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CLIVIA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Clivia Club, PO Box 53219, Kenilworth 7745, South Africa



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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the committee and the Clivia Club.

Editorial

Much of this newsletter is taken up with show results, so my editorial will be brief. The photographs on the covers of this newsletter depict the Best on Show from the various shows and the winners have commented on their winning clivias. I think we all wish and hope that we will have a plant which will be a show winner one day, but how much more exciting if that plant is one you have bred yourself.

There are interesting letters from local and overseas members. Bill Morris was only able to comment on articles from the early 2000 newsletters once they had arrived in Australia (and this was very late). He clarifies some aspects of polyploids. The last of the excerpts from the Chinese Catalogue on variegated clivia is in this issue and there is lots of news from the Branches and Interest Groups.

This issue's 'personality' features George Mann who is the youngest member of the Clivia Club. With all the years ahead of him, just imagine how many generations of clivia he will be able to see. Has the time not come to offer incentives to youngsters by letting them off or reducing their membership fees?

Who would have thought that eight years after the formation of the Clivia Club there would be sufficient interest in Clivia to warrant a quarterly newsletter, a glossy yearbook, notes and newsletters from the various Branches and Interest Groups, a Clivia enthusiast e-mail chat group, and now a web page - all for a genus with only four species!

Our Chairman, John Winter is making a slow but successful recovery following heart bypass surgery but is back at work now.

The AGM is just around the corner and so we hope is the new constitution. Good wishes for the festive season and may all your clivias thrive in the New Year.

Meg Hart.

From the central committee

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is good to be back in circulation I feel I have missed out on all the highlights of the year! I am very pleased to hear that all the shows have been very successful. My congratulations to you all for the hard work that has brought such excellent results, not only in generating funds but in stimulating public interest and promoting Clivia.

Ian Brown has filled in for me in my absence. Thank you, Ian, for carrying the load, sorting out the problems and keeping things running smoothly. Thank you too, Chris, for your comprehensive update of Club activities in this newsletter - you have said it all! Congratulations and thanks to you for the very useful booklet 'Hints on Growing Clivia'.

As we welcome yet another New Year, may we all look forward to the best things that life can bring - good health, happiness and the joy of success in pursuing an interest close to one's heart.

Wishing you all happy Clivia days ahead.
John Winter

PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is 6th November today and the first day this season that I had the time to take precautionary actions against the lily borer. Besides two crinums which were in fact 99% destroyed, only one clivia showed early signs of infestation by lily borer. Take the hint - plant some crinums.

Since Newsletter 1 of 2000 went 'underground' we put new distribution channels in place which appear to be very effective. I have not had any complaints that Newsletter 3 has not been received. The Northern and Cape Province Branches distribute the newsletters to their members. The KwaZulu/Natal Branch and international members receive their newsletters from Pretoria and Sarel Naudé is responsible for their distribution. With regard to distribution to the Australian members, one master copy is posted to Ken Smith in Australia together with sufficient copies of the colour cover. Ken then duplicates the inside contents, binds them with the coloured covers and posts them to the Australian members.

In the previous newsletter Meg suggested that we should consider going back to the old style of a black and white cover to save on costs. Her statement surprised me but I am also surprised that very few members have commented on this suggestion. The general impression is that members are very satisfied and impressed with the latest newsletters' colour covers and the new format. Please let us know your opinions so that the committee can make an informed decision.

I have been in contact with advocate Grobler regarding the progress of the Clivia Club's new constitution. If everything goes according to plan we hope to have the draft ready in early December (hopefully for the Annual General Meeting).

Since the last newsletter Ken Fargher has started a web page on Clivia. Like the current chat group initiated by Rudo Lötter, the web page is the private initiative of an individual member of the Clivia Club and opinions expressed via these electronic forums do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Clivia Club. The website can be visited at www.clivia.com. Ken, congratulations on your initiative and may the page go from strength to strength.

Congratulations to all branches on very successful shows. A special word of congratulations to the Eastern Cape Interest Group who were most successful with their first show effort. On behalf of the Clivia Club I would like to thank each and everyone who, through their dedicated efforts, initiatives and positive attitudes, contributed to the show organisation and administration of the Branches and Interest Groups. May you and every member of the Clivia Club be blessed with a peaceful holiday and Christmas season.

Chris Vlok.

Correspondence

THE 'CLIVIA WIDOW'

4 October 2000

Everybody I know has heard of 'golf widows'. There are also 'rugby widows'. In fact there are probably widows for any sport played by man, or rather, men, for that's what this is about. The men who set off with the gleam of fanaticism in their eye leaving wives and children to their own devices and premature widowhood.

Now I am a 'Clivia widow'. I am the little lady who stays home when ' *manlief* ' [dearly beloved] sets off with cries of joy to attend Clivia meetings or even worse, Clivia Shows, for they involve a very early start on chilly spring mornings.

But I don't suppose I should complain. It's lonely but at least I can stay in my house and play my own little games, solitary though they may be.

But let's be honest. At least it gives me time to do the hundred and one tasks that fall to the lot of the behind-the-scenes worker. Tasks like the filing of the Clivia picture negatives and the licking and sticking of the current Clivia pictures into the right albums.

It's quite amazing how much work the photographic record-keeping entails. The Clivias have all got to have an ID name or number. Their photos have to be taken for record purposes and then they have to be kept in some semblance of order. The best get put into albums, the duplicates have to be kept track of, and the rejects have to go somewhere specific, for you never know Maybe some ill may befall the chosen picture and then you have to fall back on the reject. It's a never- ending story.

I must say, for me, the filing of the negatives and the pictures is often the stuff of which nightmares are made. I have my systems. Only trouble is, I have a tendency to forget exactly what my systems exactly are, though I would rather die than admit this to 'manlief'. But 'manlief' is rather inclined to throw me a curved ball now and then like the time a visitor was looking through the pictures and Clivias were high on the conversational agenda. Looking me in the eye he says, 'Please bring me the pictures of the Polyploids'. Off I go with nothing in my head but a childish faith that in the study would be a file, never seen before, but clearly marked 'Polyploids'. Of course there isn't. There never has been. What's more, and this is the bad part I have no idea what 'Polyploids' are. I don't think I've ever heard of them, but somewhere, somehow I must find their pictures. Back I go to ' *manlief* '. 'Can't find them' say I. He turns to stare at me in disbelief and says in hushed tones: 'You can't find them? You've lost my Polyploid pictures!' 'No, no' say I, springing to my own defence, 'they must be here some where, it's just that at this moment I don't know exactly where.' Needless to say this gem goes down like a lead balloon, because ' *manlief* ' has never been a great fan of my filing systems. It's only when the visitor has long gone and I have had time to gather my scattered wits that I realise that in fact I actually have heard of Polyploids. I remember now I also had a whole stack of these pictures go through my hands once, but for reasons known to no man, and certainly not me, the whole lot were presented to a fellow Clivia enthusiast leaving not a single copy behind. All this is told to 'manlief'. He hears me but does not seem entirely convinced.

