yellow flowers are produced in profusion. Each globular head of flowers is 4 mm in diameter.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from the known normal forms of its parent in its completely prostrate habit. *Acacia praviissima* is normally a tall shrub or small tree.

Colour Coding:

Filaments and anthers: yellow 8A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 137. Cultivar received by the Authority: 7th September, 1977. Applicant: Mr. D. L. Jones.

BAECKEA VIRGATA 'HOWIE'S FEATHERTIPS'**Origin:**

Baeckea virgata 'Howie's Feathertips' is a seedling variant which arose spontaneously in a batch of seed of the Brisbane form of *Baeckea virgata*.

Description:

It is a small dense shrub growing to a height of about 500 mm by 1 m wide.

The leaves are up to 10 mm long by 1 mm wide.

The white flowers are grouped in small clusters towards the outer edges of the branchlets. Individual flowers are about 6 mm wide.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from the known normal forms of its parent in its lower height, fine foliage and weeping habit. In all other respects it is similar to its parent.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 147. Cultivar received by the Authority: 30th November, 1977. Applicants: S. & J. Howie.

BAECKEA VIRGATA 'HOWIE'S SWEET MIDGET'

Origin:

Baeckea virgata 'Howie's Sweet Midget' is a seedling variant which arose in a batch of seed of the Brisbane form of *Baeckea virgata*.

Description:

It is a small compact plant reaching a height of about 300 mm by about 600 mm wide.

The leaves are up to 10 mm long by 1.5 mm wide.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from other known forms of its parent in its compact dwarf habit. *Baeckea virgata* usually grows to a height of 3 m. It is different from *Baeckea virgata* 'Howie's Feathertips' because of its dwarf habit. *Baeckea virgata* 'Howie's Feathertips' grows to a height of about 500 mm, compared with about 300 mm for *Baeckea virgata* 'Howie's Sweet Midget'. In all other respects it is similar to its parent.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 150. Cultivar received by the Authority: 15th December, 1977. Applicant: S. & J. Howie.

BANKSIA CANEI 'CELIA ROSSER'

Origin:

Banksia canei 'Celia Rosser' was a chance seedling which arose in a batch of approximately 100 seeds which were extracted from a cone collected at the type locality of *Banksia canei* at Wulgulmerang in Victoria.

Description:

It is a low spreading plant with deeply lobed leaves.

The leaves are 60 mm long by 15 mm across the lobes. Both sides of the leaves are covered with long hairs when young, however as the leaves mature the hairs become less prominent on the upper surface. The hairs are retained on the lower surface giving a silvery appearance. On the lower surface the mid-vein is prominent and covered with brown hairs as are the younger stems. The yellow flowers are about 40 mm long and 30 mm wide.

Diagnosis:

Banksia canei 'Celia Rosser' is different from other known forms of *Banksia canei* in its deeply lobed leaves and prostrate habit. *Banksia canei* will reach a height of up to 2 m. See colour plate on page 188.

Colour Coding:

A fresh flowering specimen has not been sighted.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 153. Cultivar received by the Authority: 29th March, 1978. Applicant: Mr. A. Salkin.

CORREA 'BETT'S RED'

Origin:

Correa 'Bett's Red' is a spontaneous hybrid which has affinities with *Correa* 'Mannii' and red flowering form of *Correa reflexa*. The cultivar has been grown by Mr. W. Ogden of Frankston, Victoria, since about 1968.

Description:

It is a large open shrub growing to a height of about 1.5 m by about 2 m wide.

The leaves are up to 20 mm long by 10 mm wide. The upper surface is rough to the touch while the underside is rusty to light green in colour and covered with matted woolly hairs. The younger stems are also rough.

The deep pink flowers are tubular and 35 mm long. The colour is slightly paler at the tips. The tips of the floral tube are partially reflexed. The style and stamens protrude about 5 mm beyond the rim of the floral tube. It is reported to flower freely from March to October.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its assumed parents in size of plant, flower colour and roughness of leaves, stems and flowers. *Correa* 'Bett's Red', growing to a height of about 1.5 m, is larger than *Correa* 'Mannil' which usually grows up to 500 mm. *Correa* 'Bett's Red' has darker pink flowers than *Correa* 'Mannil' and the roughness of the leaves, stems and flowers of *Correa* 'Bett's Red' is much greater than that shown by *Correa* 'Mannil'.

Correa 'Bett's Red' is different from *Correa reflexa* in flower colour and shape of the floral tube. *Correa* 'Bett's Red' has deep pink flowers compared with red and/or green for *Correa reflexa*. The floral tube also does not reflex to the same extent usually seen in *Correa reflexa*.

Colour Coding:

Corolla or floral tube: red 53C to D. Corolla tips: near red 49A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 160. Cultivar received by the Authority: 5th October, 1978. Applicant: Mr. W. H. Ogden.

CROWEA EXALATA* 'AUSTRALFLORA GREEN CAPE'*Origin:**

Crowea exalata 'Australflora Green Cape' is a naturally occurring form of the species found growing at Green Cape on the South Coast of N.S.W.

Propagated and distributed by Molyneux Nurseries Pty. Ltd., since 1969.

Description:

It is a prostrate plant reaching a height of about 150 mm but with a spread of about 800 mm.

The leaves are up to 20 mm long by 3 mm wide. Oil glands are clearly visible on the underside of the leaves.

The mauve flowers are produced in the leaf axils on semi-mature growth. After flowering the petals change colour to white then green. They remain green and protect the seeds while they mature.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from known normal forms of *Crowea exalata* in its prostrate habit. The usual height attained is 1-2 m.

Colour Coding: Petals: purple 75A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 155. Cultivar received by the Authority: 2nd February, 1979. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries.

HELICHRYSUM BRACTEATUM* 'HASTINGS GOLD'*Origin:**

Helichrysum bracteatum 'Hastings Gold' is a naturally occurring form of the species found growing at Hastings Point which is on the coast east of Murwillumbah, Northern N.S.W.

Description:

It is a perennial herb growing to a height of about 250 mm. When in flower another 200 mm is added to the height as the flowers are held above the foliage. Individual plants reach 700 mm across.

The leaves are green on the upper surface and grey-green underneath due to a covering of stiff silvery hairs. The leaves are up to 140 mm long by up to 30 mm wide.

The papery flowers are bright yellow with a darker centre and measure 50 mm across. They are borne on stems about 200 mm long. It is reported that this cultivar flowers most of the year in Brisbane with a peak during spring and summer.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Helichrysum bracteatum* in size of plant and its perennial habit. *Helichrysum bracteatum* usually attains a height of 600 mm compared with an overall height of 450 mm for this cultivar.

It is also different from other registered perennial cultivars of *Helichrysum bracteatum*. It is different from *Helichrysum bracteatum* 'Diamond Head' in size of plant and size of flower. *Helichrysum bracteatum* 'Diamond Head' grows to a height of 160 mm. The flowers are 50 mm in diameter compared with 30 mm for *Helichrysum bracteatum* 'Diamond Head'.

It is different from *Helichrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch' in size of plant and flower. *Helichrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch' grows to a height of 600-800 mm and has flowers with a diameter of 70-90 mm.

Colour Coding:

Ray florets: yellow 13B. Inner florets: near yellow-orange 23B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 159. Applicant: G. & R. Thomas, Everton Park, Queensland. Cultivar received by the Authority: 15th September, 1978.

HYPOCALYMMMA CORDIFOLIUM 'GOLDEN VEIL'**Origin:**

Hypocalymma cordifolium 'Golden Veil' is a variegated form of the natural species. This variegated form was selected by Mr. Meyer of Croydon North, Victoria, in 1968.

Description:

The cultivar can be expected to grow to a height of about 1 m, with a spread of about the same.

