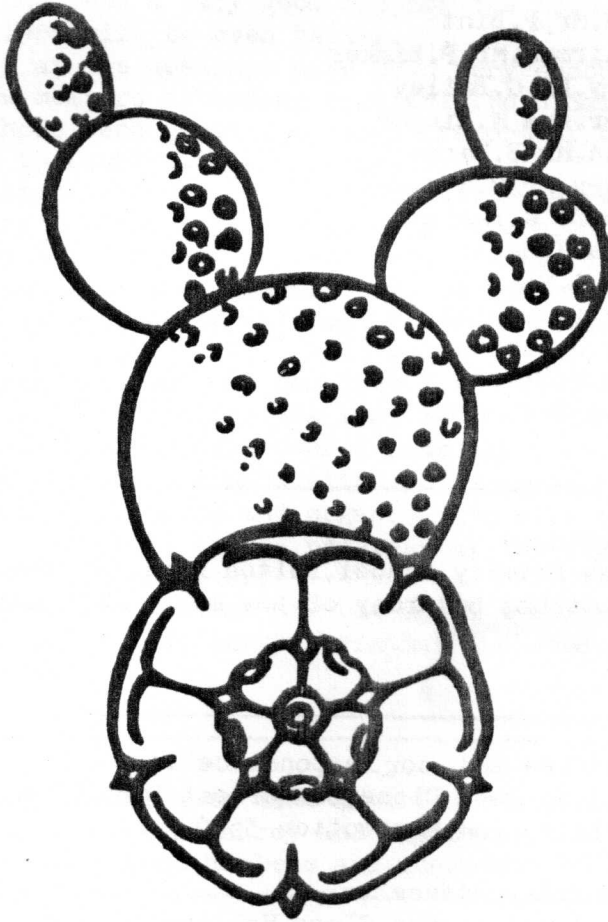


BC.S.S.
MANCHESTER BRANCH



NEWSLETTER

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, MANCHESTER BRANCH.

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 1984.

LIST OF OFFICERS:

President. Mr C. Partington FNCSS

Vice Presidents. Mr H. Gaulton

Mr N. Crane

Hon. Chairman. Mr. P. Bint

Hon. Vice Chairman. Mr P. Barker

Hon. Secretary. Dr G. Bailey

Hon. Treasurer. Mrs M. Singer

Hon. Librarian. Mr B. Darnell

Show Secretary. Mr R. Scrimshaw

Show Manager. Dr G. Bailey

Committee. Mrs J. Bint

Mr L. Percy

Mr A. Campbell

Mr J. Hinton

Mr H. Ormrod

Mrs Scrimshaw

MONTHLY MEETINGS:-

St. Augustine's Primary School, Bolton Road, Pendlebury.

At 7.00 p.m. second Saturday of the month with exception
4th August.

General Enquiries and correspondence to:-

Dr G. Bailey, 4, Hargate Close, Summerseat, Bury, Lancs, BL9 5NY
Telephone Ramsbottom 3570.

Newsletter correspondence to:-

Mr L. Percy, 36, Hillingdon Close, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3QJ
Telephone 688 9920

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Manchester Branch Newsletter.

This year has been a very good one for the branch and let us hope that 1985 will be even better.

Attendances at the meetings have been very encouraging with several new members attending regularly. Both Salford and Rochdale shows were great successes. A report of both these events can be found within this issue.

The Newsletter will be published four times a year, if enough articles are forthcoming from members. At present I am having to rely too much on certain members for articles, so will you please write something, cultural tips, certain favourite plants, anything that will be of interest to your fellow succulentophiles.

A great piece of news that has just been confirmed is that Manchester will be hosting the 1987 National Show. For the first time it will be held over a four day period taking in lectures as well as the show. Although it seems a long way off a great deal of planning and organisation will be needed. You will be kept informed of the progress at the monthly meetings and through the newsletter.

I have gone on long enough now but may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and good growing for 1985.