And so I go on my solitary way licking, sticking, filing and worrying the quintessential Clivia widow. I can only say: 'Greetings to my fellow widows out there. We don't know one another for we seldom appear at the Clivia shows and meetings, but in spirit, we are united, and one day we may join to form our own little society in which filing and picture taking will have no part'.

Anon.

I sympathise with Anon about being a 'Clivia widow' as I am a 'weather widow', but I think all we widows

would rather our husbands were occupied with something that interested them rather than have them hanging around the house under our feet and bored all day. At least clivia widows have their husbands at home rather than on the golf course! Statistics have also shown that the busier a person is, the longer he or she is likely to live, so that is an added advantage (or disadvantage?). What I would really like is a 'Clivia widower' to do my 'licking, sticking, filing and worrying' for me! Editor.

POLYPLOIDS AND PERMITS

12 Van der Westhuizen Avenue,
Durbanville 7750

16 October 2000

Dear Meg,

Again, thank-you very much for the lovely newsletters in their new form. I am one of the old 'Toppies' who do not own a computer and therefore cannot visit all these fancy web-sites that I read about. Therefore, I enjoy your newsletter all the more. You must be a very busy retired lady now, and we can only thank you for all your hard work. But I have a feeling you enjoy it as much as your readers do.

However, I must ask for your assistance on the following: in Newsletter Vol. 9 No. 1 Autumn 2000, a lot is written about Tetraploids, Diploids, and Polyploids in Clivia. So many friends have asked me what all this means and I must confess I do not know. Can we see it, smell it, eat or just think that we have it in some fancy form? Can somebody please, in simple form, explain to us ordinary members what all these terms mean? Please help!

There is something else that worries me. Every now and then we read in the Newsletter that 'so and so' found an unusual Clivia plant in its natural habitat and now has it in his collection. Please note it is illegal to remove any Clivia plant or part of it, including its seed from nature without a valid permit. If anybody does remove a plant from the wild, he must please do it in a legal way or run the risk of prosecution. At the moment, it can be very misleading to members who are not aware of the existing laws, and I would not like to see members landing themselves in trouble with the law.

Regards,
Gert Wiese.

In Vol. 9 No. 1, page 13, Dr. James Waddick gave definitions of the various 'ploids'. Briefly, a diploid (2n) is a plant with two sets of chromosomes, a triploid (3n) has three sets of chromosomes and a tetraploid (4n) has four sets of chromosomes. Most organisms have two sets of chromosomes, and if they have more than two (i.e. some sort of polyploid) this is considered to be an aberration. Some people think that stronger, more robust forms of clivia could be tetraploids or polyploids, but studies of clivia cell chromosomes so far have shown that they are all diploids (normal 2ns). All Clivia species have 11 pairs or 22 chromosomes. You can refer to the article by Y Ran, BG Murray' KRW Hammett, Karyo-type Analysis of the Genus Clivia by Giemsa and Fluorochrome Banding and in situ Hybridization in Yearbook 2. It has pictures and diagrams of the various chromosomes. Please read Bill Morris's article below for further clarification. Editor.

SOME COMMENTS ON POLYPLOIDY

PO Box 17, Medowie, NSW 2318, Australia.
12 October 2000

In the Autumn 2000 Newsletter there was correspondence (e-mail) regarding polyploidy. Some remarks made there, although generally true, are not always so. Firstly polyploids, particularly triploid and tetraploid plants and flowers, are not necessarily larger or an improvement on diploid plants, although often this is the case.

In Australia we have a very popular native saxicolous (grows on rocks) orchid called *Dendrobium kingianum* which chromosome counts have shown exists in diploid, triploid and tetraploid forms. There is no obvious difference between these plants or flowers. The chromosome counts were done as a PhD project and to investigate some breeding (sterility) problems. Apparently all three types are fertile and unlike most triploids, these ones were quite fertile and existed in the wild amongst the diploids but have problems when crossed amongst themselves. Some triploid x triploid crosses are successful while others are not. Tetraploids are rare but have been found in nature, while the diploid x triploid crosses produce diploid and triploid plants. Triploid x triploid generally produce fertile triploids but no tetraploids.

The triploid plants were found to be the problem encountered in breeding deep, solid purple flowers. The usual flower colour is pink and white but deeper colours do occur and triploids were found to be much commoner in the deeper coloured plants.

Another case of fertile triploids and near sterile tetraploids exists in Nerines. Most wild species are diploids but the improved English, USA and Australian hybrids are mostly triploids which are quite fertile. Until quite recently only two tetraploids were recorded and although they were slightly larger than triploids they have produced almost no progeny so seem to be close to sterile.

Many triploids, although poor breeders, are not totally sterile and breed with diploids or tetraploids to produce small numbers of fertile seeds. Sometimes the pods do not last on the plants for the full time, or if left for the full time the embryos have died, but earlier planting on aseptic media can recover some seedlings.

In general the fertile triploids produce haploid and diploid ($n + 2n$) pollen and ovules and these can combine with the n or $2n$ sex cells produced by diploids or tetraploids. Usually one type is more successful than the other but prediction of the results is not generally possible.

In Vandas tetraploids have been obtained by spontaneous formation in seedlings and by treating seedlings with colchicine. These plants can be picked out by their thicker, tighter growth and their slower growth as they often take six years to reach flowering against four years or less for diploids under tropical conditions. Also they don't flower as frequently. Nowadays most tetraploid Vandas and some of their intergenerics are produced in the tissue culturing of diploids when they can again be separated as above. The tetraploids are not valued for themselves but are used as parents to produce triploids by crossing with diploids. The triploids, although sterile (or nearly so) are extremely vigorous, fast growing and almost continually in flower.

Overall the tetraploids are the least satisfactory plants compared to diploids and triploids and are only sought after for their breeding potential. In this case size of flower and flowering ability seems to be associated with the vigour of the triploids rather than the ploidy level itself (although vigour is often a characteristic of many triploids).

