

Volume 9 Number 3 Spring 2000

CLIVIA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

C. miniata x *C. gardenii*



C. miniata x *C. nobilis*



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

EDITORIAL

The present Clivia Club Newsletter covers the important part of the year when we see the greatest number and variety of our clivia in flower. The better specimens have appeared on shows in different parts of the country and the show comments and results for the Northern Branch are included in this newsletter. Details of meetings and gatherings are reported from various Branches and Interest Groups and although there is a certain amount of repetition about clivia cultivation it has been retained for the benefit of newer members. A new interest group has been started in the George area.

There are comments on the Yearbook, as also on the unusually cold period on the highveld during July when Clivias both in greenhouses and out of doors were severely affected by black frosts. Winston Johnson describes how clivia have been an inspiration and occupation for his son Lance. The fourth excerpt about propagation of clivia is included from a Chinese Catalogue on Variegated Clivia. Wessel Lötter is our personality on parade and we trace his unusual and interesting background and his varied interest in natural history, which has culminated in his important contribution to the genetics of our species.

One should bear in mind that many of the best specimens of clivia are not found at shows but are confined to private collections or to those of institutions. A case in point are specimens from the magnificent collection of the Witwatersrand Botanical Garden at Roodepoort which were displayed at the >Clivia Cafe= restaurant in the gardens in September. Many of these blooms would have done justice at the shows held around the country, and it is clear that an important gene pool exists here.

Another problem which poses problems for show organisers is the rate of development of clivia in different parts of the country. This is illustrated by Spring this year, which was unusually warm over the northern regions, as a result of which many growers had spectacular flowers before the Northern Show. By the time the show days arrived, these were well passed their best and could not compete with the blooms which matured later. Growers have also noted that some yellows come into flower rather later than the more usual orange varieties. There are also different flowering rates between different groups of plants in the same garden. Clivias in well shaded cool locations bloom three to six weeks after those in sunny, warm positions and they tend to preserve the quality of their flowers for very much longer. This leads one to speculate on the great importance of microclimate. It can lengthen the flowering period and protect the blooms. After all, this is what we see in nature, with many of the best plants hidden under canopies of vegetation in shady environments.

Unfortunately, many growers who have good specimens, are not motivated to participate in shows, so the public are not able to see some of the best clivia available. Those growers who do participate in shows should be applauded for their efforts. They spend a great deal of time and effort preparing the plants, transporting them to and from the venues, and absorbing the risk of having their best plants open to the many problems associated with large groups of people in a confined environment. The success of the shows, and the large numbers of people who attend them should be laid at the doors of the organisers and the growers who participate.

Although some Clivia Club members do open their collections to other members and the public, it might be in the interests of members and others to open gardens and collections at appropriate times each year specifically for clivias, perhaps in association with established garden clubs. This would popularize the plant, afford opportunities for marketing and selling, and it would bring people to the plants rather than taking the plants to the people.

Our condolences go Stella van Gass and her family on the death of her husband Japie. We also wish John Winter a speedy recovery after his heart bypass operation earlier this month.

Meg Hart.

FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

By the time you receive this newsletter, the highlights of the year will be over and hopefully all our coffers are bulging from the success of our shows!!

I hope all the shows have been as successful as previously. It is a great achievement for the Port Elizabeth Interest Group to have held a show within their first year. Congratulations to their Show Committee and all their members that participated. They now boast a membership of 91!

By now you will have received the Yearbook and I am sure that you will agree that congratulations are due to the Editorial Committee for a superb edition.

The newsletter has taken on a new look and Meg Hart and her team are to be congratulated on their achievement. A number of snags still exist with the despatch of the newsletter which still need to be resolved. I apologise for the inconvenience some members have experienced.

The Central Committee communicate regularly through e-mail and have held two telephone conferences to date. It was agreed during our last telephone meeting to hold the AGM in Pietermaritzburg on Saturday, 14 October 2000. This is in keeping with our original agreement to rotate the AGM.

It is a pleasure for me to see the growth of our Club through the efforts and enthusiasm of members.

John Winter

TREASURER

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1999 are enclosed with this newsletter.

The results are most satisfactory and reflect the growth in the number of members. In view of the large amounts involved, it was felt desirable to move to a new basis of accounting that complies with GAAP - Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The main change is that each year's subscriptions will be reflected in the year to which they relate and not the year of receipt.

The move in the administration to Cape Town resulted in delays in finalising the accounts. In future these should be available soon after the year-end, which will allow for better budgeting and financial control.

The Central Club has now largely divested itself of its fundraising activities, which are carried out at branch level. From a financial point of view, the Club is responsible for publishing the Newsletters and Yearbook. The costs of this, together with certain administrative expenses, have to be recovered from branches by means of a levy based on the number of members in each branch. The levy for 2001 will remain at R80 per member. Branches are free to charge their members whatever subscription they feel necessary and are responsible for the collection of all S.A. subscriptions. A view has been expressed that the subscription should be uniform throughout the country and this will be considered.

I would appreciate it if any member having a query or suggestion regarding any of the Club's financial matters contacts me directly. This will help to avoid delays and misunderstandings.

Ian Brown

PUBLIC RELATIONS

I promised in the previous newsletter to keep you informed about the developments regarding a possible web page for the Clivia Club and its branches. The following figures were received from Zelna van Schalkwijk and submitted to the committee of the Clivia Club for consideration.

Domain registration: R199.00 + R299.00 set-up fee + R49.00 (per year) for a co.za registration.

Monthly costs: Hosting fee of R149.00 + Internet link of R99.00.

Design and maintenance: R150.00 to R180.00 per hour. Zelna has indicated that she is prepared to do such design and maintenance at a fixed monthly tariff.

The Clivia Club committee felt that the implementation of a web page will/could result in an increase in membership fees. An increase in membership fees was considered to be unacceptable and therefore the 2001 budget does not make provision for creating a web page. However, there are many ways to kill a cat.

In the previous newsletter, I asked for volunteers from other branches and individuals overseas to contact me should they be prepared to make a contribution to starting a web page. Two people responded. One of these was Johann Schoeman. He is my neighbour and is quite keen to set the ball rolling. Nick Primich also offered his assistance with writing skills. The marketing campaign of the national shows absorbed much of my time and as a result the web page received little attention. Now that the shows are over, we will probably have one or two brainstorming sessions and start working on a design which will have little or no cost implications. We will present a pilot web page at branch level to probe interest and to evaluate whether the effort is worthwhile.