Would members please note that anything concerned with the Newsletter contact Les Percy and any other queries contact Geoff Bailey. Telephone numbers and addresses on page 1.

For those of you who are seriously interested in our hobby I have gathered together a list of other societies that regularly publish journals in the hope that some of you may find something of interest. If anyone would like to see any of these publications ask the Committee as between us we belong to most if not all of these societies below.

ASKLEPIOS: Journal of the International Asclepiad Society.
Published quarterly. Seed and plant list. £5.00/annum.
Membership Secretary. Mrs. M. Thompson.
10, Moorside Terrace,
Drighlington,
Bradford, BD11 1HX.

MAMMILLARIA SOCIETY: Six journals a year, catering for enthusiasts of Mammillaria and allied genera. Seed list.
1984 subscription £4.00
Mem. Sec. Mammillaria Society,
Bramble Cottage,
Milton St,
Polegate,
Sussex.

THE EXOTIC COLLECTION: Monthly publication. Plant and seed lists.
£9.00 / annum.
B.M. & S. Lamb,
18, Franklin Rd,
Worthing,
Sussex, BN13 2PG.

THE XEROPHYTE: Quarterly journal, predominantly concerned with the other succulents, Seed List. £3.50/annum.
Mem. Sec. Angela Bassett,
3, the Springs,
West End Green,
Stratfield Saye,
Reading, RG7 2DY.

EPIPHYTES: Newsletter of the epiphytic Plant Study Group.
Subscription £1.80 / annum.
Chris Dawson,
1, Belvedere Park,
Great Crosby, Merseyside, L23 0SP.

Once again the time of year has come when the temperatures have fallen and our plants need some heating. In this article I do not want to discuss the type of heating used, most of us have our pet likes and dislikes, what I want to do is to suggest some methods of saving fuel and thus money.

Most examples quoted are from personal experience and I cannot guarantee the same results for other people.

Firstly, what temperature should I maintain? We do waste a lot of fuel by maintaining too high a temperature for the average collection. Nearly all our plants will survive quite adequately at 40°f, if and I must stress this fact, IF THE PLANTS ARE DRY.

I normally stop watering at the end of September and do not water again until at least the end of March. Most of us have one or two plants that do need a higher temperature e.g. Some Stapeliads, Melocacti, some Caudiciforms etc. Why not bring these inside the house on a sunny windowsill for the worst months?

It's a lot cheaper than heating the greenhouse to 50 - 60°f. Insulation. A great saving can be made by using some form of insulation. There are several types of 'bubble' plastic available, some better than others. Figures quoted for fuel savings in horticultural experiments are quite remarkable. Obviously in our smaller greenhouses we cannot achieve as good results as these, we can still make important savings. A word of warning about problems that occur. Much heat loss occurs through the roof, but if you insulate the roof with plastic condensation can be a problem.

Another good way of keeping part of the greenhouse a few degrees warmer is to build a framed section covered with glass or plastic to create a greenhouse within a greenhouse. Then by using a soil warming cable this small section can be kept at 50°f with ease.

In times of extreme cold temperatures by placing sheets of newspaper over your plants a layer of warmer air can be trapped around the plants.

For many years I grew my plants without any heating at all in the winter. Although the majority were cacti such as Rebutias Lobivias, Mchinocerei and quite a number of mesembs which are fairly hardy anyway I still had very few losses. I do heat now trying to maintain 40°f and by adopting several of the above suggestions my plants seem to be very happy.

SOUTHPORT SHOW SUCCESS FOR TONY.

The following newspaper article on one of our younger members shows what can be done. Well done Tony.

Young gardener stars at show



BURNLEY'S school-boy gardening genius Tony Butterworth was the star of Southport Flower Show last week.

Tony, 14, whose green-fingered skills have made him a local celebrity, won the Daily Mirror Trophy for the third year in succession. This is awarded

for the best exhibit by someone under 21 at the show.