A lot of work on breeding between different ploidy levels has been done with *Lilium*, and recorded in various

Lily societies' publications. Even without chromosome counts the most obvious reason that clivias are overall diploid plants is that all forms or strains known seem to be evenly fertile when intercrossed. Different ploidy levels almost always give some sterility problems when intercrossed although these are not necessarily just in triploids. For example, in day lilies, tetraploids will not cross with diploids and both types are being developed separately.

These comments were made because there is a widespread belief that tetraploids are automatically an improvement over diploids and that triploids are always sterile. This is not always so and even if tetraploids of *Clivia miniata* are produced, they could be a disappointment. Some of the variations have been noted above, but I am sure there are many more that could be listed.

We are lucky that clivia have so few sterility problems and so far clivia improvement has been progressing very well without polyploidy. If tetraploids can be obtained it will be interesting to see what they are like but we must be aware that they will not automatically open whole new horizons.

Bill Morris.

Thank you for this timely clarification about polyploids. Not everyone in the Clivia Club has access to the net, so they have not been able to follow the arguments on polyploidy in the Clivia enthusiast chat group discussions. Editor.

PRONUNCIATION

PO Box 782393, Sandton 2146
18 October 2000

There seems to be much confusion among Clivia enthusiasts as to the correct pronunciation of the name of their beloved flowering plant.

Many claim that, as the flower is named after one 'Lady Clive', the way to say it is by merely adding the 'ia' onto the existing name ending with the rather odd sounding 'Clive-ia'.

All very well, but this loses sight of the rule of 'The Magic E' which states that when a word ends in 'e' it makes the preceding vowel say itself. For example: 'slave', 'mere', 'drive', 'drove', 'mule' and so on.

But in the case of 'Clivia' - when the final 'e' is dropped the rule of the vowel saying itself ceases to apply and the first part of the word becomes the short 'Cliv'. To that add 'ia' and the result is 'Clivia' a word as beautiful as the flower it names.

Eileen Rose.

Purists pronounce it 'Clive-ia', but then I think it should have been spelt that way! I personally prefer the short 'i' as in 'Cliv-ia' but that could be because it was the name by which I first knew them. Editor.

STEM ROT

Box 223, Nelspruit 1200

2 October 2000

Dear Meg,

I have again and again saved my clivia plants from stem rot. I'd like to pass the recipe on to the club.

Take 3 teaspoons Jeys fluid to 3/4 bucket of water (ordinary bucket). Clean the rotten parts off the stems and put the clivias into the mixture - for a day or so. Take out and spread under shady trees. Leave until they start to grow. They can be left there for many weeks and then planted into the ground.

Hoping someone will try it.

Marie Doyer.

Thank you for this tip, Marie. However, rot can be caused by many organisms and what works for one may not work for another, so it is helpful to know what organism is causing the problem. Please refer to the article by Professor Mark Laing on Bacterial Soft Rot of Clivias which is in Clivia Yearbook 2. Editor.

RATS, SCALE, SOAKING SEEDS AND CURE FOR MILDEW

12 van der Westhuizen Avenue, Durbanville
7550

16 October 2000

Dear Meg,

Just a few of my recent observations and experiences to share with other members.

At the beginning of June, when I started cutting my seeds off, I discovered that some of the berries had already been removed for me. In other cases both the peel and the pulp had been eaten away. Further investigations revealed that rats were the culprits. They waited for the first berries to show signs of ripening, but preferred the berries from orange plants. The berries from yellow plants in the same planthouse were untouched. Maybe rats are not colour blind because they chose the orange berries. Fortunately they did not like the seeds either, because they did not eat any of the seeds. After investigating, I found that these 'pets', came from next door, and being a good neighbour, I supplied food for them in the form of rat poison. After three days I had no further problems.

For the first time I had a few small plants infected with scale. I wiped these insects off with cottonwool dipped in undiluted methylated spirits. This worked like a charm with no damage to the plants.

Normally, I put seeds in water overnight before placing them in my germinator. When I had flu, I put some seeds in water, intending to place them in the germinator the next morning, but because of my indisposition, I could only do so after two days. These seeds germinated more quickly, so now I routinely leave my seeds in water for at least 48 hours.

Attached is an extract from the Fuchsia Newsletter about diluted milk as a fungicide. I have not tried it yet, but intend doing so.

"MILK AND MILDEW" Acknowledging National Link NZ February 2000 (abridged)

One of our members recently saw an article on the Internet regarding milk as a deterrent to mildew and it was also mentioned in the NZ Camellia magazine. It seemed worth passing on to fuchsia folk for those who like to try non-chemical correctives and it may be particularly worthwhile for fuchsia cuttings. Some of the facts are worth repeating.

Milk has the makings of an ideal fungicide for protecting organically grown cucumbers and other vegetables, according to researchers in Brazil. It attacks a mould known as Powdery Mildew which is a major problem for organic demand for chemical-free vegetables. The mould, *Sphaerotheca fuliginea*, appears as a powdery white growth on the leaves of cucumbers and courgettes. It damages the plants by causing the leaves to shrivel up. At present only chemical fungicides are available.

Milk's fungicidal powers were discovered by Wagner Bettiol of the environmental laboratory of Embrapa, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation. Bettiol, who was looking for cheap ways to control plant pests, observed that the by-products from milk processing factories killed powdery mildew on courgettes. So he decided to simply spray fresh milk on the plants to see if this had the same effect. To his surprise he found that it did. In fact, spraying heavily infected plants twice a week with a mixture of one part cow's milk to nine parts water was at least as good at stopping mildew as the chemical fungicides. In many cases, milk was both faster and more effective. After two or three weeks of spraying with milk the area of leaves infected was in some cases only a sixth or less of the area affected on plants treated with a chemical fungicide.

Bettiol is not yet sure why milk works so well but he speculates that it helps the plants in two ways. Milk is known to kill some micro-organisms. It also contains potassium phosphate, which boosts the plant's immune system and so may help inhibit the mildew's growth.

Large commercial growers in the south of England dip their millions of cuttings in pure milk. They say the milk will hold any bacteria present and prevent it from being passed on to young plants.

Worth a try on fuchsias?"

Regards,
Gert Wiese.

Some very interesting observations, Gert. You must have something in your shade house which attracts animals - first porcupines and now rats! In this day and age when we are trying to be more environmentally friendly and do so by cutting down on chemical sprays, milk may well be the answer for eliminating some undesirable micro-organisms. Thank you for sharing the tip about milk and mildew with us. Editor.