AHints on Growing Clivia@ has been published. My sincere thanks to Hannes Robbertse, Nick Primich, Mark Laing, Bing Wiese, Gert Wiese, Frikkie Marais and Christo Lötter who wrote articles. A significant portion of the publication cost was covered by advertisements. Branches can buy copies from the Clivia Club at the low price of R3.00 per copy. Overseas members can order copies from Joy Woodward, the Club Secretary. The price for overseas members is US\$5.00.

Besides some unfortunate omissions of detail that were in the standard press releases, the marketing of the shows via national magazines and radio talks were quite successful. The Capetonians were a bit upset that Farmer=s Weekly did not mention their show. However, our contact person at Farmer=s weekly promised that the mistake would be rectified in a later edition prior to the show in Cape Town.

Our image suffered a blow with Newsletters which had been posted but not reaching their destinations. Some members from the Western Cape Branch, the Northern Branch and especially the Australian members must feel that they were left out in the cold. What exactly went wrong is still not quite clear but it appears that large quantities of newsletters went astray in the post. Members who did not receive newsletters should contact their Branch secretaries.

There was little feedback regarding what members did on Clivia Day (1 September). Some Capetonians wore Clivia buttonholes and had extras for those who requested them. Ernie Hobbs took the gap on air (Radio Pretoria) to promote National Clivia Day. He gave the presenter a Clivia and told her about National Clivia Day. The Rapport newspaper gave quite a nice write-up on Clivia Day. The reporter in fact argued that the idea should be extended to include all indigenous South African flowers. Sunelle Geyer had the brainwave to have Clivia screen savers made. Unfortunately it was only received on the day of the Pretoria show and there was not time to send it into cyber space.

The constitution? I suppose we cannot claim that no news is good news.

Annual General Meeting. Due to the illness of John Winter, the AGM which should have been in October in KwaZulu/Natal, has been postponed until further notice.

Chris Vlok

EDITOR

With the beautiful Yearbook and its illustrations the Club should really consider whether it is necessary to publish a more expensive newsletter, with coloured cover photos and better printing which takes longer to publish, versus the old black and white edition which is cheaper and quicker to produce.

Thanks to Clivia Club members and the clivia-enthusiast chat group for their contributions and to Chris Vlok for all the hard work and e-mails for this newsletter. Adri Haxton has been a great help in proofreading this and other issues and always picks up many errors which I have missed.

Meg Hart.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you

PO Box 144, Kwelera 5259.
18 September 2000

A warm word of gratitude to all the Clivia Club members for their support in the form, mostly, of telephone calls during Japie's final illness and death. Their loving kindness carried me through many a dark patch and made me feel part of a huge caring family.

Stella van Gass

Comments on the Yearbook

8 August 2000

At long last my Clivia Year Book arrived today. What joy! Congratulations to all concerned. (Except the post office who took so long to deliver.)

John Morris, 13 Simmons St, Balmain, NSW, Australia

25 August 2000

I have just received my copy of the new Yearbook. Warm congratulations to all involved - editors, contributors, etc - for a fine publication filled with much to admire and much to learn from.

Nita Hanmer, Cape Town

31 August 2000

Pen Henry arrived this morning from Australia and has shown us her copy of the Yearbook - congratulations to all concerned for an excellent publication. We look forward to reading it in detail. It appears to be a good mix of both authors and subjects that is very well presented.

Connie and James Abel, Pretoria

The Black Frost

From Pat Gore
669 Killick Ave, Les Marais, Pretoria 0084

Yes, this was one winter that was not meant for Clivias. We here in Pretoria in Athe Moot [valley]@ area had a terrible black frost the night of the 16/17th July 2000. The plants were so pretty and healthy until that fateful night.

But what a sight when I entered my plant house on the Monday morning. It looked as if the plants had been sprayed with boiling water. All the leaves were hanging down and exuded a bad smell.

About 100 young yellow plants in flower and 200 2-3 year old seedlings were burnt to the roots and will never recover. About 75% of my big plants were damaged, some more so than others. The broadleaf clivias appear to be more sensitive than the ordinary miniata types but luckily the season has just begun and there should be lots of growth ahead of them.

PS. After the frost I got black variegated plants with white flowers with their stems drooping or weeping. I would like to thank the Club members who phoned and sympathised and offered help. Special thanks to Gert Wiese from Durbanville for the donation of Yellow seed to restart my yellow seedling collection.

Thanks,

Pat Gore.

Rudo Lötter also suffered severe damage to his clivias in Pretoria as did Adri Haxton and Trevor Pearton in Johannesburg. Surprisingly, the clivias in their shade houses were the worst affected. Editor.

To: clivia-enthusiast@egroups.com
From: Rudo Lotter, clivia@iafrica.com
Date: 18 July 2000 09:23

Hallo Members. Most of the time my clivias only give me joy, but tonight I am totally blown away. On Monday morning we had a severe spell of Black Frost; I measured minus five degrees Celsius inside my shade houses; this morning the temperature dipped to minus three. These unsuspected and unusual temperatures virtually destroyed my clivia collection. All of my mature plants and seedlings have some sort of frost damage, but the plants will regrow. The flowers of many of my prized hybrids are completely destroyed, rendering four weeks of intense pollination useless. This means that I probably won't have seed for sale for next year. Fortunately I managed to save some of the plants, one being "Chanèl" which is now flowering for the third time in 12 months. I have them all indoors now since more cold weather is predicted for the rest of the week.

On this sad note a few questions. Did the Black Frost hit anyone else? I spoke to Pat Gore and he has about 80% damage at his place. What will the impact be on the clivia show? Can anyone tell me why plants get more damage under 80% shade cloth than underneath the trees? It seems that if you water the frosted plants, they show less damage later on. What is the explanation for this?

Rudo Lötter.

To: clivia-enthusiast@egroups.com
From: Trevor Pearton, pearton@icon.co.za
Date: 19 July 2000 01:39

Dear Rudo,

Sorry to hear about your black frost damage, but - yes, I was hit by the black frost as well. I live in central Johannesburg and when I saw the black frost warning I went outside to cover all my larger plants. We

have had such daft weather since the summer that a third of my plants were pushing heads already (at least a month ahead of previous flowerings). Many of my larger plants are planted in the ground and could not be moved, so I carefully covered the best ones with sheets of plastic. I threw a length of Hessian over the other plants. The temperature fell to about minus 5 degrees C. In the morning I was horrified to find that my best plants under the plastic had been turned to jelly. I was also surprised to find that the plants covered with Hessian were fine. Other observations were that plants close to the ground were damaged while plants raised about half a metre in pots were not affected. Plants kept under a camphor tree were fine, as were plants stored near walls where the sun heats the surroundings.