The small variegated heart-shaped sessile leaves are about 8 mm long and wide. They are produced opposite each other on minutely winged stems. These stems are bright pink, while the new growth is young.

Diagnosis:

Hypocalymma cordifolium 'Golden Veil' is different from the natural species in its leaf variegation. The leaves have an irregular cream margin. The centre of the leaf is green.

Colour Coding:

Leaf variegation: leaf margin: yellow 4D; inner portion: near green 138B.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: Canberra Botanic Gardens 148. Cultivar received by the Authority: 15th December 1977. Applicant: Bushy Park Nurseries, Croydon North, Victoria.

KUNZEA 'BADJA CARPET'**Origin:**

Kunzea 'Badja Carpet' is a naturally occurring form of species from Mount Badja in S.E. New South Wales. The species has some affinity to *Kunzea capitata* and was brought into cultivation at the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra in 1974.

Description:

It is a dense prostrate plant spreading up to 4 m and reaching a height of 600 mm. The dark green leaves are small being up to 7 mm long by 3 mm wide. New stems are dark red in colour.

The white flowers are produced terminally in small clusters on short branchlets. New growth originates from the centre of the flower clusters.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from the known normal forms of *Kunzea capitata* in its prostrate habit and white flowers. *Kunzea capitata* is usually an erect or rounded shrub to 1.5 m in height with mauve flowers.

Colour Coding:

Petals and filaments: white 155B. Anthers: yellow 9C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 167. Cultivar received by Authority: 17th November, 1977. Applicant National Botanic Gardens.

SPYRIDIDIUM PARVIFOLIUM* 'AUSTRALFLORA NIMBUS'*Origin:**

Spyrididium parvifolium 'Australflora Nimbus' is a naturally occurring form from the Nadgee area of S.E. N.S.W. Cuttings were first collected in 1968.

Description:

It is a dense prostrate shrub growing to a height of about 10 mm with a spread of about 2 m.

The small round leaves are up to 8 mm long by 6-8 mm wide. The leaf tip is often indented. The green upper leaf surface has distinct veining while the underside is silvery and covered with long silky hairs. New foliage is distinctly grey.

The small and insignificant flowers are borne in clusters at the end of the branchlets.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from other forms of *Spyrididium parvifolium* in its prostrate habit.

Colour Coding:

Calyx tube: yellow-orange 19D. Bracts: greyed-orange 173A. Petals: white.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 118. Cultivar received by the Authority: 15th April, 1977. Applicant: Molyneux Nurseries Pty. Ltd. Previously mentioned in "Your Garden" April, 1977.

ANIGOZANTHOS FLAVIDUS* 'WERITE WOORATA'*Origin:**

It is asserted to be a mutant form of *Anigozanthos flavidus*.

Description:

The branched flower spike is approximately 50 cm high. The dominant colour of the flower is dark red to burgundy.

Diagnosis:

The floral tube is reduced from the normal *Anigozanthos flavidus* and the petals are lengthened into finger like processes.

Colour Coding:

Pedice: near greyed purple, 185A. Perianth: near greyed-green, 191A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens, Canberra 95. Cultivar received by the Authority: 4th February, 1976. Applicant: H. R. Howes.

CULTIVARS? WHY NOT GOOD SPECIES?

From a letter by MERVYN ROBERTS, Mitchell Court, Marengo, Apollo Bay, Vic.

Hybrids occur naturally in the bush of course, but they are not common. Garden hybrids, especially *Grevillea*, are plentiful and certainly have their place, but I wonder whether they merit the space devoted to them in Issue No. 73.

Australian plants in their native state is the heritage we are all determined to preserve, and down the years the number grown in home gardens undoubtedly has done a great deal to impress the public of the wealth of colour and variety of form that is theirs to enjoy and protect. To take the point to an absurd extreme, it would be calamitous if our gardens were filled with horticultural crosses and no true natives.

I know best the sandstone flora around Sydney, some of which is becoming increasingly rare because of land development and bushfires. Certainly our Society rightly aims to encourage conservation by cultivation in gardens, but it seems to me that members could also help, if only in a small way, to re-establish some of the most rare and beautiful species in our national parks.

Let us grow the best form of true species.

Gardening with Australian Plants

by Thistle Y. Harris.

This is the title of a series of excellent books by Australia's "Wildflower-Lady", Thistle Harris. There are now two in the series each available from the Editor — Australian Plants for \$25.00, including postage titled.

Shrubs — Gardening with Australian Plants

Small Plants and Climbers — Gardening with Australian Plants

For the first book on shrubs I had prepared the following review:

GARDEN WITH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS—SHRUBS

An excellent reference book, 256 pages (26 x 18 cm).

Anyone who has been interested in wildflowers will know of the books by Thistle Harris. I know when I first started over 20 years ago, her books were my reference. In fact, they were the only reference. This new book has maintained the same high standard. The introducing chapters headed — "Using Australian Shrubs", "Caring For The Garden" and "Plant Breeding" provide a very excellent guide to the setting up and care of wildflowers. In your garden. The bulk of the book is the section "Australian Shrubs Described" where the plants are so very simply presented, alphabetically. The sketches by Susan Heins are excellent for identification. In addition to the usual details of shrub, leaves, flowers, fruit, etc., the descriptions provide information that gardeners want to know such as hardiness, drought or frost resistance, where it is found and the climatic conditions it has evolved in its natural habitat.

A very fine book by a very noble lady who has done so much over so many years for the preservation and cultivation of our Australian flora. Recent issues have recorded our deep appreciation for the work of pioneers in the cultivation of our Australian Flora. Thistle is undoubtedly one of the greatest in the history of our nation and there are so many of us deeply indebted to her for her work and dedication.—Editor.

For the second book on small plants and climbers I am even more impressed. It is a complete book not needing the possession of the earlier book on shrubs.

SMALL PLANTS AND CLIMBERS—GARDENING WITH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

by Thistle Harris.

The first section of the book is especially valuable in the competent way advice is given on the establishment of a wildflower garden with special reference in this case to rock gardens or small display gardens. The 500 small plants described in the second section in such clear simple terms are carefully selected by Thistle based on her many years experience.

These are not pretty picture books; in fact the many colour plates are chosen not for their photographic excellence but to give an honest pictorial indication of how the plants will look in the garden. This is the whole theme of the books, practical advice on setting up the garden and competent advice on the way to plant and grow a wide range of plants based on years of experience and careful observation all with the Thistle Harris touch.

Germination of some *Banksia* species

By M. R. HESLEHURST,

Queensland Agricultural College, Lawes, 4345

An investigation of the germination characteristics of *Banksia integrifolia* L.f., *B. serrata* L.f. and *B. aemula* R.Br. (syn *B. serratifolia*) has shown marked and differing sensitivities to the temperature regime of germination, but no significant response to light exposure, seed coat and substrate treatments. These temperature requirements were defined using a thermogradient bar incubator and the data treated after the method of Thompson (1970). The sensitivity of incubation periods to temperature is demonstrated in figure 1, with *B. integrifolia* responding to cool temperatures, *B. aemula* requiring warm conditions and *B. serrata* an intermediate temperature regime. Germination in response to various alternating day/night temperatures is shown in figure 2, where combinations within the contour lines produce 50 or 90% levels of potential germination.