Not a bad achievement when you consider that Southport is probably second only in prestige terms to the Chelsea Flower Show.

He also gained four firsts, five seconds and three thirds.

Tony, a pupil of Towneley High School, also

received a diploma for the best cactus in the show and the Flower Committee trophy for the most points in the cacti classes.

Tony was taken back by his own success. "I couldn't believe it," he said.

PICTURE: Triumphant Tony Butterworth pictured holding two of his latest cups.

HUERNIA: This is one of the most popular genera in the stapeliads, consisting of over fifty species.

The plants are to be found throughout the drier regions of South, East and North Africa and into Arabia, although the vast majority are to be found in South Africa.

Cultivation is fairly easy although they can be prone to drying up if they are kept too dry. They can be grown quite happily on a window-sill although flowering and body colour are much better in the greenhouse.

The majority of species commonly encountered will quite happily survive with a winter temperature of around 40°F with the occasional spraying on mild sunny days.

The flowers although not as large as those found in Stapelia, are very attractive. Normal size of the flowers is around 2-3cm wide in various colours with hairs spots and tubercles. An interesting feature of one group is a raised ring or annulus in the centre of the flower giving rise to the term 'lifebuoy Huernias'.

A very interesting group of plants that will enhance every collection. A small selection of more commonly encountered species is listed below.

H. *clavigera*. Flowers coloured ochre-yellow with brown and purple spots. Stiff purple hairs in centre.

H. *kirkii*. Beautifully marked, coloured whitish yellow and pink-purple in patches.

H. *macrocarpa*. Greenish yellow with thin brown transverse lines.

H. *namaquensis*. White to yellowish with tiny pinkish spots.

H. *longituba*. As name suggests long tubed flowers, creamy coloured with pale purple markings.

H. *pillansii*. Stems very different to above, many small tubercles with hairs, flowers yellow-orange with brownish spots

H. *zebrina*. Lifebuoy type of flower, bright red centre.

Having discussed general appearance, maturity, flowering and freedom from pests and diseases we can now move onto the last areas of discussion on showing. These are difficulty of cultivation and rarity. Between them these two points carry 25% of the marks available for any exhibit.

Many plants prove difficult to grow. Some of them are extremely difficult to cultivate, even for experienced growers. Others are claimed as difficult by some and easy by others. This all comes down to personal experience. An example of the former situation is *Euphorbia piscidermis* of E. hadramautica, specimens of which came into this country in quantity and vanished just as rapidly from collections. We do not really understand what is required to make such plants flourish in cultivation. Their habitats are often very severe and maybe life in captivity is too soft for their systems. Usually the most successful method of treating plants that display such difficulty is to graft them. In such a situation judges will view the plants more favourably but in general a grafted plant will be downpointed for being grafted as it makes the plant easier to grow than a similar specimen growing on its own roots. The second form of difficulty mentioned is indigenous to individuals. For example, one person I know found *Mammillaria wildii* very difficult to grow whereas I found that it grew with extreme ease as you probably have found and I am sure you will have come across other plants that you find hard to grow whilst others extol the ease with which the same plant grew. Obviously this type of difficulty is of no account in showing. There are many plants that are regarded as difficult to grow, that challenge even the most experienced growers in our society. The reasons why plants test our abilities may be described as various. Firstly the plants may not wish to conform to our seasonal pattern of growth. This is certainly a phenomenon of succulents from the southern hemisphere (Not all of them of course). A second mode of difficulty is plants requiring a higher temperature than normal because they originate from tropical regions of the world. An example of this is the genus *Discocactus*. The need for very careful watering is yet another reason for considering a plant difficult to grow. Very often these plants which are troublesome to grow are put together in classes of their own. Now we move onto rarity. This is a relative condition because what we may consider as rare in cultivation may in fact be plentiful in habitat but because of conservation and the multitude of rules surrounding collection of plant material and seeds we are unable to propagate them. The converse is also true. Many plants