As regards your question on the effect of shadecloth, the answer may lie in the characteristics of plastics. My worst damage was under plastic sheeting while Hessian (a natural material) protected the plants. I have found my camphor tree (evergreen) excellent protection for both sun and cold. The oak trees which cover most of my property are not much good because they are bare at present and rob the soil of nutrients in summer.

Regards, Trevor Pearton.

To: clivia-enthusiast@egroups.com
From: David Moon, cicada@sai.co.za
Date: 19 July 2000 06:50

Dear Rudo,

Sorry to hear about the black frost damage. We also had a black frost here in Pietermaritzburg although it only affected my Clivia in the open. Plants under cover seem to be O.K.

A black frost happens when the air is very dry and there is no wind and the temperature drops to the point that the plant sap freezes. When it thaws it leaves the plants soft and soggy and black. On the other hand, with a white frost the moisture itself freezes and the white frost covers lawns etc. and when this thaws the burn damage is more moderate - brown grass etc. The white frost does not usually damage Clivia.

I had severe black frost damage in Pietermaritzburg five years ago in early July and the September flowering of some of the clumps of Clivia in the open were spectacular as there were more flowers than leaves.

David Moon

Our story

Winston Johnson
17A Smith Road, Bedfordview 2007
28 August 2000

In October of 1975 we were given a special son, Lance, who at birth was diagnosed as a Downs Syndrome. As we did not want Lance to be placed in an institution, we realised that some therapy would have to be found to keep him occupied.

One day I noticed a plant in a furniture store's window which had been badly neglected. It was very dirty and full of dust. A few weeks later I drove past the window and glanced in its direction and was surprised to see splashes of orange and yellow where the neglected plant had previously stood. On

closer investigation I discovered it was responsible for a magnificent show of flowers. The plant had since been cleaned, watered and placed on a little table.

I then made enquiries and found all the necessary information about the plant in a gardening book and identified it as a Clivia. I found that propagation was not too difficult but that a fair amount of manual labour was needed and thought this would be good therapy for Lance. When I think back on how that Clivia bloom transformed the whole shop window I compare it to how Lance has blossomed. He has changed from a condition that we thought was one of the worst, to a warm, glowing and loving person, one that we would not change for the world.

I tried to obtain seeds from various suppliers but was told that most seeds were exported to New Zealand at that time, and to reimport them again would be very expensive. I then discovered that a friend of ours had a clump of Clivia in bloom in his garden and asked if he intended doing anything with the seed. I explained that the seeds should be picked when they were red. From those I planted our first Clivia. The fruit was peeled with the precision of a surgeon, cleaned, and lined up on a table as if they were the only Clivia seed left in the world. These seeds were planted in soldier-like ranks in a mixture of equal parts of compost, soil and river sand. The success rate was more than 90%. The search for seed now began in earnest.

At this time a colleague from the office informed me that he had a friend in Pietermaritzburg who could supply me with seeds before they were exported. I managed to order 2.7 kg from him and received the seeds COD at the Post Office. I had to pay R175.00 for what looked like a medium sized packet of peanuts. My wife was not very impressed with my investment as I expected at least 5 000 seeds. They had already been cleaned and had only to be planted. (this was in August 1986). The same planting procedure ensued with similar success.

The reason for whole exercise was to create therapy for Lance and a large part of the labour had been removed as the seeds had been removed from their red capsules. In 1987 I again purchased 2 kg (∇ 2 000) seeds and followed the same procedure as the year before. In September of 1989 we planted the first batch of three year olds into our 60 metre pan handle.

In 1990 our first flowers appeared. It was as if we had a batch of new children in our family. Much joy and excitement was experienced as the pale green buds pressed their way between the bright green leaves, slowly at first and then quickly, as if they could not wait to show the miracle of their blooms. The pale green buds burst into blazing orange and yellow trumpet-like flowers. The stigma and the stamens extended from the centre of each bloom, waiting for the bees and the wind to do the necessary.

This gave us our first crop of seed the following year, and Lance was able to remove the seeds from their capsules and plant them into trays with the help of a jig I made to get the right spacing. The same procedure is carried out each year.

This brought numerous enquiries from passers-by who visited the Bedford Centre across the road from our home. We gave away plants for years until I went into retirement and as we had made many friends they kept coming each year to buy Clivias from Lance. We are now able to reap our own seed.

Lance harvests our seed each year and we make this seed available to those who would like to experience what we have experienced from the seed to the flowering stage of these magnificent plants. They brighten up the tail end of our drab autumn landscape and introduce us to the fresh bright spring awakening.

What was intended to be a therapy for Lance has been therapeutic for the whole family, my wife Annetjie, my daughter Michelle, myself and many of our friends too. Clivias will always be a part of our family.

PROPAGATION AND SEED CULTURE - FOURTH EXCERPT FROM A CHINESE CATALOGUE ON VARIEGATED CLIVIA

By Shiang Shi and Song-liang,
Translated by Yu-Fu (Philip) Liu

Gee Ling Scientific Publications, Chang Chun
March 1999

111. Propagating techniques of variegated clivia

The propagating techniques of variegated clivia are basically the same as those for normal clivia, either sexual or asexual propagation.

1. Sexual propagation

This is the major technique in breeding variegated clivias. It takes about three years for them to become mature, and they must have at least fourteen leaves to start to bloom. If they are grown indoors, artificial pollination is required in order to get seeds.

It is most important to choose the right and the best parents, which is also related to the seed germination rate. Quite a few growers have very limited experience on the issue and thus produce either albinistic or normal green seedlings, or very few even no seedlings. In my personal experiments, the germination rate should be about 30%. Some mother plants with evenly distributed variegated stripes may have a higher rate up to 80%. In this case, how can we find the right combination? It depends on the patterns, number of stripes, and purity on the leaves of the mother (pot-carrying) plant. A high purity mother should be paired with a lower purity father (pollen) plant, and vice versa. Even plants from the same variety may have different purity and thus should follow the same hybridizing rule. The important thing is to find the shortcomings of the mother plant and breed with the proper father plant to improve them. For example, if the mother has long and narrow leaves, then it must be hybridized with a father plant of round and short leaves.

Close observation is important in artificial pollination. When the petals just open, the pistils produce a lot of sticky fluid. This is the best time to hybridize.

Pollination method: Every flower has six stamens. When they are mature, use a tweezer to pinch them off and brush the appropriate three-forked pistils with them. If parents do not flower at the same time, and the father plant blooms first, then wait until the last few flowers open and collect the pollen. Store the pollen in a small container and put the container in a refrigerator. The pollen should still be viable in sixty days. However, in order to make sure of the seed production rate, it is recommended to use fresh pollen.