These species germinate readily without any pretreatment; simply place the seed in a moist, sandy medium (avoid the use of fertilizers) and either select an appropriate controlled temperature or use planting dates which will give an adequate environment. A summary of temperature requirements is given below:

	<i>B. integrifolia</i>	<i>B. serrata</i>	<i>B. aemula</i> (<i>serratifolia</i>)
Response type	cool	intermediate	warm
Daily Optima (°C)	18-21	21-28	24-33
Night Optima (°C)	14-20	20-23	20-28
Constant Temperature			
Optima (°C)	18-23	20-28	28-32
Incubation Period*			
(Days)			
50% germination			
Alternating regime	12	16	12
Constant regime	12	20	12
* Add 5 days for seedling appearance at soil surface. Double figures for complete germination.			
Geographical Distributions			
Coastal—North	Herberton	Noosa	Proserpine
South	Sth. Victoria	Sth. Victoria	Sydney
Probable Planting			
Times	winter	spring/autumn	summer
	spring/autumn	avoid summer	cold frame
	avoid summer	avoid winter	spring/autumn
			avoid winter
Common Environments			
for 50% establishment			
alternating	18-26°C Day	—	10-24°C Night
constant	18-23°C		

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS

by John Wrigley

The offer which went out with our June issue has been extended to September 30th, 1979, because of delay in the delivery of the June issue of this journal.

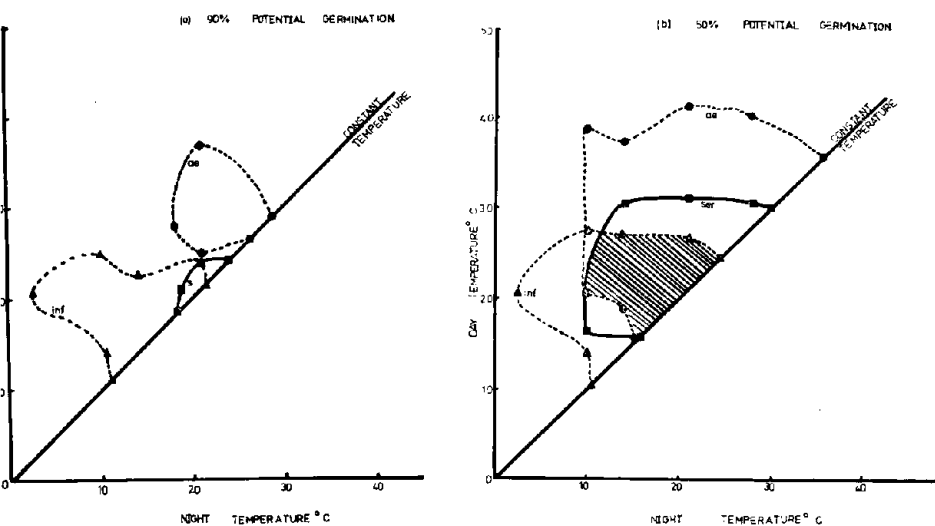
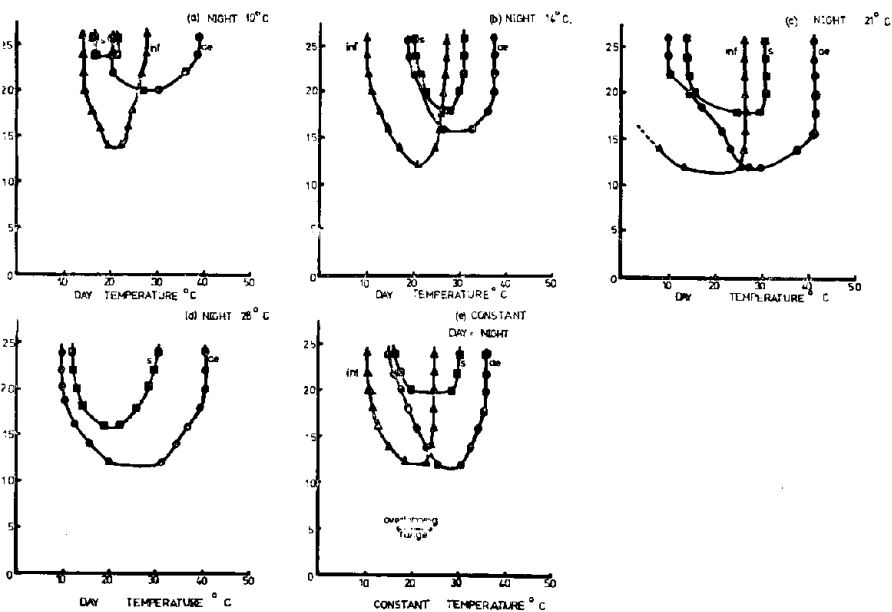


FIG. 1. Incubation periods to produce 50% potential germination for various temperature regimes.

(*B. Integrifolia* ▲, *B. serrata* ■, *B. aemula* ●)

FIG. 2. Contour graphs of temperature combinations producing 90% and 50% potential germination.

(the shaded section represents common environments for establishment).

(*B. Integrifolia* ▲, *B. serrata* ■, *B. aemula* ●)

Aerial Rooting of Native Plants

By LEO HODGE, Poorinda, Mt. Lookout Road, Bairnsdale, Vic.

This is the method I used in the aerial rooting of my cultivars and other native plants which I wished to retain for a native garden in my new locality, Bairnsdale. I fully realised that it would be impossible to obtain all my plants from other propagators or nurserymen, and I wished to make sure that the original line of plants was maintained without room for error.

Here is a method of propagation you can do yourself—reproducing the plant you really want.

Materials required are clean moss, with no other vegetable matter which is likely to grow. Transparent plastic—it can be doubled if necessary for strength. The transparency permits you to observe the root growth. This is essential. String for binding.

I usually selected upright limbs with a fork about 15-20 cms below where I wanted to do the aerial rooting. This allowed me to tie the two limbs together over the completed job to prevent movement or interference. I found that about 30 cm below the tip of the branch was the most suitable place. It is essential that the plant be growing vigorously at the time. Carefully cut around the stem with a sharp knife, through the bark only, then strip this down for about 5 cm. I found it was not good to scrape the stem, as this hinders the upward flow of sap, which is necessary so that sufficient food supply will return to induce root growth.

As our flowering plants, including eucalypts, overgrow very readily, I used plastic string or fine, soft copper wire to bind the barked stem for about 1 cm. This I did about 1.5 cm below where the bark was cut through.

Take a good handful of damp moss and place it evenly around the stem from 2-3 cm above the barked area to about 8 cm below it. Put the plastic around the moss, overlap well to prevent evaporation, all the lower part firmly on to the stem below the moss, then tie the top not so firmly, above the moss, to allow for watering. The moss must always be kept damp. I used a little plastic bottle with a pointed nozzle for the purpose. Now tie the two limbs together as mentioned previously. Do not do this work in a wind or in hot sun, and be sure it is always protected from the midday hot sun.

When the roots start to grow they are visible inside the plastic. When they are about 8 cm long, and not quite to the lower tie, it is time to cut your new plant off. I found it best to get a tube of clear plastic, about 15 cm wide and 20 cm deep, filled with soil, etc. and tied at the bottom. Remove the plastic wrap from your plant but not the moss, and carefully place it in the prepared pot, making sure the soil comes up over the moss. Support the plant and the bag so there is no movement. When the roots are visible near the bottom of the bag and have white tips of new growth, it is time to plant out into the garden, where it should be staked to prevent movement. A stake at a triangle is best.

Sometimes I found a large callous formed instead of roots. It is best to discard this and try another limb.

Growing Native Plants — Vol. 9, 1979

National Botanic Gardens.

This is the latest in a series of 24-page booklets available from the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, or by mail from the Australian Government Publishing Service. This issue is of special interest:

Plant Nutrition — A special four page article describes the nutritional needs of Australian plants and the use of fertilizer.

Plants featured are *Acacia adunca*, *Callistemon phoeniceus*, *Eucalyptus rupicola*, *Homoranthus flavescens*, *Pultenaea villosa*, *Albizia lophantha*, *Boronia deani*, *Melaleuca cuticularis*, *Clematis aristata*, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' and the following to which I would like to draw special attention to:

Grevillea longistyla. A very fine hardy *Grevillea* that is illustrated so well in colour with a photograph of the flower and an excellent one of the bush — just how a species should be illustrated.