INDOOR CULTURE AND THE FUTURE - FIFTH EXCERPT FROM A CHINESE CATALOGUE ON VARIEGATED CLIVIA

By Shiang Shi and Song-liang, Gee Ling Scientific Publications, Chang Chun

Translated by Yu-Fu (Philip) Liu March 1999

IV. Indoor Culture

Variegated clivia does not require a very high humidity or a very strong light. Thus they are very suitable for indoor growing. Usually, patios and windowsills work well provide the culture is correct.

1. Patio Growing

Patios facing south or southwest (in the Northern Hemisphere) are best for clivia because they provide longer sun exposure. Patios facing east or west can also be used as long as they have at least four hours of sunlight.

Regarding using sun rooms or totally covered patios, the most important issue is temperature control. Because these kinds of growing areas are smaller, temperature rises very fast when sun shines in. Therefore, use different shading materials for different seasons to adjust the temperature. As mentioned before, there are several ways for shading, such as shade cloth, screen cloth and bamboo curtain. Especially in summer, it would be better if a frame could be constructed outside, 20 to 40 cm away from the windows, to support the shading materials. This can provide a more efficient cooling effect.

It is better to ventilate on the right and left sides of the patio. By setting windows at the top of these two sides, warm or hot air can be fanned out. Furthermore, it can prevent strong winds from blowing directly onto the plants and causing damage.

Place at least one thermometer in the growing area, where it is a bit higher than the plants and does not get direct sun. Read the temperature regularly.

The flower stand should be about 80 cm above the floor, either made of wood or steel. The wood or steel stripes on top should be properly spaced to provide enough air circulation to prevent roots from rotting.

Ventilation depends on the temperature in doors. You can either close windows on both sides, or only open them on one side, or open them on both sides.

Observe temperature and humidity constantly. If the humidity is low, sprinkle water on top of the growing medium or the flower stand. Try not to wet the leaves of the mature plants, especially those of high purity, as it may cause rotting from the base of the leaves or some burn marks on the leaves. Seedlings are usually fine if some water occasionally wets the leaves.

Many people think that it is correct to wet the leaves to reduce the temperature and raise the humidity. This practice is wrong. The humidity we need is from the moisture in the air, not water on the leaves. Spraying water on leaves may block the breathing of stomata, and thus make the leaves droopy and cause them to lose their lustre.

In most cases, clivia don't require high humidity and the usual watering should take care of their needs without extra wetting.

Avoid watering the plants at noon or when the temperature is high; the best time is in the early morning. The water temperature should be near room temperature. Do not use cold water in either winter or summer. It is best to store the tap water for a day. It is even better to use water from a pond or an aquarium.

Use wetted cotton balls or soft cloth to clean the surface of the leaves regularly.

In winter, it is important to keep the indoor temperature higher, either utilizing double glass windows, or single glass windows with plastic covers. If desired, an electric heater or a heating fan can be used in the growing area. It is safer to keep the heating device lower than the flower stand. In this way, the device will only keep the pots warm and will not burn the leaves. In summer, an air conditioner or other cooling system can be installed to reduce the temperature.

2. Windowsill Growing

It is very common for people who do not have patios to grow clivias on their windowsills.

It is easier to control the temperature on windowsills than on a patio. It is also more convenient to provide shading on windowsills since there are curtains and blinds on windows. In winter, a screen window will provide proper lighting. Sometimes, no shading is necessary.

In summer, instead of opening the windows next to the plants, it is better to open other windows or windows above for ventilation to avoid strong wind blowing directly onto the plants.

Due to limited space, those clivias with short leaves are the best choice for windowsill growers. Place a plate under each pot to prevent dripping from the pots. Also, put two sticks on a plate so that the pot can sit on the sticks, not the plate, to provide air for the roots. It is better to move the plants to a sink and water them there. Other practices are similar to those for patio growing. Do not spray water on the leaves; wet the surface of the medium if the air is too dry.

In order to raise the humidity a bit more or to prevent dust on the leaves, a cover can be made from plastic to provide a micro-climate that is more suitable for the plants.

Wipe the leaves constantly with wetted cotton balls or soft cloth.

V. The Future

Nowadays, people no longer grow variegated clivias just as hobby plants. They buy and sell and trade these plants as merchandise. Some people even take advantage of the so called 'patio economy' and make a living out of it.

It is not uncommon that some families make tens of thousands of Chinese Dollars from the clivias grown on patios. A retired Mr. Wong grows several dozen types of variegated clivias. Just from selling seedlings, he earns \$50,000 to \$60,000 Chinese Dollars each year. There are people making much more money than that.

In order to acquire correct information, the authors visited many growers in the Chong Chung area, taking pictures and making notes. Phone numbers and addresses of some of the growers are provided in the book for readers' direct communication. There are also number of growers in the north east of China and other provinces. Unfortunately the authors did not have enough time to visit them.

From March 18 to 22, 1999, there will be the Clivia Expo of North East China, held in the city of Chong Chung. At that time, growers will exhibit their best and newest varieties of clivias, and people from different parts of China will also be there to exchange information, to promote clivia nationally and internationally. I urge readers to participate in this wonderful event and acquire information from famous growers for your future growing and your future business.

Thus ends the information from A Chinese Catalogue on Variegated Clivia . Perhaps some members of the

Clivia Club will be able to attend future Expos in China and bring us firsthand news of further developments. Editor.

Personality parade



George was born on 19 October 1988 in Pretoria and he is now a grade 5 pupil at Laerskool Garsfontein. His intellect developed rapidly, especially in the areas of speech and language and at the age of two he began to show exceptional interest in pre-historic phenomena. He expanded his interests in natural science and began to investigate fishes, birds, and animals, an area in which his knowledge was remarkable.

Plants became his greatest love with Clivia taking pride of place. George knows the common and rare species - he knows their botanical names, the characteristics of each species as well as their natural habitats.

The seeds for his particular interest were sown by his Aunt Cynthia whose plants he helped to transplant and care for. His knowledge was extended by taking out books from libraries and by purchasing every book that he could lay his hands on so that he could read and read!

He was able to supplement his knowledge using networks which extended across South Africa, and friends who share his great love for the Clivia species and from whom he learnt a great deal from their gardening experiences.

He cares for his own Clivia collection and is presently busy with the germination of particularly rare types. His knowledge astounds those with whom he has contact, while he has lovingly awarded his plants the status of 'family' members.