The best time for pollination is 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., or 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Usually, once is enough, but twice will reassure the process. The second pollination can be performed on the second day around the same time. Label the flower with information such as the name of the pollen parent and the time of pollination. Thus you can gather all the information and have a record of the successful rates of different combinations.

2. Breeding

Variegated clivia belong to a very special group of clivia. There were only a handful of varieties to work

on in the 1980=s. Nowadays, we have many more varieties to choose from. In the 1990=s, variegated clivia have become very important plants on the market. With the leaf colors like white, yellow, green, gray, and red, variegated clivia are for sure the jewels of the clivia family.

In order to produce better varieties, there are certain rules that need to be followed:

(a) Choose the best parents

The mother plant should have four to eight stripes of white or yellow, not too many and not too few. The width of each stripe should be 8 to 15 mm. The greater the contrast of the colors the better. The father plant should have round, short leaves arranged in an orderly manner, with a good texture. The surface of the leaves should be shiny, with clear white stripes (width: 8 to 15 mm) in them.

(b) Back-cross

- (i) If using an F1 seedling as the pollen parent, and the mother plant as the pod parent, the success rate is about 20%.
- (ii) If using an F1 seedling as the pod parent, and the mother parent as the pollen parent, the success rate is about 40%.

(c) Sibling-cross

If one selects the best two seedlings to be the parents, the success rate can be as high as 60%.

Making seedling selection.

When the seedlings have only one or two leaves, it is not easy to see their full potential. The best time to do so is when they have four or five leaves. If there are 1 to 3 white stripes on the green leaves, they should be worthwhile growing and keeping.

Hybridizing within the same variety may result in the accumulation of the best desirable qualities. However, sometimes these qualities may become separated due to genetic inheritance. Therefore, it may take several generations to achieve the best results.

3. Asexual propagation

This is propagation without hybridization. The divisions are grown from either the base of mature plants near the roots or stem, or between the base of the leaves.

For normal green clivia, the variation/difference between the mother plant and the divisions is usually not noticeable. However, in the case of variegated clivia, the divisions can vary a lot and may look very different from the mother plant.

The reason is that some clivia have an uneven distribution of color stripes. Some may have high purity with a lot of white stripes on one side, and low purity with few white stripes on the other side. If the division is grown from the side of high purity, then it may also have high purity. If the division comes from the low purity side, then it can be of low purity, or turn out to be normal green without stripes.

Due to this characteristic, we can assume that some scientific methods can be utilized to produce good divisions, such as tissue culture. This may also make up for the low germination rate and unstable breeding from sexual propagation.

IV. Seed Culture

After pollination, it takes about eight months for the seed pod to mature. Do not wait until all the seeds

have ripened before collecting them because some seeds may have become rotten and could affect the viability of other seeds. Seeds should be planted immediately they are taken from the seed pod, otherwise, the seeds may dry out and prohibit germination. The seeds should be left in the seed pod if you can not plant them right away.

There are several ways of growing seedlings. Two are commonly followed:

1. Sand Bed

- (I) Screen the sands and obtain the desirable size, which is about the size of rice grain.
- (ii) Wash the sands with water several times to make sure all the dirt is gone.
- (iii) Transfer the sands into either flower pots or crates. Do not put too much sand in a container. The sand level should be a bit lower than the rim of the container.
- (iv) Flatten the surface of the sand bed.
- (v) Plant the seeds from the same hybrid in the same container, and put the date, hybrid name, and the number of seeds in the container. The density of the seed in one container does not matter much because they will be transferred after germination.
- (vi) Cover the seeds with a layer of sand. The thickness of the layer of sand should be about 0.5 cm. Water the seeds thoroughly.
- (vii) The optimum culture temperature is 20 to 25E C. Depending on the humidity, the seeds should be watered everyday or every other day, to keep the sand bed moist. Do not use hot or cold water, which will deter germination. Water at room temperature is desirable.
- (ii) After thirty days, the roots and leaves should start to develop and the seeds can then be transferred to normal growing media.

2. Saw-dust bed

This is the most preferred bed in seed germination. The saw dust is usually from the tree of white fir or other evergreen trees. This kind of bed is easy and convenient, keeps a constant temperature, and gives good results on germination. The method described above can be applied to the saw-dust bed. Do not press the bed too hard. Also, cover the seeds with a layer (about 2 cm thick) of saw dust.

Another way of making the bed is by mixing seeds with saw dust, and putting the mixture into shallow containers. Saw dust should be loose and not compact. Seeds should be entirely covered so as not be seen from the top. In twenty days, the seeds should have leaves and roots (about 3 cm long) and can be transferred to normal growing media.

PERSONALITY PARADE

Wessel J Lötter



Wessel Lötter received honorary membership of the Northern Branch at the same time as Nick Primich. Wessel has been an avid breeder of interspecific hybrids for many years. Editor.

Wessel J Lötter was born on 1 June 1930 in George where he completed his schooling. Poor health forced him to abandon his studies in Social Science at Stellenbosch University.

Wessel joined the Civil Service in 1951. Wessel married Penelope Kassimatis in 1953 and they had one son. Penelope died at the age of 27 from a coronary thrombosis. Wessel married Maryna Erasmus in

December 1959 and he has two sons and a daughter from this marriage. Maryna died of heart failure in 1995.

Since childhood, Wessel has had a keen interest in nature. His playmates were domestic animals, chickens, snakes, lizards, moles and locusts. He gathered larvae of moths and butterflies which he nurtured to maturity to study their metamorphosis.

At school Wessel was not interested in sport. He preferred to be in the veld observing birds which he could easily identify in flight. He knew their calls and could imitate some of them. Wessel even taught his ducks, goose, Muscovy duck and bantam to fly and if they were reluctant he encouraged them. He is on record as saying that the Muscovy duck could fly as well as the Egyptian goose and his bantam cock could fly 100 metres. Wessel was most annoyed when someone cut the wing of his Egyptian goose and he decided to do a feather implant. As a result the goose flew again with white Muscovy duck feathers which Wessel had tucked into a sheath beneath the original feathers on one wing. He demonstrated this technique in the programme *Uit en Tuis* during the early days of TV in South Africa.

A house where Wessel could pursue his hobbies was more important to him than a vehicle. He moved into his own home in 1953 and cycled to work. He built an aviary for his birds first and then began with his plants. Wessel's initial interest was in aloes of which he had a wide variety and which he hybridised. Stalk borers caused havoc and he moved on to cycads, beaucarnias, dasyliirions, palms and clivias which are his favourite pot plants.