Hypocalymma cordifolium 'Golden Veil'. This cultivar is announced in this issue but I was not able to get a suitable photograph. —Editor.

Verticordia in their natural habitat like a dry atmosphere, as found on the sand heath plains of the Darling Escarpment and other areas of Western Australia. When planting out, *Verticordia* are likely to do best in a free soil where they are able to stretch their roots out. Do not try to force them with fertilizers, etc. Decomposed peat moss, bush mould, etc., are to be used instead of organic mixtures which will encourage chlorosis and slow starvation.

I hope that people throughout Australia who have had experience in the cultivation of *Verticordia* in their area will now add their bit to the accumulation of knowledge vital to the survival of "my" *Verticordia*.

Verticordia acerosa. A shrub to 1 m with flowers a pale yellow with orange centre. The flower appears to be cupped inside the calyx. A form 0.5 m growing in the Lesmurdie area and on the Darling escarpment has tiny flowers later turning a bronze colour. Another form may be found between the 116 and 118 mile pegs on the right-hand side of the Coast Road just before the turn-off to Jurien Bay. A large plant to 1 m with orange flowers was found on the gravel road which turns off the bitumen road past the West Dandaragan Service Station. Flowering is from August to October.

Verticordia brachypoda (syn. *V. stylotricha*, syn. *V. fimbripetala*) is a small shrub to 0.5 m. It flowers from November to late December in the Irwin, Coolgardie and Avon districts, where it is found in loamy areas around granite rocks. The plant is narrow in habit, approximately 25 cm wide, fairly open but leafy. The leaves are approximately 2.6 mm long, 1 mm wide and dull green in colour. The pinkish to light red flowers are 1 cm across, flat and fringed, in flower spikes to 5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide at the end of the branches. It is a very showy plant.

Verticordia brownii. A few stemmed and much branched plant, it is a spreading, leafy, dense umbrella-shaped shrub approximately 0.5 m high and 0.8 m across. The flowers are minute, creamy/white in corymbs on the top of the branches. The leaves are small, linear, and light green. Its habitat is open plains on white sand and it is common around Coorow and neighbouring towns, where it must have good drainage. The plant is commonly called Cauliflower Bush.

Verticordia chrysantha, 2 varieties, both upright. One reaches 0.8 m or more in height. The foliage is bright green with longish, rounded leaves 2.5 cm or more. The plant is slightly branched and sparsely covered with fully feathered dark yellow flowers which turn slightly crimson as flowering progresses for a few weeks. This plant favours gravelly soils through parts of the Darling Escarpment, mainly Gingin, Chittering and Bindoon areas. The other variety seldom reaches 0.3 m high and has bigger, fleshier leaves, is rounded and has less branches. Flowering is the same and occurs during the middle of spring. Both plants occur in the same localities and blooms are reasonably large (but not as large as those of *V. grandiflora*). *V. chrysantha* is also prominent in the Lake Grace area.

Verticordia chrysostachys (formerly *V. chrysostachya*). One variety, a large tree-like shrub of rigid form which carries spikes of beautiful golden blossom is commonly found growing towards the coastal areas of the Murchison. The leaves are rounded and bright green, like the myrtles. It is a deep rooted plant to approximately 1.8 m when fully grown. It is best propagated by slips and treated the same as myrtles. Another variety of *V. chrysostachys* is a tall, thin shrub to 2 m growing in the vicinity of Hutt River Province and parts of Kalbarri. It is a very showy plant in flower. The flowers are a lovely shade of deep yellow and very numerous in spikelets all over the plant. Flowering occurs during December and January. The rooting is mainly surface. This form also grows on the red sand-dune

country in the Carnamah to Three Springs area. In the same area is *V. lepidophylla*, with which it is often confused. Although *V. lepidophylla* is also a tall shrub to 2 m, it has very minute foliage and smaller flowers in spikes all over the plant. The flowers are lime/yellow and flowering is from August to December. The plant is also shallow, surface rooting in habit and very showy in flower.

Verticordia cunninghamii. From the Hann, King Leopold Range district, this is a tropical species which grows to 3 m and looks like a small tree. The flowers are cloudy/white. It is not in cultivation as yet, as material and seed are scarce and locations are hard to reach and locate.

Verticordia densiflora. This is a very common shrub throughout the metropolitan area of Perth, extending to nearly every shire north and south. Growing very bushy, to a little over 1 m high and nearly 2 m wide, it is lightly rooted and mainly surface feeding, although a slight tap-root is prominent. It inhabits edges of depressions on roads where water collects during winter months and drains off during summer, leaving soft, loose sand and humus, which is slightly moist down deeper. It has dense heads of minute dark pink blooms. As flowers age, the pink fades and the plant loses its freshness. It seeds freely and propagates readily under ideal conditions. It nearly always grows in company with *V. lindleyi*.

Verticordia drummondii. This shrub to 0.5 m also likes a swampy area and is common in numerous localities, even in low lying, clayey areas around Coolgardie down to Bullfinch. The flowers are a very dark pink. Foliage is obovate, oblong. The flowering time is around late December. It is very similar to *V. lindleyi*, but has larger foliage, larger flower spikes and more blossoms.

Verticordia etheliana. A small shrub, semi erect in habit, growing to 1 m or a little higher, it has very small dull grey, orbicular leaves. The flowers are lightly spiced and a pale shade of red. The petals are almost as long as the calyx lobes; the style is approximately twice the length of the petals and bearded, close below the stigma. The habitat is from the Murchison River to Arrino and across to Mullewa. It is fairly common on the sand heaths along the plateau of the Murchison; further east, approximately 110 km inland, is *V. mitchelliana*.

Verticordia fastigiata (syn. *V. conferta*). Found near the Barrens in eastern swampy areas as a rigid and erect low shrub with leaves, linear or obtuse and densely crowded. The flowers are pinkish and small. It resembles in habit *V. drummondii*, which is also flat topped. Found in coastal to inland areas of the extreme south to south east breakaway country in open places in loam it is a single stemmed, much branched, dense, leafy, dome-shaped shrub to 0.3 m wide and 0.5 m high. The leaves are terete, less than 1 mm in diameter, 2.8 m long, flattened on the top side, succulent and flexible and a dull bluish/green colour. The flowers are roughly cup shaped, 3 mm in diameter and half as thick, fringed, an intense red, single, axillary on 2 mm stalks on the last cm of the branches and almost cover the plant. Flowering is in late summer and autumn, and good drainage is required.

Verticordia fimbrialepis is an erect plant with slender branches to 0.6 m. The linear to obtuse leaves are in various shapes and are clustered on the lower branches. The flowers are small, light pink in small, leafy terminal corymbs. The style is very short and glabrous. It is found in the Stirlings on the plains and in odd clumps through the Barrens, also in the Coolgardie and Eyre districts; flowering is from September to November.

Verticordia forrestii is a bushy shrub to 2 m. The flowers are red to maroon, similar to those of *V. grandis*, but much smaller. The leaves are a fleshy green and semi elliptic. It flowers heavily in September. It may be found in the Kennedy Ranges to the Ashburton district.



Verticordia grandiflora

Photograph by M. Hody.

Verticordia grandiflora (syn. *V. heliantha*, syn. *V. nobilis*). The large growing form from near the Murchison River is up to 0.5 m high. It has more foliage, the leaves being thicker and longer, linear up to 2 cm. The slightly smaller (than other forms) gold flowers do not bi-colour, but form bigger heads. The smaller growing form, a shrub to 0.3 m, is located at Dandaragan, Badgingarra, through the plains to Mogumber, Wannamal. It has much larger blooms turning from gold to bi-colours, red blushes and lilac forming after the blooms have nearly finished. It has short, fleshy green leaves up the stems at sparse intervals and is much smaller in stature and width than the plant on the Murchison sand plain heaths. I think the plant has been confused with *V. multiflora*.

