

Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

AUGUST 8, 1984
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PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

MEETING: 2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM, Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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Fri. Aug. 31st

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Check or money order payable to San Diego Epiphyllum Society, MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ONE YEAR \$6.00 SINGLE or FAMILY MEMBERSHIP U.S.A., \$12.00 INTERNATIONAL (Note: number in parentheses on mailing label indicates dues month. Please check and keep current.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Diane T. Cotter, Kent, England
T. O. & Helen Cullins,
San Diego

Call Pat if you can, 279-8026.
Those signed up:

Catherine Burger	Irmela Paul
Red & Joyce	Jerry Plaisted
Carstensen	Gus Schlapfer
Michiko Munda	
Roberta Wetzel	



GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 8

Greg Balvin has arranged a real blockbuster program for you this month! Member Kathie Van Arum is our speaker and she will present her long awaited slide program of epi people and places on her "Epi Odyssey" last year through Europe and the Middle East. Knowing Kathie, you're sure to be in for a treat.

See you there!

If you didn't know this already, the great refreshment tables so beautifully presented for you every month are due to the hard work of a sweet lady, Penny Bunker. Penny has been doing this for the Epi Society for a very long time and we're lucky to have her. We all thank you, Penny.



AUGUST REFRESHMENTS

Well, we didn't quite make our 10-person quota for the refreshment list but we're doing better. We need **THREE MORE PEOPLE** to bring cookies (about 3 doz. each, or a sheet cake to cut in squares). Can you do it?

Bright red pepper-pod...
It needs but shiny
Wings and look...
Darting dragon-fly!

Basho

EPI SUPPLY COMMITTEE

There is a newly formed committee which will be for the benefit of local society members wishing to purchase:

Sponge Rock
Labels
Hangers
Gallon Pots

Charcoal (50 lb. bag @ \$12.00) and other supplies as they become available and we get a good price.

The committee chairman is Andy Capp and you can pick up these items between 9 AM and 12 NOON on Saturdays at Gene Lund's residence at 5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa (off Lake Murry Blvd.).

If you need something and cannot make these hours, call Andy Capp, 469-4784, and make an appointment.

POTTING MIXES

...Dick Chadwick

Much has been written about soil mixes, some very complicated, others very simple.

Some examples are

- *1 Dr. Poindexter:
4 parts leaf mold
2 parts peat moss
2 parts cow or sheep manure
2 parts gravel
2 parts sand
Charcoal
- *2 Dr. Werfermann:
1 part leaf mold
1 part manure
1/2 part sand
- *3 Ventura Epiphyllum Garden:
3 parts leaf mold
1 part sand
1 part peat moss
1 part well-rotted manure
1/2 cup bone meal to 5 gal. mix
- *4 Harold Knebel:
1 part leaf mold
1 part peat moss
1 part sand
1 part crumbly loam
1 part well-rotted manure

*from Epiphyllum Handbook by Scott Haselton

All of the above mixes have much in common with each other but other growers use very elaborate or exotic mixes such as dog manure, hoof and horn and maybe a dozen other items, some will do more harm than good.

Epiphyllums need a loose moisture retention soil, rich in humas, that is neither too soggy or dries out too fast. Almost all of the main brands of potting mixes will do with the addition of ground redwood bark, perlite (sponge rock), charcoal, potash and phosphate. It is important that the potash and phosphate be mixed into the soil as, especially, the phosphate is a root contact fertilizer and does very little good sitting on top of the soil.

There is a difference between "Potting Soil" and "Planter Mix".

Potting soil is mainly soil with peat moss or ground bark and other materials. Planter mix is mostly humas material; it may contain some soil, perlite and other materials.

I have tried many mixes in the past with varying results and finally arrived at two basic mixes for my own epiphyllums and other moisture loving plants. For a starter mix, I use mixture #2 but eliminate the fertilizer.

Mixture #1

1 part commercial potting soil
1 part ground redwood bark
20% perlite (sponge rock)
5% charcoal

1 TBSP "Super Phosphate" per Gal. of mix
*1 TBSP "Sulphate of Potash" per Gal. of mix

Mixture #2

1 part commercial potting soil
1 part ground redwood bark
1 part planter mix (Lomex, Kellogs Azalea Mix, etc.)
10% perlite

5% charcoal
1 TBSP "Super Phosphate" per Gal. of mix
*1 TBSP "Sulphate of Potash" per Gal. of mix

*20% Sulphate of Potash; if using 50% Sulphate of Potash, reduce the amount to 1/2 TBSP

It is easier to remember that a two cubic-foot bag of potting mix contains approximately 18 gallons of soil so 2 cups of super phosphate and 2 cups of sulphate of potash would do for each two cubic-foot of mix you make.