As Wessel was always searching new challenges, he started to cross breed *miniata* and other species. He was the first proud owner of a yellow clivia in Pretoria but this was self sterile. He cross pollinated this with orange *miniata* and obtained progeny with orange flowers. These plants led to his collection of yellow plants.

Genetics has always interested Wessel and as a result of this he has become an authority in this area. The existence of two genetically different groups of yellow clivia was not his first genetic discovery. He also made some interesting ornithological observations. Some years ago he discovered that, like water birds, blue cranes lose all their flight feathers at the same time. This makes them flightless for a period of some six weeks (*Bokmakierie*, volume 27, 1975).

The members of the Clivia Club are greatly indebted to Wessel for his contributions in the general field of Clivia genetics, which seems to bear so strongly on all the characteristics which clivia lovers look for. He has hybridised extensively, and many of his specimens of interspecific hybrids have appeared in our newsletters and yearbooks, have been demonstrated in slide shows at Clivia Club meetings or exhibited at shows and meetings. His son Rudo continues to explore these interests in hybridising and many of his results can be seen in the beautiful pictures depicted on the Clivia chat group e-mails.

The photographs on the covers of this newsletter are of interspecific hybrids from Wessel Lötter's collection. Editor.

ACTIVITIES OF CLIVIA CLUB BRANCHES

KWAZULU/NATAL NEWS

KwaZulu/Natal seed bank

Wow, this was a steep learning curve! To all of you who supported us, many thanks and to the majority

who paid on the nose, a big thank you.

I was amazed at some of the responses. No names, addresses, contact numbers??? Fortunately most were traced and thanks to the National membership list even letters with just a scribbled name were found. However, we have decided that in the future, unless all the information is supplied, we just won't process the order as it takes too long.

In all, 138 orders were packed and dispatched to all corners of the globe, and that does not include the 47 odd Swamp Clivia seed orders. We were very over-subscribed for the 'specials' like Noyce's Sunburst, Chubb's Peach etc. In fact, except for the ordinary miniata and midlands *C. gardenii*, we are sold out of everything. *C. caulescens* was in great demand and we only had 60 seeds!

I don't think Postnet at Hilton, who were amazingly patient and supportive as I weighed and added on the postage, want to see me for a LONG time! We do, however, have a new convert, the Postnet Manager!

Perhaps it is like having a baby? You forget the pain and only remember the joy.

Ciao till next year,

Brenda Nuss.

KwaZulu/Natal meeting - June 2000

On a chilly Saturday morning in June, Des Andersson gave a very humorous and informative talk on the preparation of plants for showing. Armed with various cleaning materials such as, shoe brushes, shoe polish, milk, buckets of water, sponges and a couple of tatty looking plants he proceeded to transform them into presentable show specimens.

First the outside of the pot was given a good wash with water, dried and brown polish applied to give a 'new look'.

Next the weeds and old dried bottom leaves were removed and the pot topped up with fresh bark. Any damaged leaf ends were cut and reshaped with scissors. Fungicide was dabbed onto naked leaf edges to help prevent disease.

The plant, by now, was looking more presentable. Then for phase two. Out came the bucket of water and sponge. Each leaf was carefully washed on both sides, working from the axil of the leaf to the end, the sponge was rinsed in water and the leaf given a second wash just to make sure it was spotless. To get right down into the axil of the leaves an ear bud was used.

A couple more leaves were cleaned and then came the final 'shining' phase. And now for a secret which is cheap and easy. Dilute half milk and half water in a bowl and using cottonwool gently give the upper side of the leaves a wipe. This mixture will give the leaves a natural gloss and also remove any dirt that might have escaped the first cleaning. A procedure like this can take up to half an hour or more per plant.

Finally, the flower spike should be staked securely for transport purposes. It should then be removed before judging as plants being held up by supports could be disqualified. Only seed heads may be supported during judging.

A tip - most clivia fanatics have special plants they would like to show

With new leaves emerging around the months of July and August and BEFORE the scapes appear, it is a

good idea to select possible show plants. Give leaves a good, gentle wash down with the hosepipe, clean most of the mud and dust off the pot, pull out weeds and take off old and damaged leaves. This will save considerable cleaning and tidying time when the show day finally arrives.

Thank you Des for your very entertaining and useful advice.

Val Thurston.

Interest Group in Newcastle

Greetings all Enthusiasts

Even more exciting than the first flower on a new clivia is the incipient start-up of a new branch of clivia lovers.

The Naudes and we Abels were invited down from Pretoria to Newcastle in Northern Natal by Dries Olivier, Daan Decker, Hottie Human and their kind spouses to help with an awareness campaign. The three hosts had some lovely Newcastle plants. We took down some species specimens and other plants (as well as some for sale) and the Naudes had Club publications and membership forms. Dries had adroitly arranged to have the above displayed in the foyer of the library which had its normal stream of visitors and we were all there on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to answer a multitude of questions. The sight of the public as they came in to the library doing a sudden double-take as they saw the specimens and then coming over to ask about them was great.

Good luck to our hosts with the development of their group and many thanks for the hospitality.

Regards from Connie and James Abel (jabel@yebo.co.za).

NORTHERN BRANCH NEWS

The Northern Branch had quite a full program since July when we submitted our report for the second newsletter of 2000. Despite the rugby test against New Zealand we had a very well attended meeting on Saturday 29 July. Frans Gerber chaired a panel discussion on how to increase your clivia stock. The panel members were Geoff Meyer, Norman Weitz, Bertie Guillaume and Connie Abel. We had a lively discussion on how to pollinate, when to pollinate, how to germinate seeds and techniques one can employ to stimulate sucker development. Minutes were taken and perhaps we can submit them for publication in the newsletter at a later date.

On Saturday 19 August we again met at Hoërskool Die Wilgers to finalise our preparations for our Clivia Show which took place during the first weekend of September. As in 1999 the show was a big success - attended by over 5000 people. Sixty two visitors joined the Clivia ranks. Thanks to Lena for co-ordinating the show organisation. She and her team did a splendid job.

I approached some visitors at the show and asked them to share their impressions of the show with us. This is what they had to say.

Penn Henry from Australia: In 1994 I visited South Africa for the first Clivia Club show. It was very rewarding not only to see the Clivia but the friendships that I made then. My comments then were that with competition the clivia could only improve and now in 2000 (my fourth trip to South Africa) I am astounded at the improvement that I knew would be there, but WOW!