Verticordia grandis. Its location commences approximately 130 km north of Perth and extends inland about the same distance. The flowers are large, scarlet and carried on short spikes. The large flat, roundish, grey fleshy leaves about 1-2 cm across are stem clasping. This *Verticordia* can grow to 2 m, but is normally seen in smaller stature, probably being burned back by fires at various intervals. This causes the plant to act more vigorously in regrowth and serves as a severe pruning. It can be propagated from seed, but seed is not always viable and fertile. The surest method of propagating is by means of heel slips or root divisions; fleshy young pieces of stems are the best, as they are always the pieces which carry the blooms. It is fairly plentiful on heath sand plains at Cockleshell Gully.

Verticordia habrantha (syn. *V. umbellata*, syn. *V. brachystylis*). This is a slender shrub which reaches 0.5 m. The flowers are small, pink or white. The calyx lobes are slightly feathered and partially hidden by the petals. Leaves are green, obtuse. It is usually located in clayey areas and well distributed in the south west. Flowering is from September to December.

Verticordia harveyi is a slender shrub to 70 cm with linear leaves and corymbose pink flowers, growing in deep sand on open heaths. It grows in stony areas in the Eyre district, flowering in September.

Verticordia helichrysantha is a shrub to 1 m with long, linear green leaves. The flowers are yellow, with very long styles. Found in the Eyre district, flowering in October.

Verticordia helmsii (syn. *V. picta* var. *youngii*, syn. *V. adenocalyx*). This is an erect little shrub usually to 0.5 m high. The flowers are white and the leaves are small, orbicular. It is similar to the white flowering *V. plumosa*. Flowering can occur anytime between January and August. This one grows in the Telfer Gold Mine area, Lake Landing, in the Patterson Ranges. It grows in red sand in the Carnegie District and also occurs in the Austin district.

Verticordia huegelii (syn. *V. timbripetala*). A small ground hugging plant with tiny, fleshy greyish leaves which form little clusters at intermediate intervals on the thick, woody scraggy stems. It is seldom over 15 cm high. The large, fluffy, feathered blooms are a creamy/yellow at first, turning to a beautiful crimson/pink later as flowers get older. Its habitat is granite or extremely heavy loamy soils, some actually surviving in cracks and fissures of granite outcrops. Found in the Darling Ranges, where moisture has been held during winter rains and turning what little soil there is, practically rock hard in the heat of summer. A scraggy plant, but the blooms are very refreshing.

Verticordia hughanii is similar to *V. humilis*, but the flowers are orange coloured bronze. The plant is practically totally prostrate and looks like small mats of green when it is vigorous in growth. This plant is very seldom found and is practically extinct. Its locality is south west in the vicinity of the Barren Ranges, but it was also found in the Coolgardie district, flowering in December.

Verticordia humilis is also found in the vicinity of the Barrens. It has very prominent styles protruding from bronze coloured flowers. Especially suitable for rockeries, the plant is very small (approximately 10 cm high) and has practically no foliage except a few sparsely set leaves, also very small. Similar in stature to *V. huegelii*, it flowers in October.

Verticordia insignis (syn. *V. compta*). A scraggy type of shrub of 2 varieties. One is a low diverse shrub with fleshy, flat, pale green leaves. The large, fluffy pink flowers are of two shades, the inside cup dark pink, lighter outside. Location is the Gooseberry Hill escarpment, where it is getting rare, as this plant has been torn away from road verges by shire bulldozers. It is extremely hard to find. It has a vigorous growth (when in season) from ground level, where it will send upwards anything in the vicinity of 20 stems, the tops of which are covered with beautiful two-toned pink and slightly fluffy flowers. A very showy plant. The other variety grows in the Gosnells area in granite and quartz outcrops, and also in the Gillingarra area. An upright shrub almost to 1 m high, it is branched and has heavy, woody stems and little foliage. It has darker, greener leaves than the other variety. Flowers are also a darker pink outside to nearly red in the centre. It is easy to cultivate. The small root system is mainly surface rooting.

Verticordia lehmannii is a pink flowering species found between the Augusta and Margaret River areas. Usually 30 cm tall, of upright habit and with linear, semi-ovate leaves, its flowering times are November to January. It is usually growing in swampy areas, sometimes in company with *V. densiflora*. Also found in the Warren district.

Verticordia lepidophylla. One form is found in the same area as *V. chrysostachys* in the same vicinity of Hutt River and Kalbarri. It is a tall shrub to 2 m with very minute foliage and small lime/yellow flowers in spikes all over the plant. Flowering is from August to December. It is shallow,

surface rooting in habit and very showy. Its habitat extends to the Arrino area. Often mistaken for *V. chrysostachys*, the other form of *V. lepidophylla* grows away from the coastal area, more inland from Geraldton and upwards as far as the Murchison. A small tree-like branching form growing up to 2 m, this plant has smaller leaves than *V. chrysostachys*, and although also rounded, some are tiny linear. The leaves are a bright green. The flowers are spiked, but of a different colour, a lemon/green/yellow. The rooting system, etc., is similar to *V. chrysostachys*. Propagation is from seed or tip or heel cuttings.

Verticordia lindleyi is a small, scraggy type of shrub with very minute obtuse leaves. The flowers form small spikes of various shades of pink colours. It is fairly common and always in the vicinity of *V. densiflora*, occurring throughout the Perth area and to the north and south. It is easily cultivated, is a free seeder and propagates well under good conditions. *V. lindleyi* makes an attractive show.

Verticordia minutiflora is found in the Esperance district.

Verticordia mitchelliana. This is a similar shrub to *V. etheliana* and is getting very hard to find. Plants are up to 1 m high, with spreading branches. The flowers are only a little smaller than the scarlet flowers of *V. grandis*, being pendulous and woolly with exceptionally long styles up to 3 cm long. The leaves are a greyish/green colour, linear 1-2.5 cm long, and close to the woody stems of the plant. They are similar to the leaves of *V. nitens*, but much shorter and thicker. This *Verticordia* should be propagated, as we are in danger of losing it forever. It is found on the sand heaths between Dowerin and the Johnson Lakes, but more common on red sand near the Johnson Lakes, and also near the rabbit-proof fence on the cross-roads to Southern Cross. Flowers are from September to November.

Verticordia monadelphica (syn. *V. callitricha*), is a small shrubby bush to just over 1 m. It ranges from the Murchison in the north down to the Carnamah/Three Springs area in the south. The bush grows arches to the ground, forming a rounded appearance, and when in bloom is covered with fluffy, rosy/pink flowers. This *Verticordia* has a strong rooting system. It is best propagated by slip cuttings of smaller stems and tips. A very spectacular plant when covered with blossom, which gives one the impression of soft, fluffy down and must rank as one of the showiest of our verticordias. It has longer, rounded needle-like leaves more like the myrtles.

Verticordia muellerana may be found growing south of Geraldton in the Three Springs area, but going back towards the coast. It is another variety with purple flowers, very similar to *V. spicata*, but not as large. It has round, grey, orbicular foliage. Growing further north from Port Gregory to the Murchison River and eastwards are two other species of *Verticordia* with grey foliage, but with red flowers, *V. etheliana* and *V. mitchelliana*.

Verticordia multiflora. It is another beautiful shrub forming rounded bushes growing near the mouth of the Murchison River. The flowers are yellow to gold, with a red stigma. The leaves are terete to 2 cm long. Flowering is in November/December in the Coolgardie and Avon districts. The shrubs are densely covered with rich golden blooms so thick that the foliage underneath is completely hidden.