George is a loving and affectionate boy with a keen sense of humour. At school, his favourite subjects are Mathematics and Science.

What does our young man want for his next birthday? A week-end to Dries Bester in Levubu, so that he can feast his eyes on the beautiful Northern and Eastern Transvaal clivias in their natural habitat, as well as on the beautiful broad-leafed variegated Clivia belonging to Bertie Guillaume near Louis Trichardt.

George's own account:

I noticed Clivias for the first time at Safari Nursery - they were beautiful. A few weeks later my mother bought my aunt a yellow clivia plant. That is when I first started showing an interest in Clivias.

I started out with a few seedlings given to me by my aunt. They were beautiful broad-leafed plants that she had bought seven years previously from Ammie Grobler. I thought about the matter and wondered whether we did not have any growing in our garden, and searched through every nook and cranny. There! in a corner, under some shrubs, I eventually found six plants - not so healthy but better than nothing. I tended them

carefully and now I have blooms and offshoots from these plants.

My collection includes Naude's Peach, Chubb's Peach, Wittig's Peach, Swamp Clivia, Nakamura's breeding stock, *Clivia gardenii* (yellow) and *Clivia miniata* var. *citrina* (yellow). My collection is growing by the day.'

A welcome tendency is the growing interest in Clivia shown by youngsters. They are even using Clivia as a topic in school projects. At the Northern Branch there are a few children who regularly attend meetings and who have their own Clivia collections. At this year's Pretoria show two of these youngsters won second prizes.
Chris Vlok.

Best on show winners

Northern Show (Pretoria) 2& 3 September 2000 - Anna Meyer

This year's best-on-show Clivia was bred by Anna Meyer of the Safari Garden Centre. This unique plant was entered in Category 2a, 'Clivia miniata Orange Broad Petal (1 umbel)'. The perfectly round flower head, broad leaves and fully open florets that reached the peduncle attracted the judges' attention.

The five-year-old plant was grown from seed from Anna Meyer's breeding stock, and this was its first flower. This plant almost did not make it to the show as it was the last plant that filled the load. The first plant in the row was literally just grabbed and loaded - and it ended up the winner!

KwaZulu/Natal Show 9' 10 September 2000 - Chris le Grange

I entered this show winner in Class 1, Miniata Orange (1 umbel). I purchased 'Super Price' in 1998 for R27.50 at a nursery. Although it had only three florets they were particularly beautiful - large and on a long peduncle. The plant flowered again in 1999 but was not appealing because the umbel was divided in two. I was very surprised this year when 'Super Price' formed a magnificent peduncle 40 cm long, 5 cm wide at the base and bore 35 florets of about 10 cm each in diameter. The colour was light orange and the florets were beautifully arranged.

It just goes to show that one must not be too quick to judge a plant. A plant with the right genes that is treated well can change from an ugly duckling into a beautiful swan.

Chris le Grange is a member of the Northern Branch and lives in Pretoria. Editor.

Eastern Cape Interest Group Show 30 September' 1 October 2000 - Charl Malan

Although no prize was awarded for Best on Show, the judges, Christo & Riël Lotter, and learner judges (6 Eastern Cape members) were unanimous in deciding that number 1 in Class 1, *C. miniata* in flower (Orange) was the best at the show. Charl Malan obtained this plant from Tynie Burger of Kleinplaas, Grahamstown, in 1992 in exchange for palms. It flowered for the first time in 1994 and showed signs from the beginning of being a winner. One stalk bore 27 flowers and the other 15.

Cape Show

9 & 10 September 2000 - Gert Wiese

I entered this Clivia in Class 3, *Clivia miniata* in flower (Yellow) and it was a very pleasant surprise to me to have a winner like this. What made it even more special was that it was a cross I made myself. The mother plant was a HOWICK YELLOW and the pollen plant a KIRSTENBOSCH YELLOW. This plant flowered for the first time in 1996 and has flowered every year since then, reaching its peak this year.

I am very thankful to my MAKER for the opportunity to enjoy at this ripe old age the ability to cultivate one of the most beautiful plants in creation, and to share it with so many other people.

_____Activities of Clivia Club branches

KWAZULU/NATAL BRANCH - KwaZulu/Natal Branch Show results (9 & 10 September 2000)

SECTION CLASS	POSITION (Section winners are printed in bold)		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1a Miniata Orange 1 umbel	Chris le Grange	Sean Chubb	Emmi Wittig
1b Miniata Orange 2 or more	Natal Botanic Gardens	Natal Botanic Gardens	No award
2a Miniata Orange/Red 1 Umbel	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Clive & Gillian Hornby
2b Miniata Orange/Red 2 or more	No entries	No entries	No entries
3a Miniata Yellow 1 umbel	Sean Chubb	Sean Chubb	Natal Botanic Gardens
3b Miniata Yellow 2 or more	No entries	No entries	No entries
4a Miniata Peach 1 umbel	Sean Chubb	Sean Chubb	Natal Botanic Gardens
4b Miniata Peach 2 or more umbels	Alick McLeman	No award	No award
5a Miniata Pastel 1 umbel	Natal Botanic Gardens	Natal Botanic Gardens	Sean Chubb
5b Miniata Pastel 2 or more umbels	No entries	No entries	No entries
6a Miniata Pink 1 umbel	Natal Botanic Gardens	Sean Chubb	Natal Botanic Gardens
6b Miniata Pink 2 or more umbels	No entries	No entries	No entries
7a Miniata Any Other Colour 1	Val Thurston	Emmi Wittig	Roly Strachan
7b Miniata Any Other Colour 2 or	No entries	No entries	No entries
8a Novice Breeder Miniata Orange	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Clive & Gillian Hornby
8b Novice Breeder 2 or more	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Clive & Gillian Hornby
9a Novice Breeder Miniata Yellow	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	No award	No award
9b Novice Breeder Miniata Yellow	Clive & Gillian Hornby	No award	No award
10a Novice Breeder Miniata Any	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Clive & Gillian Hornby
10b Novice Breeder Miniata Any	No entries	No entries	No entries
11a First Flowering Seedling - Any	Sean Chubb	Val Thurston	Sean Chubb
12a Broad Leaf no Flower	Marie van der Merwe	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Etzel & Brenda Nuss
12b Broad Leaf with Flower	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Clive & Gillian Hornby	David Moon
13a Variegated Leaf no Flower	Val Thurston	Val Thurston	No award