Sydney & Minnie Gerber, Lynnwood, Pretoria: The Clivia Show is an appropriate introduction to

Spring in early September. The bright coloured Clivia flowers that are presently blooming in Pretoria gardens are a wonderful tribute to this South African plant. To see the wonderful variety and quality at the show is an event that no gardener or lover of flowers should miss. The enthusiasm of the growers and club members is contagious and everyone is so willing to share their knowledge with interested Clivia growers. Our congratulations to the Clivia Club for the first show of the millennium. It was a wonderful and fascinating experience.

Wilna Wagner, Rietondale, Pretoria: This is beautiful!. One cannot really express it in words. It makes you realise that God is in control.

Hermien Poortier & Marié Verreyne, Pretoria: What can we say? Breathtaking! Never seen anything like this. Thank you to the people who take the time to grow, look after and exhibit these beautiful clivias so that we can appreciate them. This is food for the soul. Next year we will be back.

This year the prize-giving had a new format. The school made their >=lapa== facilities available to the Club and we combined the prize-giving with a bring and braai. A further bonus was the slide show on Clivia in the United States presented by Harold Koopowitz.

Before listing the various category winners, I wish to extend, on behalf of The Northern Clivia Club, congratulations to all involved with the publication of the second newsletter and the beautiful and informative Clivia Yearbook. The Yearbook was worth waiting for.

The various categories and winners are tabled below - note that two of our junior members, Corné Vlok and George Mann excelled by achieving second prizes for plants entered in the categories broadleaf and nobilis respectively. Congratulations to all the prizewinners.

Chris Vlok.

Another impression about the show from the net:

The Pretoria show was better organised in larger surroundings this year. The plants were immediately available for exhibition as the judging had been completed the previous day. There were many interesting flowers, new arrivals and some old favourites. The quality of some of the sections such as the yellows, was not so impressive and left a bit of room for improvement. There were many new colours on display, and one can only wonder at them. I saw many magnificent plants that I would dearly love to have at home. When you think that in 1994, at our first show, there were a few yellows and some interesting oranges, you wonder where in six years so many new arrivals can have come from? The thing is, we have become so much more clivia aware. People have found lovely plants blushing unseen in their friends gardens and farms, and have collected and nourished them. They certainly have not all been bred in that time. Peaches and pastels are all the rage, and I can't even begin to describe some of them.

The sales area was more cramped this year than last and led to some dissatisfaction and disputes. There were many plants available, but you needed to search for quality items. I did find one or two interesting pastels, and gave orders for other plants to be available later on. It is going to be more and more of a struggle to get worthwhile acquisitions in the future.

Nick Primich.

Northern Branch Show Results

Section	POSITION (Section winners are printed in bold)
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Class	1st	3rd	2nd
	1. Miniata orange narrow petal	No award	No award
2. Miniata orange broad petal 2a (1 umbel) 2b (2 umbels) 2c (3 or more umbels)	Anna Meyer Pat Gore no award	Chris le Grange Anna Meyer no award	Elda de Witt Anna Meyer no award
3. Miniata red narrow petal	No award	No award	No award
4. Miniata red broad petal 4a (1 umbel) 4b (2 umbels) 4c (3 or more umbels)	Bertie Guillaume No award No award	Pat Gore No award No award	Fritz van Schalkwyk No award No award
5. Miniata yellow narrow petal	No award	No award	No award
6. Miniata yellow broad petal 6a (1 umbel) 6b (2 umbels) 6c (3 or more umbels)	Susan Kruger Gert Esterhuizen Anna Meyer	Koos Geldenhuys Tino Ferero No award	Elda de Witt No award No award
7. Miniata pink 7a (1 umbel) 7b (2 umbels)	Tino Ferero No first place	Frans Gerber Anna Meyer	No award No award
8. Miniata peach 8a (1 umbel) 8b (2 umbels) 8c (3 or more umbels)	Koos Geldenhuys Bertie Guillaume Tipperary Nursery	Bertie Guillaume Ernie Hobbs Geoff Meyer	No award No award No award
9. Miniata any other colour	Elda de Witt	Tino Ferero	No award
10. Broad leaf no flower 10a (leaf up to 100 mm) 10b (leaf > 100 mm)	Ernie Hobbs Frans Gerber	An Jacobs Frans Gerber	Bertie Guillaume Frikkie Potgieter
11. Broad leaf with flower 11a (leaf up to 100 mm) 11b (leaf > 100 mm)	Bertie Guillaume Frikkie Potgieter	Corné Vlok No award	Chris Vlok No award
12. Variegated leaf 12a (no flower) 12b (any colour flower) 12c (seedlings # 11 leaves)	Bertie Guillaume No award Louis Swanepoel	Bertie Guillaume No award Louis Swanepoel	Louis Swanepoel No award Louis Swanepoel
13. Miniature 13a (no flower) 13b (any colour flower)	Chris Vlok No award	Louis Swanepoel No award	Gert Esterhuizen No award
14. Miniature variegated leaf 14a (no flower) 14b (any colour flower)	Koos Geldenhuys No award	Ernie Hobbs No award	Frans Gerber No award

15. Interspecific Hybrid 15a (in flower any colour)	Des Anderson	Chris Vlok	Susan Kruger
16. Pendulous species 16a C. gardenii in flower	No award	No award	No award
16b C. nobilis in flower	No award	George Mann	No award
16c C. caulescens in flower	No award	No award	No award
17. Multi-petal (any colour)	Bertie Guillaume	Frikkie Marais	No award
18. Pot plant (at least 3 crowns, 2 flowers)	Anna Meyer	Chris le Grange	Anna Meyer
19. Display plant in flower with rockery stone etc)	Pat Gore	Norman Weitz	No award
20. Most unusual 20a (unusual flower) 20b (unusual leaf form)	Des Anderson Anna Meyer Tino Ferero	Anna Meyer Anna Meyer	No award No award
21. Seedling tray (# 12 months)	No award	Ernie Hobbs	Norman Weitz
22. Clivia in fruit	Anna Meyer	Anna Meyer	Anna Meyer
23. Cut flower 23a (clivia umbel in vase) 23b (flower arrangement)	Barbara Wiesner Susan Kruger	Anna Meyer Anna Meyer	No award Barbara Wiesner

Best on Show: *C. miniata* orange broad petal, one umbel (2a) - Anna Meyer.

Runner up: *C. miniata* peach, one umbel (8a) - Koos Geldenhuys.

New >Chat Group=

We, in the north-eastern suburbs of Jo'burg, and in Roodepoort and Sandton are in the process of forming a chat-group where we can informally gather at a member's house instead of trekking all the way to Pretoria. Please join us if interested. My phone number is (011) 768 2996.

