

Calytrix Study Group-Newsletter No.5. 1985. February 1985.

Dear Calytrix Members,

We are a small group at present. We have 5 active members, 8 passive members, (usually S.G.A.P. groups), and 5 interested people who have supplied seed or cutting material during the last six months.

As yet I have not had any reports from members on their experiences or experiments with Calytrix, but of course it is early days yet. I am certainly looking forward to hearing from those who've had a go- good news or bad.

I have been looking at seed germination, seedling cuttings and cuttings using both soft and semi-hardwood material. In this newsletter I would like to present an interim report on some of these activities.

SEED GERMINATION AND SEEDLING CUTTINGS. - C. angulata.

- AIMS: 1. To check seed viability of *C. angulata* which was four years old.
2. To use seedlings for cutting material in an attempt to overcome seedling dormancy and poor root development which had occurred in previous work with seed.

4.8.84.

Fifty seeds were planted in a seed punnet. Seed mix was 50% washed river sand, 50% perlite. Awns and calyx were removed before planting. Seed point was pushed into the mix, with top of seed level with top of mix.

Punnet was placed on a capillary bed on family room floor. Underfloor heating was operating. Room temp. 15°-23° C. The box was beside a North facing window with sun filtering through open weave curtains.

15.9.84. 7 seedlings potted up in tubes at cotyledon stage.

27.9.84. 11 " " " " " " " " .

30.10.84. 8 more potted up. 4 of these survived.

16.11.84. Of the 18 original seedlings 14 survived.

No further germination.

All seedlings had bottom watering in order to keep their leaves dry, and plants were in a semi-shaded spot which was warm and airy. This way I hoped to reduce fungal attack as Calytrix are prone to this.

9.1.85. Some seedlings had developed to a stage where cuttings could be taken- 2 cms, or about 5 prs. of leaves. Most of the seedlings are still alive and have grown new shoots.

15 cuttings were taken and prepared in the usual way. Care was taken not to damage the delicate stem. 8 were placed round the sides of a 4" square pot in a mix $\frac{2}{3}$ washed r.s., $\frac{1}{3}$ peat moss. 7 were planted in a similar manner in sphagnum moss. Pots were then placed in a cutting frame (2mx1m x1m.)

25.1.85. 7 of the 8 cuttings in W.R.S./ P.M. mix had roots. These roots appeared much stronger than those of the seedlings themselves. Also there was more than one root at the base of the cutting.

3 of the 7 cuttings in S.M. had roots. Roots were not as well developed as those in other mix.

All rooted cuttings were potted on into a $\frac{2}{3}$ W.R.S., $\frac{1}{3}$ P.M. mix. W.R.S. and S.M. cuttings have been marked so that future development can be checked. Bottom watering was continued.

25.1.85. Further cuttings were taken from seedlings. Liquid hormone was used on all cuttings.

At present all cuttings are growing on successfully in T7 pots.

My thanks to Lyn Craven, (who has just completed a revision of the *Calytrix* genus). for suggesting seedling cuttings of *Calytrix*. Apparently dormancy problems were overcome in rhododendrons by this technique. Also to Max Hewitt whose tips for growing verticordias proved most helpful.

SEEDLING GERMINATION-- Some other species.

I also decided to look at the germination of some other species using fresh seed. This was because in the past problems were experienced getting any germination from some seed. The seed was bought from a reputable seed firm, and date of collection was given as 1984.

AIM: Over a period of time to look at the germination rates of seed collected at the same time, but sown over a period of five years.

SPECIES: *aurea*, *brachyphylla*, *exstipulata*.

27.9.84. Seeds sown and treated exactly as for *C. angulata*.

Results to date:-

C. aurea. 80 sown. No germination.

C. brachyphylla. 60 sown. 3 seedlings.

C. exstipulata. 70 sown. 3 seedlings.

Seedling cuttings have been taken and treated as *C. angulata*. 1 *brachyphylla* and 3 *exstipulata* have struck and been potted on.

Soon I intend to plant seed of other species as well as those already attempted, with a further planting in late winter. I have tried to ensure only firm seed was planted. It is very easy to be tricked into planting the husks.

Next newsletter I hope to have reports from others. Please let me know what is happening to your seeds and plants.

GRATEFUL THANKS.

As many SGAPPERS will know, I advertised thro' the various newsletters for seed and cutting material. I greatly appreciate the seed and/or cutting material sent by the following people:-

Mrs T.R.Anderson Blackwood, S.A.

Mr H.Grant Dubbo, N.S.W.

R. & M.Hamilton Kalamunda, W.A.

Jane Williams Pomonal, Vic.

Cutting material from S.A. has struck and been potted on. A report of its progress in the next newsletter.

W.A. members of the Wildflower Society, PLEASE we DESPARATELY need both seed and cutting material to help us in our work with this genus. Your state is blessed with an abundance of them. Remember we are happy to keep you informed and reimburse you for postage.

I am listing members names and addresses in case they would like to contact each other for exchange of seed or plant material. When my plants grow a little larger I will happily send material to any member who requests same.

Mr J.A.Craven, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry.

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