13b	Variegated Leaf Any Colour	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Sean Chubb
14a	Miniature no Flower	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	No award	No award
14b	Miniature Any Colour Flower	No entries	No entries	No entries
15a	Interspecific Hybrid in Flower	Natal Botanic Gardens	No award	No award
16a	Pendulous - Gardenii in Flower	No entries	No entries	No entries
16b	Pendulous - Nobilis in Flower	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Natal Botanic Gardens`	No award
16c	Pendulous - Caulescens in	No award	No award	No award
17a	Multi-Petal Any Colour Flower	Marie van der Merwe	Clive & Gillian Hornby	No award
18a	Pot Plant at least 3 crowns - 2 in	Sean Chubb	Sean Chubb	No award
19a	Display Plant with rocks,	Natal Botanic Gardens	Alick McLeman	Alick McLeman
20a	Any Unusual Form - Flower	Des Andersson	David Moon	David Moon
20b	Any Unusual Form - Leaf	Val Thurston	Alick McLeman	No award
21a	Seedling Tray - Seedlings up to	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Carole Beckett	Carole Beckett
22a	Any Clivia in Fruit	Keith Bailes	Val Thurston	Clive & Gillian Hornby
23a	Miniata Green Centre	Clive & Gillian Hornby	Etzel & Brenda Nuss	Brian Tarr

Best on Show: Chris le Grange (Class 1a. *C. miniata* Orange, 1 umbel)

Runner- Up: Marie van der Merwe (Class 17a Multipetal, any colour, flowering) This plant was grown from Nakamura seed.

Most Points on Show - Sean Chubb

Greytown Garden Club Meeting

On 12 October 2000 Sean Chubb and I arrived to a nice welcome at the local museum in Greytown. Chairs were set up and the meeting was attended by approximately 70 members (the tea committee were on the move all the time so the basics were correct). Visitors included people from Canada (who were visiting family in South Africa) and from Pietermaritzburg!

Des Andersson introduced the genus *Clivia* to members and told of the early discoveries of the plant. Sean described differences between the various species. *C. miniata* and *C. gardenii* are found locally and fortunately Des had a strong dark red *C. nobilis* in flower with very rough and heavily serrated leaves and there was also a good specimen of *C. caulescens* at the meeting. As a result the audience learnt first hand how to differentiate between the various species. Many enthusiastic questions were put to the speakers.

A small plant sales section was set up and many sales took place. Plants which members did not have were snapped up at very reasonable prices. Book sales were vigorous and "Hints on Growing Clivia", "Grow Clivias" and "Growing Bulbs" were in great demand.

We look forward to more invitations to garden clubs to further clivia interest next year.

Val Thurston.

Natal Witness Garden Show - Pietermaritzburg

The KwaZulu/Natal Branch of the Clivia Club organised a stand at the Natal Witness Garden Show in

Pietermaritzburg and won a Silver Medal Award for their efforts. The first day's trading was slow but Saturday was buzzing with buyers which made up for the heat of 34 degrees Celsius. Sunday turned chilly but sales went equally well. The public showed much interest in the growing and care of clivia. There were photographs and specimens of *C. miniata* and the three pendulous species and some of Yoshikasu Nakamura's photo graphs of his Japanese clivia were displayed. There was an unusual demand for *C. nobilis* plants and seeds, possibly due to the *nobilis* on display. *C. caulescens* and *C. gardenii* seedlings also sold well, but Nakamura yellow seedlings sold like hot cakes. The peaches and pastels on display were greatly admired and there was a large demand for the Broad Leaf Clivias.

It was interesting to see when compared with last year's show, how many growers had clivia plants for sale. Indigenous ferns and bulbs were also on sale but trading on these was slow. Books on clivia and bulbs sold well, especially the books on Clivia growing.

Club members working at the stand made many new friends with other sellers in the 'Hall of Nurseries', and a good profit went towards the Branch funds.

Val Thurston.

NORTHERN KWAZULU/NATAL INTEREST GROUP

At a meeting of Clivia enthusiasts in Northern Kwazulu/Natal held in Newcastle on Saturday 30 September 2000, it was decided to form an interest group.

This follows two successful exhibitions of Clivia in Newcastle and Dundee (visited by about 80 and 100 people respectively), with the kind assistance of James and Connie Abel and Sarel and Lynette Naudé.

We hope to achieve branch status during 2001. The following office bearers have been elected to serve until the end of 2001:

Chairman: Dries Olivier
Tel 083-264-6230 Fax (034) 318-6667
E-mail drieso@minmetals.co.za

Vice Chairman: Daan Dekker
(034) 212-1531 (034) 212-3051

Secretary: Isabel Dekker
(034) 212-1531 (034) 212-3051

Treasurer: Hottie Human
(034) 622-2469 (034) 622-2238

Additional members: Giel Adendorf, Hugh Robb, Larry Mulligan

Postal Address:
PO Box 8783, Newcastle 2940 or PO Box 166,
Dundee 3000.

The interests of Clivia will be served and it is readily apparent that the eventual formation of a branch will overcome the barriers of distance to the established centres around the country. A show (probably between the show dates of the Northern Clivia Club and the Kwazulu Natal Branch) is planned for 2001.

Dries Olivier

CAPE PROVINCE BRANCH

Cape Clivia Show (23-26 September 2000)

SECTION CLASS	POSITION		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (Orange)	Ben Marais	Toy Jennings	Jim Holmes
2 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (red)	Gert Wiese	Jim Holmes	Gert Wiese
3 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (yellow)	Gert Wiese	Jim Holmes	Jim Holmes
4 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (pastel)	John Winter	Jim Holmes	Jim Holmes
5 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (any other colour other than specified in classes 1-4)	Frans Gerber	Jim Holmes	Ian Vermaak
6 <i>Clivia</i> species (excluding <i>C. miniata</i> in flower)	Ian Brown	Gert Wiese	Jim Holmes
7 Crosses of different clivia species	No award	Jim Holmes	Jim Holmes
8 <i>Clivia</i> variegated foliage (not necessarily in flower)	Johan Botha	Toy Jennings	Johan Botha
9 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (Broad leaf)	Mary Steyn	Johan Botha	Sean Schickerling
10 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (miniature)	Jim Holmes	No award	Jim Holmes
11 <i>Clivia</i> specimen plant in bloom (3 or more crowns)	Ian Brown	Ian Brown	Johan Botha
12 Any unusual <i>Clivia</i> flower form	No entries	No entries	No entries
13a A seedling flowering for the first time (orange)	Ian Vermaak	Johan Botha	Ben Marais
13b A seedling flowering for the first time (yellow)	Gert Wiese	Gert Wiese	Jim Holmes

Best on Show - *Clivia miniata* in flower (Yellow) exhibitor Gert Wiese

Judges - Graham Duncan, Christo Lötter, Riël Lötter

Learner judges - Michael Hoctor, Harold Muller

Steward - Quentin Jansen

Quentin Jansen (Show Chairman)

REPORT ON CLIVIA SHOW AT KIRSTENBOSCH (23 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2000)

Introductory remarks

At first glance, before the judging started, I had one thought uppermost in my mind, behind each of these plants is a proud, devoted grower who must have had sleepless nights on account of our unstable winter with its fluctuating temperatures. More about this later.