Nick Primich.

After some correspondence between Nick Primich and myself regarding the germination of clivia seeds, I received a pleasant invitation to join a >Chat Group= on Saturday the 26 August at the house of Braam Opperman in Weltevreden Park, Gauteng (just for the record, on the rugby test day if you please - Nick has apparently got no feeling for rugby enthusiasts!). I arrived a wee bit late, but fortunately all things relating to clivia tend to start a bit late. I wonder why? We were 14 members in all, viz. Nick Primich, Braam Opperman, Jan Moeken, Ken Fargher, Graham Goodwin, Tiekie Beukes, Rodney Stanford, Keith Rose, Conrad de Lange, Lynn Mansfield and yours truly Loukie Viljoen. A few had left by the time the attendance register was sent around and I apologise for not including their names.

Nick got the pollen flying, when one of the questions asked was "How does Nick get his berries as big as golf balls?" But very patiently Nick described and demonstrated how he goes about the pollinating act!!!

He demonstrated how he moved from the anther to pistil on one of the beautiful plants that were brought along by a member. Hopefully in 4 years time we will convene to see what the choice of pollination has brought forth in the flowers. The berries we will see sooner.

The discussion then drifted from harvesting seed, cleaning seed, sterilisation, soil mixtures and offset production. We stopped short of plunging a red hot poker into the crown of the lovely plant on demonstration. From the discussion it emerged that many of the younger members have many questions that they would like to ask, but have been afraid to do so. We need the new members with their enthusiasm and their desire to gain knowledge. What would happen if the present crop of 60 to 80 year olds decided to call it a day? Somebody must be around in a few decades to enjoy the new cultivars.

The members then moved on to see Braam's plants. Wow, what a setup!! When those seedlings and germinating seeds mature, the bottom will proverbially drop out of the market. At Braam's nursery the pampering of seeds starts in converted upright freezer which was altered to warm rather than freeze. Then there are hundreds of margarine tubs, each with about 20mm of damp sand in them with seeds on top, closed tightly and placed in sweat cupboard. All are numbered with the origins identified. The temperature is regulated with a thermostat and is kept at between 20 and 24 degrees centigrade. The results are there, the seeds are sprouting in their thousands. Woe betide the day that the contraption reverses roles and freezes, or overheats. Remember "Do not put all your seeds in one freezer!" Once germinated they are all lovingly transplanted and put into an equally luxurious five star heated room. All the adult plants are on mesh shelves made by Braam, clean and neat. An Amaryllis caterpillar will need a passport and visa to get in! It is hard to believe that all this has only been going for 18 months. Well done Braam, other people at your age do not even want to buy green bananas.

The clivia safari then went over to serious eating, and serious it was. There were many fancy little cakes, savories, milk tarts etc. Thank you to all who brought eats and contributed to a lovely afternoon. Braam, in the interim, while you are waiting for your plants to grow, you can sell the recipe of that lovely milk tart. I saw Nick and Tiekie really enjoying a few pieces.

Of course the afternoon would have been incomplete without an ooh! and an aah! session. The flowers did all that and more. I am sure some of our younger members are still having sleepless nights, wondering whether their crosses will be the same.

Nick and Braam, thank you for a pleasant afternoon. We are looking forward to the next >meet and eat=, which will be at 2pm on 30 September at Tiekie Beukes, 40 Hendrik Road, Poortview. Roodepoort, Tel. (011) 958-1021. All welcome. Till then, just close your eyes and see lovely clivias.

Yours truly,

Loukie Viljoen.

BORDER INTEREST GROUP - Abbreviated minutes of meetings

The inaugural meeting of the Border Interest Group of the Clivia Club (Cape Province Branch) was held at Floradale Nursery on the outskirts of East London, on Sunday 9 April 2000 at 2 .30 p.m. 24 people attended and 13 (5 married couples and 3 singles) new members made application to join the Club.

Gerald Muller of Floradale Nursery demonstrated various methods of vegetative reproduction of Clivias. He split a large clump of clivias by pulling the plant sections apart. He cut through the centre of a plant longitudinally; and treated the cut edge with fungicide. He then planted each section with the cut edge above the ground (placed sideways). He also used Cynthia Giddy's method of chopping through the

plant transversely with a hoe, treating with fungicide and replanting both the root and the stem sections. In all methods, the leaves and roots can be reduced before replanting, or left as they are.

Gerald also talked of tissue culture experiments his sister had conducted in the past, where she cut open the plant to find the embryo flowers within the stem and planted the peduncles. She did obtain growth but had abandoned the experiment before getting new plants.

Stella van Gass gave a brief history of the discovery of Clivia types in this country and the subsequent cultivation in various parts of the world. She also covered the formation of the Clivia Club and the Branches in South Africa. It was decided to form their own interest group, the >Border Interest Group=, as the interest group in Port Elizabeth was considered to be too far away for regular attendance by those in the East London environs. The costs and benefits of belonging to the Club were explained. Stella van Gass was elected as chairperson and Barbara Monfoort as secretary.

Another meeting would be in June, followed by one in September when the plants would be flowering and a mini show could be arranged. It was agreed that meetings would be on the afternoon of the second Sunday of the month.

The second meeting of the Border Interest Group was held at the Floradale Tea room on Sunday 11 June 2000 and was attended by 16 members.

The following discussion took place:

Seed sowing advice

Seeds should be picked when "ready" B i.e. when the berries part easily from the peduncles.

Withered seed should be placed in weak sugar solution overnight.

Flesh and membrane should be cleaned off.

Plant seeds in (I) a plastic bag with a damp tissue; (ii) an ice-cream container, closed and in a warm position; (iii) in a plastic bag with compost.

When roots start to show seeds should be placed on top of (I) bought growing medium; (ii) 2 compost, 2 sand; (iii) vermiculite; (iv) pure river sand; and kept damp until they germinate.

Do not start feeding seedlings too soon; they should be forced to form a strong root system first. In an inert medium they develop much stronger roots than in a very fertile medium.

Feed only 2 strength foliar feed (if you feel you must), otherwise leave for √1 year before transplanting into a good, friable, fertile medium.

Seed sowing competition

Each person present was given a packet containing 5 seeds. These were to be planted in a 6 inch pot, marked with the sowing date, and brought to the first meeting in 2001 where they would be judged B NO CHEATING, replacing, or substituting!

Questions & Answers, Tips and Suggestions

According to Margaret Roberts the pulp from a Clivia berry helps to strengthen finger nails.