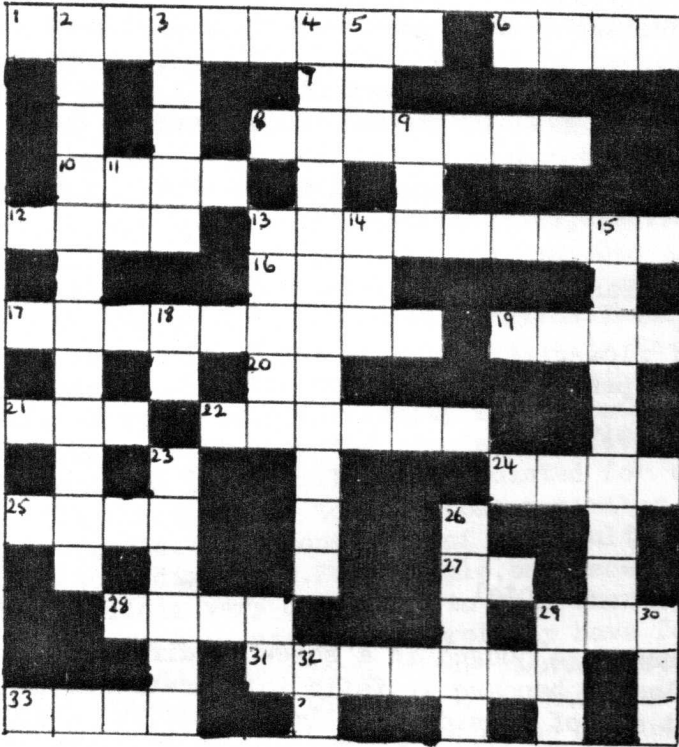
that we grow and consider to be plentiful are in fact very rare in habitat because greedy collectors have completely wiped out whole populations. (e.g. *Aloe variegata*). Thus if a plant is hard to come by in cultivation it will normally be considered as rare. The Society considers showing as a very important part of the yearly calendar, even to the extent of putting on a National Show every four years. They train and provide qualified judges to adjudicate at these shows. We should do our best to support our branches at all such events.

The points system that judges use at these shows is as follows:

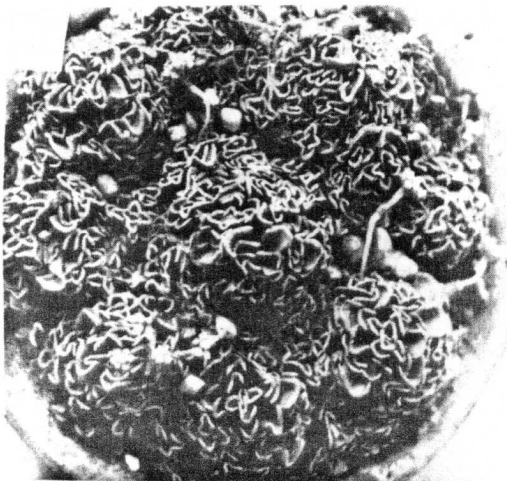
Condition:

General appearance	5	points.
maturity	5	"
Evidence of flowering	2	"
Freedom from pests and diseases	2	"
Difficulty of cultivation	3	"
Rarity	2	"
Presentation	1	"
Total	20	"

Decorative classes are judged in a somewhat different manner to the ordinary classes because artistic interpretation, impression and arrangement are of considerable importance. The only other consideration is the condition of the plants used. 75% of the marks go on the first criterion mentioned and 25% on the plant condition. The main needs in decorative classes are to be found in the combination of colour, design, creative imagination, careful choice of container and the varying size of plant material. You may be able to keep bowl gardens as they are for a period of years with minimal alteration but table decorations and mini gardens will need to be redone annually as would novelty exhibits. So, having outlined many of the simple basics involved, I urge you to have a go and please don't be disappointed at what you may term as a failure. Be like Robert Buce's spider—"If at first you don't succeed try, try, again". It is fun and there are the social benefits of being able to discuss all the plants and the methods you use in cultivation with one another.