Bone meal can be used instead of the "Super Phosphate", but at times it is hard to find and expensive and doesn't last as long as "Super Phosphate".

Redwood bark is used as it resists breaking down, adding bulk and aeration to the soil. It is non-toxic to the epiphyllum where other ground barks may harm the plant.

Sand has been eliminated from the mix as it tends to settle to the bottom of the pot and holds too much water which could cause root problems.

Steer manure was eliminated from the mix as it has very little fertilizer value, contains too much salts and breaks down too fast, causing excessive shrinkage of the soil in the pot. On the other hand, rabbit, sheep and goat manure would be a good additive as it would add bulk and the undigested alfalfa in the manure has twice the nitrogen as steer manure. Also the already pelleted form of the manure makes it easier to combine with the potting mix.

Oak leaf mold is an excellent additive if held to 20% of the total mix so as not to have too high of an acid content. Commercial oak leaf mold is expensive and hard to find. Several brands of oak leaf mold I have seen have been of very poor quality and not pure oak leaf mold. Unless you have your own source of supply or know of the reliability of the producer, forget the oak leaf mold.

"Pumice Stone" can be used instead of the perlite but most pumice that is sold commercially has the qualities of a piece of cement. True pumice stone is very porous and light in weight.

No nitrogen is added to the mix at this time as there is enough natural nitrogen in the mix to give the plants a start. After the plants

have settled in their new home and have started to grow, they can be fertilized with a liquid or dry fertilizer containing additional nitrogen.



SOME UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS IN THE CASA DEL PRADO

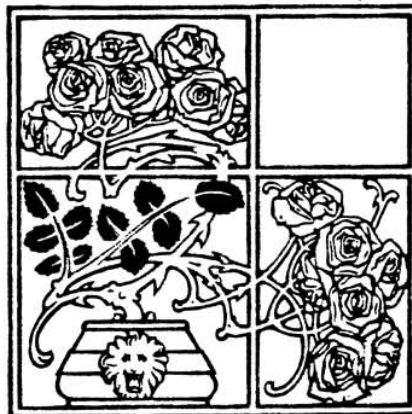
Aug. 18, 19 SAN DIEGO FERN SHOW
Sat. 1 PM - 5 PM, Sun. 10AM - 5 PM

Sept. 1, 2 SAN DIEGO ASSO. PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW
Sat. 10AM-5 PM, Sun. 11AM-4:30PM



Anyone have a CLOWN cutting they would like to trade for a MON CHERIE rooted cutting, or CURTAIN CALL or TASSEL cutting?

Call Marion Foster, 266-0355.



MORE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

Our rapidly expanding library has recently acquired the following additions:

From the Education Committee:

Nicola Ferguson, Right Plant, Right Place
 Arthur W. Galston, Green Wisdom
 S. Millar Gault, The Dictionary of Shrubs in Color
 Sheila Howarth, Miniature Gardens
 Hugh Johnson, The Principles of Gardening
 Jack Kramer, Growing Beautiful Flowers Indoors
 Edwin M. Steffek, The Complete Book of Houseplants & Indoor Gardening
 Reader's Digest, Success with House Plants

From Ruth Nelson:

Flower and Garden Magazine (November 1980)
House Plants & Porch Gardens (April 1978 - contains the article by
 Keith Barnes entitled "Orchid Cacti")

From Dick Chadwick:

Modern Maturity (Oct.-Nov. 1983 - contains the article by Betty G.
 Snyder entitled "Flowers that Go Bloom in the
 Night" (E. oxypetalum))

From Marion Foster:

Marjorie J. Dietz, 10,000 Garden Questions Answered by Experts Vol.
 1 and Vol. 2

AND

From W. C. Cocke:

Two sets of the Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin.
 One set runs from V. 20-36 and the other from V. 21-33.
 The second set is already in loose leaf volumes, the first set will
 be bound. Both sets will be supplemented by copies of the
 missing issues.

EPIES IN CHINA?

Last July 18th while watching on channel 15 (KPBS) the National Geographic Special entitled Save the Panda, we were sure we saw a two-toned epiphyllum hybrid during the program! We hope this program is repeated soon so that we can verify our observation.

---Rick Latimer