To protect against frost grow under trees or in shade house. A new product similar to batting has been introduced in France for use with vegetables and might be available in frosty areas of this country; failing this, the material used for cutting out patterns might be a good substitute. This should be spread out like a tablecloth and weighted with stones. Water will penetrate the material.

To protect against moles: Auriol Batten has used expanded metal (as used in catwalks). This is guillotined into lengths and made into containers, which are dropped into holes in ground, filled and

planted. It is very expensive. Alternatively for smaller, non-spreading bulbs, surround all sides of your bed with sheets of asbestos or roofing slates B leave space enough for bulbs but too small for moles.

Also for moles, phostoxin tablets can be inserted into 30cm pipe which is pushed into mole hole and blocked with paper and then soil levelled over. It will slowly vaporise, killing moles. The head gardener at Floradale has successfully used Efekto insecticide granules on Clivias being eaten by moles. Other suggestions for moles are: chopped onions; Jeyes fluid; blood; sardines; loud rock music; Liquid Efekto (based on essence of garlic)

The raffle was won by Humphrey Hollis.

Requests from abroad for seeds were read out and were to be passed on to Stella for reply. A nursery in Gauteng was offering a special price on seeds and bulbs B Henta coordinated orders. Cape Seed & Bulb was offering yellow Clivias at R99.00 each.

A delicate peach/apricot Clivia flower grown by a member was shown and admired. Gerald showed members Floradale where he has Clivias growing and explained his current projects.

The meeting was closed and tea served.

The third meeting was held at Floradale Nursery on Sunday 10 September, where Gerald Muller, our vice-chairman, and the owner of the nursery, welcomed all members plus our two visitors from Kirstenbosch - Mick Dower and John Rourke. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Japie, husband of our chairman Stella van Gass, who passed away on Tuesday after a long illness.

This get-together was meant to be a "Bring and Brag" session but unfortunately not many had anything to brag about - either we have not been growing clivias for long enough or the flowers had already bloomed and died! Fortunately Gerald had several plants on display, including one with a beautiful apricot flower, and Rob Moss showed a nobilis with two spikes.

John Rourke passed on a good deal of interesting information on the vagaries and peculiarities of *Clivia miniata* populations in nature and we all learnt something new from him. He and Mick then looked at the plants on display, advising us on pointers that would be looked at by judges at a show, and gave us all sorts of snippets of advice on the growing, pollination and propagation of clivias - including the storage of pollen in a deep freeze for two years or more. We are grateful to them for their visit and their willingness to share their expertise.

Barbara Monfoort.

EASTERN CAPE INTEREST GROUP

The last committee meeting before the show was on 26 August in Jeffrey's Bay. The organizers of the launching of the Clivia Club in the Eastern Cape, Annatjie Smith, Perry and Stephanie Notley and Willie van Rensburg were also invited to attend, to help with the planning of the show. Details of the show, plants etc were discussed. Charl Coetzee was late because of a special wedding in his congregation that was even published in the morning papers. Bobby Weber could not attend because of the death of his Mother the day before.

Special Clivias were shown by different Committee members.

To celebrate the occasion, Fred Gibello organized a wine tasting session with the Merendal Wine Estate,

Durbanville, and 26 people attended. The Managing Director, William Stark, introduced different wines. Fred asked whether a special relationship could not be established between clivias and Merendal Estate wines. He suggested that they should think about including pictures of clivias when next they print their labels.

Two points were mentioned which make these wines special:

- 1) Warning: Enjoy your wine, but do not over-indulge
- 2) Each bottle contains a Celebratory Quotation in praise of wine: e.g. on Navette, the semi-sweet gewurztraminer: "The juice of the grape is the liquid quintessence of concentrated sunbeams."

The show is on 30 September and 1 October 2000.

Annatjie Smith.

SOUTHERN CAPE CLIVIA CLUB

This is our new name, which we have changed from the George Clivia Interest Group as we feel it covers the district and not the town. We have a membership of √50 members with a number of husband and wife members.

A most successful meeting was held recently when all the pros and cons regarding clivias were discussed. Frank Chambers, a very active member of our Club, is researching the various aspects of size, shape and colour of clivia berries. When the seeds start to grow and eventually bloom, he will be able to establish whether differences are apparent. Should there be any other member of the Clivia Club who has already done research on this matter, he would be pleased to hear about it.

Ian Vermaak told about a yellow clivia which was 6-7 years old and which had never flowered. His wife Geraldine suggested that the plant be given shock treatment. Blocks of ice were placed at the base of the plant and packed as high as possible. A few blocks were even placed amongst the leaves. The idea was to >kill or cure=, and cure it did, for six weeks later up came a peduncle which presented them with beautifully shaped umbel with yellow clivia flowers. The plant appears to be self sterile. Should there be any members who have had a problem of this nature would they please let him know.

With all the clivias coming into flower at this time of the year, interest is high.

Ian Vermaak.

FOR SALE

From the Clivia Club:

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.

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Copies of back volumes. These are available from the Membership Secretary.

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).

ATHE CLIVIA@ by VA Thurston. R100,00 a copy. Cost of book **plus registered post:** South Africa - R110,00 (signature on delivery); UK - , 25; USA - \$35; Australia - \$55. Allow √ 3 weeks for printing and delivery. **Address:** Mrs V A Thurston, PO Box 3181, Westbrook 4400, South Africa. **Phone no.** (032) 943 1316 after 4pm. **E-mail:** thur001@iafrica.com

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

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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.

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BEGINNER=S LUCK - Pollination

A question from Marius Helm on the clivia e-group.

- Q. How does one pollinate one clivia with another=s pollen without the mother plant pollinating itself? How can one be 100% sure of it?
- A. Shortly before the mother plant opens, when the buds have coloured up, carefully unhook the little catch at the front of the petals and ease them open. Pull off the unopened anthers and remove them from the flower. Now there is no way the plant can fertilise itself.

Nick Primich

On the compost Heap.

The black frost appears to have curtailed the activities of some of my relatives, but I am alive and well and waiting for the weather to warm up a bit.



I am really enjoying being a member of these Clivia Branches and Interest Groups with all the socializing that is going on - good braais at the Northern Branch, lovely eats at the new chat group in the Johannesburg region, wine tasting in the Eastern Province and all the camaraderie at the shows.

I feel I=m getting a bit bogged down by all the clivia e-group e-mails, about 100 not filed yet, but all so interesting and stimulating, and what magnificent photos are attached to some messages!

Lily Borer.



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Chanèl: F2 C miniata x C nobilis



C miniata x C caulescens