Discussions of the different classes

Class 1 : Clivia miniata in flower (Orange)

In general this class was better - more representative and more diverse in form than last year. Unfortunately although excellent in all respects, some of the plants were past their prime, because they had flowered too early.

Class 2 : Clivia miniata in flower (Red)

Unfortunately all these plants fell short of the stipulated RHS colour chart 44a. In all other respects the plants looked well groomed, but again, some of the flowers looked damaged - either past their prime or damaged in transit.

Class 3 : Clivia miniata in flower (Yellow)

The stipulated yellow hue according to the R.H.S. colour chart is 12a. I have yet to see such a yellow clivia. The best yellow on show, was a 12c. There were definitely not enough entries in this class and we would like to urge growers, especially our younger members, to get involved in this class so that we can see more diversity. For all you know you are harbouring a winner at home. You just have to look at it through different eyes. Gert Wiese's plant was considered best on show. Well done, Gert!

Class 4 : Clivia miniata in flower (Pastels of any colour)

There were some excellent plants, but some were past their prime or damaged in transit.

Class 5 : Clivia miniata in flower (Any other colour other than specified in classes 1- 4)

In this class we really had some outstanding specimens, but please forgive me, I have to mention that Ian Vermaak's plant, brick red and green throat, (although past its prime) was really spectacular.

Class 6 : Clivia species (excluding C. miniata) in flower

There could have been many more entries. Ian Brown's Nobilis was of outstanding quality and a worthy contender for Best on Show.

Class 7 : Interspecific Hybrids

Only three plants were entered and they were also past their prime. No first prize was awarded.

Class 8 : Variegated foliage

Well represented, of good quality and well groomed. Again, as in some of the other classes, there was a marked diversity in form and definition. Some variegations were almost white against a dark green background. In this class our younger members really made a difference and won prizes as well. We will need to look at splitting this class next year.

Class 9 : Clivia miniata (Broad leaf, minimum width 75 mm) with flowers

In general excellent entries, but the leaves could have been broader, some just qualified (100 mm+ would

have made a considerable difference).

Class 10 : Clivia miniata in flower or fruit (Miniature)

Although the examples were good, this class was poorly represented. A second prize was not awarded.

Class 11 : Clivia miniata, specimen plant in bloom (3 or more crowns)

This class was well represented with a wide variety of forms.

Class 12 : Any unusual clivia: No entries.

Class 13a : Seedlings flowering for the first time (Orange)

This class was well represented and plants were in excellent condition.

Class 13b : Seedlings flowering for the first time (Yellow)

The plants entered in this section were in all respects so close that judging was difficult. This bears proof that breeding can improve the different species as well as the hybrids. Just a friendly hint: If you remove leaves (plus the leaf sheath) at the base of a plant, do so well in advance so that exposed areas can turn green again before showing.

Christo& Riël Lötter

Summary by Show Chairman

Of 117 plants entered by 12 members, only 90 were staged, no doubt due to the adverse weather conditions. Provision was made for 13 classes, one of which drew no entries and another, number 13, was divided into two, one for oranges and one for yellows. The twelve first prizes were shared among nine members, the twelve second prizes among five members and the thirteen third prizes among six members which reflected a healthy distribution. Members showing for the first time also did well and attained many of the prizes which bodes well for the future.

OF CONCERN - Comment by Show Committee

Some cases of pollen being taken without the consent of owners occurred at the Kirstenbosch Show. Measures to better secure plants will need to be taken by Show Committees and a procedure to deal with members found guilty of such acts will need to be put in place to stamp out this practice.

Quentin Jansen (Show Chairman)

EASTERN CAPE INTEREST GROUP

Eastern Cape Interest Group Show (30 September& 1 October 2000)

SECTION CLASS	POSITION		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (Orange)	Charl Malan	Welland Cowley	Charl Coetzee
2 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (red)	Theresa Bothma	Theresa Bothma	Welland Cowley

3 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (yellow)	Charl Malan	Charl Malan	Welland Cowley
4 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (pastel)	Alfredo Gibello	Welland Cowley	
5 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (any other colour other than specified in 1-4): No awards			
6 <i>Clivia</i> species (excluding <i>C. miniata</i> in flower): No awards			
7 Crosses of different clivia species	Charl Malan		
8a Variegated - no flowers	Charl Malan	Johan Mostert	Audrey Olivier
8b Variegated - with flowers	Audrey Olivier	Charl Coetzee	
8c Variegated - seedling	Johan Mostert	Johan Mostert	
9 <i>C. miniata</i> in flower (Broad leaf)	Audrey Olivier		
10a <i>C. miniata</i> miniature (no flowers)	Johan Mostert		
10b <i>C. miniata</i> miniature (with flowers)	Welland Cowley	Welland Cowley	
11 Specimen plant in bloom (3 or more crowns)	Audrey Olivier	Welland Cowley	
12a Any unusual clivia (flower)	Charl Malan	Tynie Burger	Tynie Burger
12b Any unusual clivia (plant)	Charl Coetzee		
13 Seedling flowering for the first time (orange)	Johan Mostert	Audrey Olivier	Tynie Burger
14 <i>C. miniata</i> (multipetal)	Charl Malan		
15 Seedling tray	Audrey Olivier		
16 Clivia in fruit	Theresa Bothma	Alfredo Gibello	
17 Pendulous specie	Tynie Burger		

Best on Show : no award

Nine exhibitors displayed 68 plants, of which 38 plants won prizes.

People from around the country came to the show and 729 persons attended. To the Interest Group it was like a dream come true with all the beautiful plants from members on display. Visitors were eager to buy plants and even bought some of the prize-winning specimens. There was an interesting exhibition by Nature Conservation and a snake and two baby eagles were very popular with visitors.