Verticordia nitens is a narrow, erect shrub growing to 1.5 m under good conditions. It is generally found in poor, sandy soils typical of *Banksia* country. The beautiful large heads of orange blossom appear from December to February. The large slender stems branch at the top to support large heads of orange blossoms, some of which measure more than 25 cm across. The leaves are long, rounded and needle-like, greyish/green to 3.7 cm, rather sparsely spread. It is also a useful dry flower for arrangements. One of the hardiest, it is also one of the easiest of the *Verticordia* to propagate, and seed viability is good. It is best propagated by seed. It has a deep rooting tap root. Common about 140 km north of Perth, in Wanneroo

and along the borders of Gingin Shire, it is one of the *Verticordia* that is sure to survive by its own natural propagation. But!! It can be bulldozed out of existence (unless maintained on reserves, etc., and protected), especially as thousands of blooms are picked every year and sold to florists, dried for sale, etc. This will stop the plant from its profuse distribution of seed.

Verticordia oculata. Found along the Murchison River and extending through the heath sand plains 50 km or so further north, this is a low shrub to less than 1 m. The main feature is its foliage, which is like *V. ovalifolia*. The leaves are hard, stem clutching oval, greyish and large, nearly as large as *V. grandis*. It has beautiful bi-coloured flowers, as large if not larger than *V. grandis*. The colour ranges from a light mauve or lilac on the petals to silvery/white calyx lobes. This plant will propagate by slip cuttings and like *V. ovalifolia* suitable cutting material is stems with small diversion shoots. Seed is low in viability. This plant has to be seen to be fully appreciated, as it is a magnificent specimen, but one has a 700 to 800 km trip to see it at its best. A few specimens occur in the Arrino district and also on the Eneabba sandy plains.

Verticordia ovalifolia is a scraggy plant consisting of stems up to 1 m long with small twiggy offshoots from the main stems. Leaves are of the tightest stem clasping variety among the *Verticordia*, almost oval shape and a lettuce/green. The large creamy flowers, approximately the size of a two-cent piece, have a centre calyx lobe of silvery/pink and the flowers turn into bi-colour mauves later. They are shallow rooting plants with hair-like, searching roots and will not stand watering, or only very sparingly, under cultivation. A beautiful small *Verticordia*, this plant is rare, but may be found 130 km north of Perth, located under a cover of trees, *Banksia* and other shrubs. Only one colony was found when collecting specimens about 8 km from Regans Ford. The plant is easy to propagate by cuttings, especially using stem junction nodes where terminal shoots form.

Verticordia oxylepis (syn. *V. demissa*). A procumbent and rigid shrub with numerous ascending branches. The leaves are linear, semi terete or triquetrous, obtuse, rarely above 2 mm long and crowded on short branches. The flowers are pink on short, thick stalks in the upper axils (i.e. near the ends of the branches), numerous but scarcely corymbose (loose rather than dense heads). The style is rigid, exceeding the corolla by 6 mm, bearded with a few stiff hairs near the points. The spreading bristles of the calyx, the almost globular, pubescent corolla in the centre with the long, protruding style, give the flowers a peculiar aspect. Found from the Fitzgerald River to the Barren Ranges.

Verticordia penicillaris is a semi-prostrate shrub which grows on sandstone outcrops 20 km north of Geraldton along the main road to Northampton. A showy plant when in full bloom, usually September to November, flowers are pinkish/brown. The style is quite long and protrudes from the petals. Greyish leaves are semi ovate to 1.2 cm. It may become quite a large shrub, the old wood stock making it quite thick. It is also seen near Morawa.

Verticordia pennigera is a small scraggy open shrub to 0.6 m, growing in low swampy areas wet in winter. Flowers are pink and small. Foliage is linear, bluey/green, to 1 cm. Flowering is from October to late December in the Darling, Avon and Irwin districts.

Verticordia pholidophylla grows to a shrub of 0.5 m round. It can be single stemmed or a few stems, not branched, open spreading or upright, or an under shrub. It likes rocky quartzite, sandy areas on the coast. The light bluey/green leaves are 3 mm long and 1 mm wide, slightly recurved, close together on new growth. Flowers are tubular, 6 mm long by 6 mm wide, with a cup fringe underneath to 1 cm diameter, a deep pink on 3 mm flower stalks and numerous. It flowers in summer. This is a good ornamental *Verticordia*, hardy and attractive, requiring a little shelter and good drainage.



Verticordia oculata

Photograph by G. Chapman.

Located north of the Murchison River and south of the same plains, Oolingarra and Roebuck Bay.

Verticordia picta is a neat little shrub to 0.5 m. Small, needle thickness leaves are on small branches which spread outwards and erect, and are all covered with dark pink flowers in late spring. The centre of the flowers is slightly cupped and inclined to be fluffy. It is fairly common in the Dandaragan areas and also through to Watheroo Shire. The foliage is dark green on the mature plants, but very light on the small plants and it is very hard to identify young plants of *V. picta* from *V. densiflora*, which also grows in these areas, as they both look the same.

Verticordia plumosa (syn. *V. fontanesii*, syn. *V. pectinata*). The granite form from the Darling Ranges is a very erect shrub to 1 m, with showy, small dove/grey foliage. The tops of stems are covered with shell/pink blooms, very small flowers, but joined together by hundreds to make attractive heads like half tennis balls. It is an easy *Verticordia* to propagate. The seed is fairly viable and slip planting is easy. A very striking plant under cultivation, free spreading and with fine rooting habit. It was common in the Darling Ranges, but is now getting scarce, as more clearing and habitation takes place. On the clay flats in the Avon, another form that has white flowers is smaller in habit. It is a lighter shrub with smaller stems, less woody, growing to less than 0.5 m. It favours damp places, wet in winter but just moist through summer. The foliage is dove/grey heavy leafed, similar to the granite type, but the flowers are not in densely packed heads. The

singular blooms appear all over the top of the bush and are on shorter stems. It makes a very pleasing garden or rocky shrub, being both hardy and attractive. Its location is mainly Gingin Shire, about 130 km north of Perth, favouring low depressions where water has been held over the winter months. It is common in the Balancing Rocks area on the Brookton Highway.

The form previously known as *V. fontanesii* is found in the King Georges Sound and adjoining areas. It is an erect and bushy plant to just over 1 m. The flowers are white or pink on slender pedicels 1 cm long in terminal, leafy corymbs, or rounded, dense panicles close above the stem leaves.

Verticordia polytricha is a semi-open shrub to 0.5 m. The creamy/white flowers are in small corymbs (rounded terminal heads). The leaves are linear to triquetrous. It grows in low lying sandy areas between Watheroo and Coorow and between Arrino and Minganew, flowering from November to late December.

Verticordia preissii (syn. *V. endlicherana*, *V. chrysantha* var. *preissii*, syn. *V. hirta*). It is a shrub to 0.5 m and is common in small colonies in the Irwin, Darling, Avon districts and in the south west. It has quite large yellow flowers and linear foliage. The flowering period is from September to November. Quite a showy plant.

Verticordia pritzellii is one of our showiest. When in bloom, blossom completely covers the shrub with the darkest of pink flowers. The leaves are linear to 1.2 cm. This shrub in the Wongan Hills area grows to 0.3 m. It also occurs in the Irwin and Coolgardie districts in heavier gravel soils. Flowering is from October to November usually.

Verticordia rennieana is a shrub to 0.5 m. The flowers are white, forming little dense heads. Flowering in the Christmas period, it is found in the Ashburton district. One of the north west varieties.

Verticordia roel. This *Verticordia* is very similar to *V. brownii* (Native Cauliflower Bush). It is practically the same height, approximately 0.6 m, but not as robust or wide, a more slender form like a small cauliflower, and is also called a cauliflower bush. Flowers are white and densely packed all on top, but slightly larger than *V. brownii*. Flowering occurs in October and November in the Avon district, as well as the south east and the Coolgardie district. Another very showy *Verticordia*.

