

# Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

February 13, 1980-Volume 4, Number 2

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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## CORRECTIONS:

Dennis & Paula Brewer

Betsy & Ferd Bollman

Henry & Alita Feedback

George & Jean Watson

Norman & Daisy (Taylor) Simmons

Paul Egan  
15788 Lyons Valley Rd.  
Jamul, Ca. 92035

Hurst Nursery 1-213-444-5296  
12059 Lambert Ave.  
El Monte, Ca. 91732

---Dolores Moss

Someone has said that there are four kinds of "BONES" in every organization:

There are the "WISHBONES", who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work.

There are the "JAWBONES", who do all of the talking, but very little else.

There are the "KNUCKLEBONES", who knock everything anyone ever tries to do.

And finally, there are the "BACKBONES", who get under the load and do the work.

Author Unknown

It will soon be time to appoint a committee for the 1980-1981 Officers and Board. There will be vacancies (both Officers and Board Members) to be filled due to expired terms. If you would like to be one of the "BACKBONES", PLEASE LET YOUR WISHES BE KNOWN!

Our 1980 flower show is Mother's Day. This is the busiest time of the year for our Society. Let's give Elinor Latimer a helping hand and make this our biggest and best ever!

---Fern LaBorde, President

FEBRUARY PROGRAM = FLOYD GABLE

Floyd Gable, one of our most prized member-speakers, will give the program this month on the 13th. Floyd is not only an articulate speaker and expert photographer, he also has a green (for growing) and red (for blooming) thumb. He will show slides of his cacti (and some of the other succulents) plants and especially their colorful flowers. He will also reveal his secrets for getting the above results. (Sun-glasses are recommended for those whose eyes are sensitive.)

---John Clancy

WANTED:

Information about Epiphyllum hybridizers. Data should include: hybrids, hybrid name meanings, location of nursery and/or collection (especially if no longer in existence), history of grower, pictures of grower, etc. Example, does anyone have a picture of Theresa Monmonier or Gertrude Beahm? Write an article about a grower or growers or send what ever information that is available to the editor.

---Richard Latimer Jr.

Send all news items and articles to:

Richard G. Latimer Jr.  
5990 Lake Murray Blvd.  
La Mesa, Ca. 92041

Send all new memberships or membership renewals to:

Dolores Moss  
8551 Neva Ave.  
San Diego, Ca. 92123

LOVE MONTH \*\*\*\* FEBRUARY

Thanks to all of those who furnished refreshments for the January meeting. This is sweetheart month-Valentines! I wonder what the refreshments will be like this month? Those who volunteered are:

- Kathie van Arum
- Dorothy Runde
- Virginia Pierson
- Dorothy Ogdon
- Gene Lund
- Henrietta Jensen
- Gladys Harper
- Carolyn Esposito
- Betsy Bollman

---Gwendolyn Johnston

OBITUARY

We are sorry to announce that the Orange County Epiphyllum Society has folded.

ON THE NEXT PAGE-

We reprint here an article from the Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin. As we now know, the date connected with Walton is about fifty years too early, but it is still an excellent article.

---Ken Moss

(This article will constitute Part II of The Golden Age of Epiphyllums. Below is a picture from the cover of the October 1939 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal (XI, 4).-Ed.)



E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara, is well-known for his work with succulents.

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# What Is Fertilizer?

Fertilizers (also referred to as plant foods) are materials used to supply plants with readily available forms of plant nutrients which they need for proper development and growth.

To date there are over one hundred chemical elements listed by science. Of these one hundred plus elements only sixteen are known to be essential to plants.

Three of the sixteen essential elements, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are taken primarily from the air and water. Oxygen and hydrogen are obtained by plants from water. Carbon and oxygen are taken in by the leaves from the air. All other elements utilized by the plant must come from the soil. Soils vary in the total quantity of nutrients which may be available to the plant. Crop removal of these elements plus leaching and weathering losses eventually bring most soils to a point where they are deficient in one or more plant food elements. The addition of commercial, multiple element fertilizers, applied periodically supplement and make up for any plant food deficiencies which may occur in a soil.

We often hear the question, why doesn't a fertilizer material, or a complete fertilizer mix, have a 100% plant food content. For instance a 16-6-8 analysis or grade adds up to 30% plant food or thirty pounds per one hundred pounds of material. What is the other 70%?

The answer is one of practical chemistry since plants cannot use primary plant foods in their elemental form such as (N), but require  $\text{NO}_3$  or  $\text{NH}_4$ , can't use (P) but require  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ . This means that for each part nitrogen you have three parts oxygen and four parts hydrogen. In addition, you receive additional value from carriers in the average fertilizer mix; Sulfur, Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, etc.

Nitrogen is a colorless inert gas. 78% of the gas in the atmosphere is nitrogen and this is of no value to most plants. Nitrogen has to be made into compounds before it can be used by plants. Thus Sulfate of Ammonia is a compound containing 21% nitrogen. The other 79% is being made up of basically hydrogen, sulfur and oxygen.

Phosphorous in its elemental form would be dangerous to use. It catches fire spontaneously and in concentrate form is actually poisonous to plants.

Potassium in 100% concentration, when placed in contact with water, catches fire, explodes and decomposes into a strong caustic solution. When Potassium combines with approximately its own weight in chlorine, muriate of potash is produced. In this form it is a good and much needed form of plant food.

The thirteen nutrients that plants must obtain from the soil via the root structure are divided into three categories or groups. The first group is called primary plant foods, (1) Nitrogen; (2) Phosphorous; (3) Potassium (Potash).

Plants rapidly utilize the primary plant food elements and soils normally cannot provide them in the quantities needed for best plant growth.

**NITROGEN (N)** promotes rapid growth, increases yield of leaf, promotes chlorophyll formation (green color), regulates uptake of nutrients, protoplasm or protein formation.

**PHOSPHOROUS (P)** hastens maturity (conversion of starch to sugar) stimulates early root formation and growth, stimulates blooming and aids in seed formation.

**POTASH (K)** aids in the development of stems and leaves, increases disease resistance, aids in protein production in plants. Acts as a catalyst in iron uptake, is essential to the formation and trans-location of starches, sugar and oils and helps development of tubers.

Secondary plant food elements (1) Calcium (Ca); (2) Magnesium (Mg); (3) Sulfur (S).

**CALCIUM** is an essential part of cell wall structure and must be present for the formation of new cells.

**MAGNESIUM** is essential for photosynthesis and serves as an activator for many plant enzymes required in growth process.

**SULFUR** is constituent of three amino acids and is therefore essential for protein synthesis. Sulfur's role in plant production has become increasingly more important in the Western United States.

**MICRONUTRIENTS:** Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Boron, Copper, Molybdenum, Chlorine.

Even though micronutrients are used by plants in very small amounts they are just as essential for plant growth as larger amounts of primary and secondary nutrients.

SUBMITTED  
BY GENE LUND