Answers on page. 14.



CRASSULA suzannae

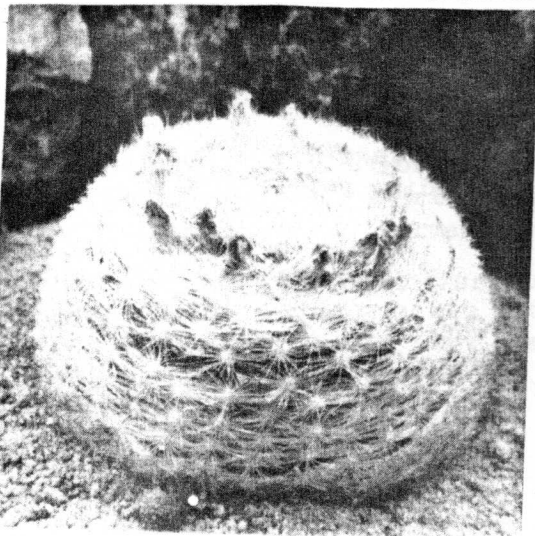
CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. Ex superintendant of Bolivian railways or columnar cactus.(9)
6. African Lilaceae.(4)
7. Not out.(2)
8. Without spines.(7)
10. Wax flower.(4)
12. Italian volcano.(4)
13. Cactus state in U.S.(3-6)
16. Before.(3)
17. Mammillaria from Baja California.(9)
19. Parodia mairanana variety.(4)
20. Out ? No.(2)
21. First woman.(3)
22. Great German collector and discoverer of many cacti.(6)
24. Cactus from Lima?(4)
25. White plant.(4)
27. Sun God.(2)
28. Botanically white.(4)
29. Larger plants often have to be put in one.(3)
31. Stapeliad in this issue?(7)
33. Named after Mexican preacher & cactus collector.(3)

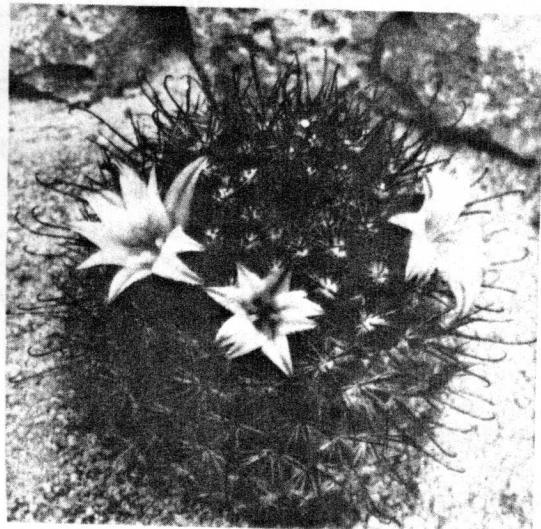
Down

2. Rich succulent area in South Africa.(12)
3. South American town and cactus.(5)
4. Highly succulent Mesemb.(12)
5. First number.(3)
9. Male sheep.(3)
11. Not off.(2)
14. Too much water?(3)
15. Largest Stapeliad genus.(9)
18. Same as 7 across.(2)
23. South African, ex Director of Kirstenbosch Gardens, many plants named after him.(4)
26. _____ Canyon.(5)
29. God of music.(3)
30. Botanically new.(3)
32. Not down.(2)



▲ MAMMILLARIA candida

▼ MAMMILLARIA dioica



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Branch Meetings. Dec. 8th. A.G.M. and Plants Grown By Others.
Peter Bint and John Hinton.

Jan. 12th. National Show Luton, 1983. Philip Barker
For those of you that did not get to
the last National Show here is a great
opportunity to see some great plants.

The remainder of next years programme will be published in the
next issue of the newsletter. However the printed cards for
1985 will be issued at the next Branch meeting.