Verticordia serrata is a beautiful shrub located in the East Pringelly district in sand plain and breakaway granite country. The heads of the sparsely foliaged shrub are covered with crowns of golden blooms of a very small size, similar to *V. nitens*, but with longer stamens protruding. The foliage of the plant is hidden, as in the case of *V. multiflora*. The foliage is variable, sparse, similar to *V. grandiflora*, but finer. This plant does not like wet feet, as is the case with nearly all the *Verticordia*. It grows easily from slips and heel outtings. The seed is usually viable. The roots are mainly surface feeding, but it has several heavy roots going down to sub-soil and is a very hardy plant. It is confined to the East Pringelly district and a small part of Perenjori and the Darling Range.

Verticordia spicata is one of the several interesting species south of Geraldton to Three Springs. It would be the tallest of the sand heath *Verticordia*, a beauty up to more than 2 m, growing inland to the Wongan Hills area. It produces long spikes of flowers to 15 cm, the colour similar to *V. grandis*, only a wine or purple/rose colour and slightly smaller; the calyx is very finely and evenly divided and forms the most prominent part of the flower; the petals are comparatively small. The foliage is semi ovate and bluey/green. Also in this area, but growing back towards the coast, is another species with purple flowers, *V. muellerana*.

Verticordia staminosa is found in the Wongan Hills to Lake Grace area among granite outcrops. It is a small spreading plant. The foliage is semi terete (semi cylindrical) and the branches are setose (covered with hairs).

The flowers are a shade of brownish/yellow, approximately 1 cm across; bracts are brown and persist on the shrub after flowering has finished; the stamens are red and yellow. Winter flowering, July to August, it may also be seen in the Hyden area.

Verticordia stelluligera is an unimpressive plant 0.5-0.8 m in height. It has small pale yellow flowers on small branchlets and small foliage. It grows in the Chapman Valley area and may be located between Geraldton and Northampton, also on the Great Northern Highway about 8 km past Muchea, on the left going north on a low swampy section. Flowering is August to October.

Verticordia stenopetala is a small woody shrub to 0.6 m. Flowers are purple, small and scattered. The leaves are linear and similar to *V. chrysantha*. From the Eyre and Coolgardie districts, flowering is from Christmas through to March/April. Another species from Coolgardie and Eyre districts is *V. fimbrilepis*, with which it may be found.

Verticordia In Victoria

Notes by Neil Marriot

In a past issue the Editor requested comments from readers who have grown *Verticordia*. My success is certainly not spectacular but I am learning and gaining experience all the time.

All *Verticordia* grow best in a very well drained gravelly soil in full sunlight.

Verticordia densiflora is fairly hardy and strikes fairly well from cuttings, but the flowers are not as spectacular as other species.

Verticordia insignis with its thick grey leaves and beautiful pink feathery flowers is slightly more difficult to grow.

Verticordia mitchelliana with beautiful red flowers, is unfortunately more difficult still to grow requiring perfect conditions for success.

Verticordia plumosa is an easier to grow species but like *V. densiflora* is not as showy in flower. It strikes reasonably well from cuttings.

Verticordia nitens has fine green foliage and masses of bright yellow feather flowers. It strikes reasonably from cuttings but is difficult to grow on in the garden. Some success has been had growing it in pots of sandy, well drained soil.

Darwinia In Victoria

Editor's Note: Neil also answered my plea for notes on *Darwinia*, some of which follow. I am hoping other readers will contribute notes on their experiences with these delightful small shrubs.

Darwinia carnea — Both plants I had of this rare species grew well in their pots, but both died when planted out in well drained open sites. I feel that either excess moisture or too high pH. may have been the cause.

Darwinia campostylis is a prostrate spreading species that strikes readily from cuttings. The plant has attractive cream and red flowers up-turned amongst the foliage. It likes a well drained sunny to semi-shaded position.

Darwinia leiostyla with its beautiful deep pink pendant bell flowers and rich green foliage is a really good plant for a well drained, but moist site in a rockery, etc. It strikes fairly well from cuttings, and grows well in full to semi-shade.

Darwinia macrostegia with its attractive white and red bell flowers, makes an interesting shrub for the rockery in a sunny, well drained site. A reasonable strike obtained from cuttings.

Darwinia meebo'dii is a tall growing species with foliage like *D. leiostyla*, and with beautiful cream bells, tipped with red. It seems to be able to tolerate more shade than most other western species (except *D. leiostyla*). However it prefers a sheltered sunny to semi-shaded well-drained position for best results. Reasonable results obtained from cuttings.



***Banksia canei* 'Celia Rosser' (above)**

by Alf Salkin

Most Australian cultivars like Topsy just grew. Some like the Clearview and the Poorinda hybrids were the result of selection. Others are from hybridisation experiments.

Banksia canei 'Celia Rosser' has a somewhat different history. During the course of germination trials to examine the cold requirements that will break the dormancy of seeds of *Banksia canei* some thousand seeds were germinated. Four seedlings from these trials were entirely different, even as seedlings, from any *Banksia* species I have ever seen.

Because of the nature of the trials, seed batches and cone locations were carefully recorded. The four seedlings came from two cones — two seedlings from each cone. One cone came from the Mt. Seldem Scenic Track, Wulgulmerang, and the other from the Wellington River at the foot of the Bennison Spur 150 km away.

Of the four seedlings I have now only one plant; this is now four years old and has flowered once, in February, 1978. A number of plants have been propagated from cuttings and distributed to Interested nurserymen.

The plant is an attractive addition to the *B. canei* complex and is quite different from any known *Banksia* sp. It has very deeply indented leaves and is of a lowly decumbent habit very suitable for a rockery. The flowers are small by *Banksia* standards, but numerous.

The occurrence of this *Banksia* species, it must be emphasised, is not through hybridisation. It is most likely to be (because of its occurrence from seed collected at two widely different sites) a species that was once widely distributed, but has disappeared through a process known as genetic drift. It is the ancestor of present-day *B. canei*.

Banksia canei 'Celia Rosser'. The suffix commemorates Mrs. Celia Rosser, who is at present working in the Monash University Botany Department painting all the *Banksia* species.

The Genus *Platyserium* (Polypodiaceae) in Australia

By C. J. GOUDEY, Werribee, Victoria

This is a small genus of 18 known species ranging from Africa and Madagascar through Malaysia to Australia, with one solitary species in South America. Four species occur along the east coast of Australia, ranging from Cape York south to Wollongong. Two species occur outside Australia, the remaining two being endemic.

Members of this family are epiphytes with short creeping rhizomes and two separate and distinct types of fronds. The shield or base fronds are broad and grow erect, forming a nest which catches leaves and other humus. As new fronds grow the old ones decay, adding to the humus—the root system grows through this humus. The fertile fronds of the Australian species are either narrow and erect, or broad and pendulous, dichotomously lobed.

The four species are easily cultivated as far south as Melbourne. If they are given protection from frosts and icy winds, they will tolerate temperatures as low as 32° F. (0° C.).

Platyserium species can be mounted on wood, cork, tree-fern slabs or even on a limb of a tree. It is best to use a heavy or insulated wire, as thin wire will rust and deteriorate with age. It is advisable to pack some old rotted humus behind the nest leaves. They also respond to an occasional fertilizing with old rotted manure or blood-and-bone meal.

The most common cause of failure in southern Australia is over-watering. They will not tolerate being saturated for long periods, particularly during their dormant state. Three of the four species can be propagated by removing the suckers that form around the base of the shield fronds, once they are large enough; the exception is *P. superbum*, which must be grown from spores.

An American botanist, who has done work on Australian *Platyserium*, believes that *P. willinkii* Moore, a species from Java, occurs in north-eastern Queensland. A plant in cultivation at the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, labelled Mt. Lewis, much resembles this species, and could well be it.