We are grateful for the support received from Clivia friends in South Africa and in fact across the world. Ammie Grobler of Pretoria and Ken Smith of Australia donated seed. Our mother branch (Cape Branch) donated starter packs. These donations were in great demand and were sold out within minutes. We would also like to thank the Clivia Club for advertising the shows. In our case it certainly paid dividends.

Fred Gibello.

Comments from the judges.

We were pleasantly surprised by the Eastern Province Clivia Show held in Port Elizabeth. We saw some outstanding plants and have to congratulate Fred Gibello on a very successful show. It was clear that a lot of personal effort had gone into this 'historical' event.

Christo & Riël Lötter.

NORTHERN BRANCH

News from the Northern Branch

At our last Northern Branch meeting in October we were addressed by three different speakers. Nick Primich told us about his early and enduring interests in Clivia and how he had become interested in Clivia and how the Club was formed. Sunelle Geyer, one of our younger members, described how she started and expanded her collection. Finally Braam Opperman, one of our senior members, who was also bitten by the bug gave us insight into his activities in this fascinating hobby.

It was a most enjoyable meeting and very well attended by members and visitors.

Tino Ferero.

METRO CLIVIA INTEREST GROUP

The new Chat Group formed to cater for the interests of members who live predominantly in the Greater Johannesburg area is now called the Metro Clivia Group. It meets roughly once a month at the homes of different members. It is mainly for expanding and disseminating knowledge about Clivias but it also has a social component in that members can get to know one another. There are now approximately 20 members and others who would like to join are welcome.

A meeting was held at Tiekie Beukes's house on 30 September at which Adri Haxton and Meg Hart were new faces. Several people brought plants which were discussed and this was followed by a sumptuous tea. More recently on 18 November, a 'bring and braai' was held at Loukie Viljoen's home where members and their spouses attended and a friendly spirit prevailed. Although it rained most of the morning and again in the evening, the braai itself was not washed out and visitors enjoyed a walk on the eight acres with indigenous trees, shrubs and plants.

Nick Primich is improving on his computer skills and produces a weekly newsletter with photographs on e-mail called 'Metro Clivia News' of which four issues have so far been produced.

Anyone wishing to join should contact Nick

Primich or Loukie Viljoen.

Nick Primich: (011) 768 2996,
e-mail mwnicpri@mweb.co.za

Loukie Viljoen: (011) 465 9334,

e-mail toothache@yebo.co.za

Loukie Viljoen.

International Clivia event

Prof. Harold Koopowitz, 14081 Brenan Way,
Santa Ana, CA 92705, USA

Tel. (714) 838-4826
E-mail: hkoopowi@uci.edu

11 October 2000

The world famous Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens will be the venue for a one and a half day conference and small show on Clivias during March 10th and 11th, 2001. The Huntington Gardens is situated in San Marino, next to Pasadena in Southern California. In order to organize the event efficiently we need to have a feel for the size of the potential audience.

People who think that they might attend should e-mail back the following information privately and directly to me and not just punch the reply button - thanks. Registration materials will be sent to them at a later date.

Name:
Mailing Address:

Would you want to....
Give a presentation?
Bring in flowers for show?
Bring in plants/seeds for sale?

Harold Koopowitz

For sale

Advertisements. Tariffs for advertising in the Clivia Club Newsletter:

Full page - R200,00; 2 page - R100,00; 3 page - R50,00; per line - R5,00;
A4 separate page insert - R800,00; A5 separate page insert - R400,00.
(You will be sent an account from the treasurer for the appropriate amount.)

From the Clivia Club:

Copies of back volumes. These are available from the Public Relations Officer. Each year's back copies will cost R25,00 (US\$15.00 or equivalent).

Membership lists. Full membership lists are available from the club for R25,00 (US\$15 or equivalent).

Clivia miniata , pendulous species, hybrids and other specialities available - seed, seedlings and mature plants. Visitors welcome. Connie Abel, Pretoria, tel/fax +27-12-361.6406 or e-mail jabel@yebo.co.za

Clivia miniata (Nogqaza strain) 2-leaf plantlets from R20,00 each. Miniata orange from R1,00 to R4,75 each. Minimum order R100,00 plus postage and packaging (minimum R21,00). Order now from S.A. CLIVIA PLANTATION, Box 855, Hilton 3245. Call 082- 9555 433.

Clivia miniata F₁ (yellow x orange), 'pinks' and pastels, flowering size @ R12. *Clivia miniata* yellows, flowering size @ R150. *C. miniata* 'Stef's Perfume' @ R18,00. Extra for postage and packaging. Dries Bester, PO Box 75, Levubu 0929. Tel/Fax (015) 583 0299.

Clivia miniata plants for sale, 3 years old, R5,00 each out of ground. Contact Roly Strachan, Box 57, Highflats 3306 or phone or fax (039) 835 0085.

Brom-&n-Nel NURSERY/KWEKERY. We specialise in Clivia. Contact Bertie& Erda Guillaume, Box 733, Louis Trichardt 0920. Tel: (015) 517 7162 Fax: (015) 517 7038

Beginner's luck

When and how to remove flower stalks A question from Mr. CJ Calitz on the Clivia- enthusiast chat group: Could you please tell me when and how you remove the flower stalk after removing all the seeds? Should it be left on the plant to wither and brown naturally? How do you avoid infection in the "wound" deep down amongst the leaf bases?

Answer:

I find it best to allow the flower stalk to wither for some time prior to removal. Once the fruits are removed the plant shuts down the flower stem, and I then attempt to remove the stem by pulling up and downwards at the same time. You soon get to "know" when the stem is going to come away easily. If there is any resistance, I try again in a few days time. Always support the plant with the other hand, especially if there is a developing seedhead on it, and always keep a check on these "empty" stems for any development of stem rot. These would then need to be removed promptly. Kenneth Smith, Winmalee, Australia.

On the compost heap



There has been a lot of smoke in the compost heap since last I contributed (so what's new?), but all seems to have been settled amicably (but for how long?) and the e-group is chatting away again about this and that. A lot of viruses are flitting hither and thither, the latest coming from China, so e-group members must check attachments before opening them and have anti-virus programmes added to their software. With all the eating, drinking, 'bringing and braaiing', I am beginning to wonder whether this is a social group or a serious Club. I decided to test some 'polyploids' and found rat poison in the shadehouse and the clivia all sprayed with milk! There were even stems soaking in Jey's fluid!

Lily Borer (*Brithys crini pancratii*).

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Best on show: Pietermaritzburg



Best on show: Pretoria