BOLTON AND DISTRICT CACTUS CLUB

Meetings held at Small Lecture Hall, Central Library, Bolton.
Details from Philip Barker.

Dec. 11th. Liverpool 84. P. Barker.

EPIPHYLLUM FLOWER COLOURS.

Les Percy.

Of all the cacti the Epiphyllums have the showiest flowers. They
are quite undemanding for conditions, but there one drawback is
their size. For those with large greenhouses or conservatories
that is not such a problem. For those of us with more modest
surroundings there is a limit on the types that can be grown.
Due to this reason I have compiled a short list of flower
colours of some of the easily obtained types.

Miniature and small flowered.

Baby	Orange Bouquet	Snowflake(ST)
Flower Song	Rosetta	Wedding Bells
Kami	Snowflake(CP)	

White and Cream (Usually with a contrasting colour)

Benediction	Golden	Queen Ann
China Bowl	Golden Emblem	Regency
Communion	Ivory Queen	Santa Fe
Cooperi	Jorg Siepke	Snowcap
Creme de Menthe	Londonii	Southern Cross
Dolly madison	Moon Goddess	Summer Glory
Eden	Moonrise	Winter Moon
Gillian Fearn	Moonlight	Wrayi
Glamour Girl	Nada	

Yellow (Usually with white or a contrasting colour)

Discovery	Polar Bear	Zafferin
Dobsons Yellow	Reward	
NOON	wedding anniversary	

Red

Ackermanii	Dracula	J.T.Barber
Amber Queen	Educator	Jungle Moon
Augusta von Szombathy	El Indio	Kevin
Beautie Wegener	El Jaleo	Knebels Farbenwonder
Ber Tee	Fasan	Lipstick
Bruin	Flora Dora	London Glory
cadet	Fortuna	Lydia
Calypso	Friendship	Paula Knebel
Cambodia	Gallant knight	Triumph des Anthieux
Ce Em	Greek God	Sparkle
Christmas Bells	Heart Beat	
Draco	Jules Schlumberger	

Pink, Rose and Lavender

Adonis	Day in Spring	Orchid Supreme
Agatha	Devotion	Padre
Alice Canfield	Duchess of Windsor	Primrose
Bagdad	Ensemble	Rosalie
Bambie	Excello	Roseus Superbus
Beaux Yeux	Fair Annet	Royal Rose
Bonnie Brae	Grace Marie	Scherazade
Bridesmaid	Jodrell Bank	September Moon
Carnation	Joy	Siegfried
Carol	Lilac Prince	Southern Beauty
Classic	Lohegrin	Wanderlust
Confetti	Martha Knebel	Venus
Dark Daphne	Normandie	

The remaining colours (red with purple or orange and orange) will be listed in the next issue.

The Salford Show weekend during mid-August was blessed with hot sunny weather which encouraged a very large public attendance. A large proportion of the crowd were attracted into the Branch section of the show where they admired the fine display of exhibits, bought plants and tried their luck at the tombola. The event was a huge success both as a show and for it's contribution to Branch funds enabling us to bring well known speakers for the meetings in this coming year. In stark contrast the weather during the Rochdale Show some six weeks later was cold, wet and windy. In spite of the weather the Branch show, held for the first time in conjunction with the Rochdale Flower show, attracted many hundreds of visitors. The Branch show section alone boasted 376 entries of over one thousand plants staged on five thirty-five foot long benches. The public enthused over the exhibits, bought lots of plants and tasted the super catering provided by the ladies of the branch. It is not an overstatement to say that this was our best show for fifteen or more years and we hope to repeat the success at Middleton or Heywood next year. The committee wishes to congratulate all the helpers, supporters, and caterers who made 1984 a most memorable show year.



Kedrostis africana

This is an interesting caudiciform succulent from the Cucurbitaceae (cucumber family). It develops a very large caudex from which long vine like climbing stems are produced.