***Platyserium bifurcatum* (Cav.) C. Chr.** Elkhorn Fern.

This fern is a common epiphyte of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. It ranges from the Atherton Tablelands in the north to as far south as Minnamurra Falls near Wollongong in New South Wales. It is also native to Lord Howe Island, New Caledonia and New Guinea. *P. bifurcatum* is cultivated world-wide and is an extremely hardy plant; it can withstand temperatures as low as 25° F. (—3° C.) for short periods. Formerly known as *P. alcockii*, the Elkhorn Fern varies considerably throughout its range.

***Platyserium hillii* T. Moore.** Northern Elkhorn Fern.

An endemic species that is restricted to the coastal regions of north-eastern Queensland. It is quite similar in appearance to *P. bifurcatum*, except that the base fronds are roundish to reniforme, and not deeply lobed as in *P. bifurcatum*. *P. hillii* will grow in a sheltered position as far south as Melbourne. The Australian species of *Platyserium* are regarded as being the easiest members of the genus to cultivate.

***Platyserium superbum* G. J. Joncheere et E. Hennisman.** Staghorn Fern

Formerly known as *P. grande* (Fee) J. Sm. ex Presl. The Staghorn Fern ranges from the mountains of north-east Queensland as far south as northern New South Wales. It is also found outside Australia, where it occurs in eastern Malaysia and Java. *P. grande* is a rare species that is restricted to the Philippines; it differs from *P. superbum* in having two separate spore lobes.

on each fertile frond, whereas *P. superbum* has only one. The Staghorn Fern is hardy as far south as Melbourne if given some protection. In their natural environment a single plant can attain an enormous size—up to 10 feet or more in overall length. This species does not produce suckers and must be reproduced from spores; however, suckers can be produced under laboratory conditions (Baileya 12 (3) 1964).

Platycterium veitchii (Underw.) C. Chr.

Silver Elkhorn Fern.

This uncommon species is native to central and northern Queensland, ranging from Cape York south to Mt. Bali in the Blackall Range in southern Queensland. The Silver Elkhorn Fern usually occurs in low rainfall areas and is always found growing on rock. The prothallus usually germinates in damp crevices on sandstone and as the plant grows its roots absorb moisture from between the rocks. *P. veitchii* is a xerophytic fern and is able to withstand long periods of drought. This fern prefers temperatures above 40° F. (5° C.), but will tolerate a low of 32° F. (0° C.) for short periods if not allowed to remain too wet.

Culture of Staghorn and Elkhorn Ferns

By L. P. BUTT, Yeronga, Queensland

Although *Platycterium superbum* is undoubtedly the most magnificent of all our epiphytic ferns, it is not without cultural problems here in S.E. Queensland.

I have found that it pays to thoroughly peruse a new specimen before attempting to set it in a garden tree or even mount it for growing on a rock surface.

The presence of even a small *Davallia* fern or piece of its rhizome (root) can be detrimental to the plant if it is not removed. Even in the natural habitat, a great mound of peat high in a tree festooned with the twisting rhizomes and lush fronds of a great *Davallia* fern can generally mean here was once a proud *Platycterium*. The culprit, *Davallia pyxidata*, will take over a growing *Platycterium superbum* and finally become the plant just as sure as the strangler fig takes over a rainforest tree.

The most common pest to attack these *Platycterium* is the scale insects which accumulate under folds of the nest leaves and even on the fertile fronds. Following this, if not eradicated, a fungal attack appears as brown spots on the belly or nest leaves generally at the centre point where the fertile fronds emerge. This fungal rot will spread right across the nest leaves if allowed to take hold.

Another problem with *Platycterium superbum* comes from occasional leaf attack by the huge white slug which often is found on the plant. The Staghorn slug is large, broad, and has a red triangular design on its back. It has a voracious appetite.

Regular spraying with methylated spirits and water has always been my protective agent against the pests and diseases that trouble this lovely epiphyte.

In cultivation, *Platycterium superbum* has no equal to create a tropical atmosphere around a home, and the finest specimens are those collected or spore grown and secured to a tree while very juvenile. The nest fronds wrap around the host tree, and quickly anchor to the tree surface giving a permanent hold against wind or scrambling tree animals. Securing a mature plant often has its problems because of the often considerable weight of some specimens. One such specimen of mine, torn from a large *Melaleuca* during a storm had a nest or "belly" of about 1.5m diameter and fertile fronds of nearly 2m length.

I have also found that most of the cultural problems associated with *Platycterium superbum* do not occur with *Platycterium veitchii*, *P. bifurcatum*

and *P. hillii*. These are known here as elkhorn ferns and are easily grown, thriving in cultivation, although sometimes subject to attack of scale insects. *Platycerium bifurcatum* and similar elkhorns can be grown by division of a mature clump in early spring. Cut sections from a large mature clump preferably with about two growing crowns and making sure an ample layer of peat is left as a backing. The division can be mounted on a wooden board until it secures itself. However, preference should be given to a suitable place on a firm-barked tree.

Large pieces should be tightly secured to the tree with nylon cord, or plastic covered wire, *never* raw wire! Care should be taken that no foreign securing band crosses the central crown or growing points. The plant back section can be shaped to blend to the shape of tree ensuring a close union.

The practice of nailing the edges of these plants to their host initially should only be used on board plaques or cement walls, *never* on a live tree!

Small immature stags or elks are possibly the best material to cultivate, as a tiny *Platycerium* can be smeared with a glue like aquadhere and pressed onto the tree with a stocking band until the glue sets. I am told that araldite glue is best, but I have never used this medium myself. The baby ferns will develop quickly and the closer union and tighter bond that occurs will give you a fern that will never slip or come off even in a cyclone.

As a cultural feeding programme, every piece of fern, be it tiny or a division from a large plant can be immersed in a nutrient fertiliser and allowed to dry before putting your plant to its tree or other medium. Here in Queensland I use a trace element liquid fertiliser with a long feeding habit and good nutritive value of nitrogen. There is one brand that seems to be a straight hormone fertiliser put out by Warner laboratories and it is very successful.

In the case of the *Platycerium superbum*, vegetable or fruit table scraps placed in the top and behind the apex nest frond will provide a good mulching value if it is activated by a light watering of a soluble foliar fertiliser.

Study Group: A new group is being formed by Len Butt, author of the above article. 25 Orive Street, Yeronga, Old, 4104. New members needed.



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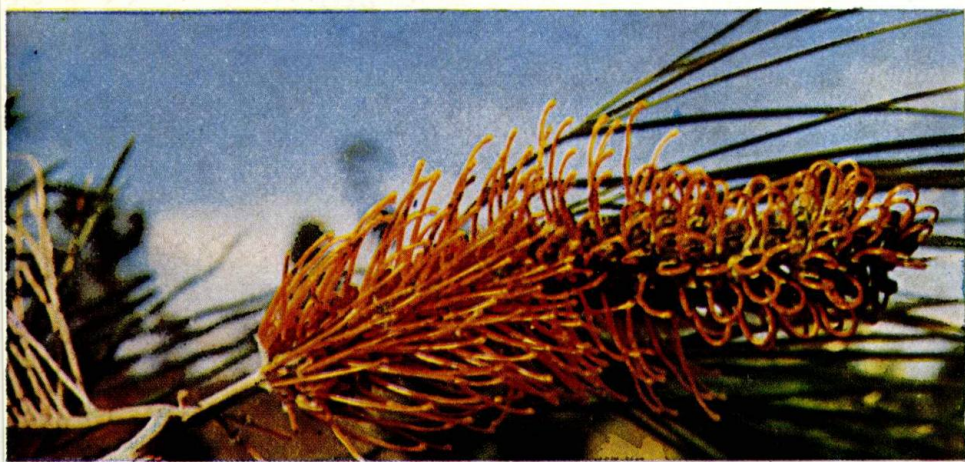
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