Les Percy

WATERING

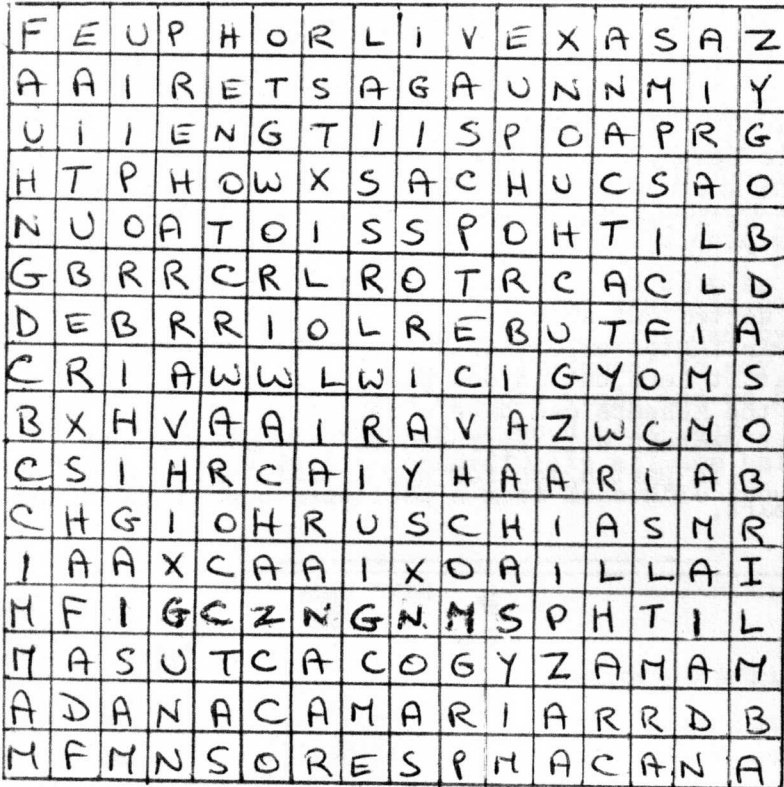
What arguments this simple word can evoke!

My practise is to water most subjects fairly freely all summer i.e.mid March to mid-September, then stop watering for the winter, not forgetting that plastic pots retain water for a long time, so to avoid having wet pots in October/November, one must think of stopping at the beginning of September. There are exceptions of course. it would all be too easy if the above rule prevailed always. Echeverias etc., like a little water in the winter to avoid shrivelling, while Epiphyllums don't really like being dry at all. mesembryanthemums are special. Our President, Colin Partington with his other hat on as a prominent member of the Bolton Cactus society wrote an article years ago on watering these plants which I have found to be most helpful and authoratitive. All the differe-nt mesembs are sorted out according to their watering needs, with the usual Partington expertise. The article is quite lengthy so I won't repeat it here, but anyone particularly interested in the watering of the Mesembs can have a copy from me. I will have it photocopied if members will approach me (10p). I must not forget to thank Colin Partington for his article which I have kept over the years.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS.

Across. 1. Arrojadoa. 6. Aloe. 7. In. 8. Inermis. 10. Hoya. 12. Etna. 13. New Mexico. 16. Ere. 17. Armillata. 19. Atra. 20. In. 21. Eve. 22. Ritter. 24. mila. 25. Alba. 27. Ra. 28. Alba. 29. Pan. 31. Huernia. 33. Lau.

Down. 2. Richtersveld. 3. Oroya. 4. Dinteranthus. 5. One. 9. Ram. 11. On. 14. Wet. 15. Caralluma. 18. In. 23. Hall. 26. Grana. 29. Pan. 30. Neo. 32. Up.



Can you find the following genera of Cacti and Succulents in the above squares.

GASTERIA

HAWORTHIA

FAUCARIA

EUPHORBIA

WILCOXIA

REBUTIA

RUSCHIA

ANACAMPSEROS

LITHOPS

ZYGOCACTUS

HARRISIA

MAMMILLARIA