VIREYA VINE

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R. S. F. PO BOX 3798, FEDERAL WAY WA. 98063 E. White Smith, Editor

NOTE FROM E. WHITE SMITH; VIREYA VINE BOOK READY!!!

In VV 27, I announced that the Vireya Vine would stop production after # 30. Along with every order for the Vireya Vine Book has been a note saying how much you have liked, needed, appreciated, loved, applaud, relish, prize, etc. the Vine. You all said that you sure hope that we will not stop even if we only do an issue when we get enough material. <u>OK Fine!</u> I love doing the Vine and being able to correspond with you people from all over the world. We shall try to keep it going. <u>BUT</u> you all must help by writing letters. A few people have even said that they are going to write a letter when they ordered the Book. Good, Good.

About the VV Book - 110,000 + words, 127 + pages, maps, list, names, cover, bound. AND IT IS READY NOW. Prices are \$18US post paid in the USA. \$21US overseas from the USA, post paid. Outside of the USA please send a bank draft in US funds. It will be mailed as "bound printed matter" which will be slow surface mail, but keeps the cost down. This project is mine alone. Please make checks payable to.

E. White Smith 4317 No. 18th Tacoma, Wa 98406 USA Telephone (206)752-1625

From Bob Withers Dear VV,

Victoria, Australia March 3, 1991

In Vireya Vine issue #28, I was interested to read Dick Cavender's letter in which he asked the question, if there was anything to the rumor that the Australian Rhododendron Society was in trouble. There is nothing whatever to the rumor. We have a number of branches and they and the national body have never been so strong, so viable, and so financial.

The only trouble if it can really be called trouble is the relationship between the Victoria Branch of the Society and the Rhododendron Garden at Olinda. The government owns the land of the Garden and as such everything on it. The Victoria Branch of the Society developed the garden. As the years have passed and the garden has been seen as a "good thing", the government has taken over more and more control. The Society, has, as a result has had less influence on the Garden management. In the beginning the Society had the majority of members on the committee of management, but now we are in the minority, only being allowed two members.

But the Garden is still doing well. And the Australian Rhododendron Society is strong and well. Dr. R. M. Withers

23 Melissa Street Donvale, Vict 3111 Australia Thanks Bob, You have been one of the undaunted leaders in the Rhododendron World for too many years to say out loud. With out a few of you very early Vireya pioneers we probably would not have near the number of Vireya plants and enthusiasm as we have now.

From George Ryan	Tacoma, Washington, USA
Dear Vireya Vine,	March 9, 1991

The questions in your December 1990 issue about naphthaleneacetic acid have prompted me to make the following comments.

Naphthaleneacetic acid is one of the two active ingredients in the liquid rooting preparation Dip 'n Grow (and Jiffy Grow, no longer available?). Indolebutyric acid is the other active ingredient. Naphthaleneacetic acid has long been the active ingredient in RooTone (in the amide form, naphthalenacetamide). Indolebutyric acid was added to RooTone #10, giving it greater root-promoting activity than the original formulation. Some formulations of RooTone currently available in the garden stores in our area contain both chemicals.

Early comparisons of the these two chemicals showed that generally indolebutyric acid was more effective than naphtaleneactic acid. My earliest reference is from B.W. Doak in Palmerston North, N.Z., who came to that conclusion in 1940. Pierik and Steegman in Wageningen, The Netherlands, working with rhododendron stem segments on agar in test tubes, came to the same conclusion in 1969, but also suggested there may be cultivar differences in response.

There have been occasional reports of better results with naphthaleneacetic acid or the amide than with indolebutyric acid. The concentration of the chemical, the form of the chemical (acid, potassium salt, amide, methyl ester, etc), and the method of application, all can affect the results, so these should be taken into account in any comparisons.

James Wells at Red Bank, N.J., stated in 1969 that the most effective treatment for really difficult rhododendrons was a powder containing 10 mg/g of the potassium salt of indolebutyric acid and 0.25 mg/g of naphthaleneactic acid. Others have reported this combination, in various ratios, to be very effective; for example, Warren Berg in the ARS Quarterly Bulletin of October 1970. As noted above, Dip 'n Grow (and Jiffy Grow formerly) contains this combination, and it has been used extensively for many years.

I have not heard of a commercial formulation of naphthaleneacetic acid in paste form. Lanolin paste forms of the various growth regulators, or "hormones", have been used experimentally, permitting precise placement on various plant parts to observe the response, but a paste would not be a practical method for large scale treatment of cuttings.

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Dr. George F.Ryan 1877 Skyline Dr. Tacoma, WA 98406

George Ryan is a retired researcher from the Washington State University, agricultural station in Puyallup, Washington. George has also been active in the Tacoma Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for many years. He bought one of the Vireya Vine Books at a Chapter meeting and found it had a lot of interesting information about Rhododendrons in general. George only has one Vireya, R. kawakamii, which he grows in a hanging pot and overwinters in his garage. He asked me if kawakamii was a Vireya. I said "sure, probably", at least the RHS species handbook list it as a Vireya.

If you can remember that far back in Vireya time, I planted a kawakamii outside in the ground here at home in Tacoma about 4 years ago. It did not make it through this winter. The temperature was down to $+5^{\circ}F$. Not only is the outside kawakamii gone but so are many so called hardy Rhododendrons. The good part is "more room for new things now".

From Robert Barry March 17, 1991 Dear VV,

San Francisco, Calif.

I'm sorry to report that the December 1990 freeze decimated the Vireyas planted out in Golden Gate Park's John McLaren Dell. The mature specimens planted out at Strybing did not fare any better! Our brown stick plants remain in hopes there will be a resurrection ... nothing looks too promising so far. The good news is that most of what we are growing in the Park nursery (in the saran house) shows many new breaks. Strybing has also promised to share from their propagation house collection as well.

We do still plan to continue planting Vireyas outside ... but as a result of the December freeze we will devote a little less space to them. This freeze turned off many gardeners to Vireyas outside, in the San Francisco Bay area. Golden Gate Park got no way near as cold as did the East, North, and South Bay areas.

Most of the plants that I have at home are in containers and were easy to move inside. I do have a few near casualties however ... plants in the ground that I "tented" and a few plants that I moved into the lath house. But nearly everything shows promise (from the lath house protected group, konori and goodenoughii look the least promising).

> Robert J. Berry 345 Mississippi Street San Francisco, Ca 94107

I do need to say that the Vireya plants that had been growing at Golden Gate Park and Strybing over the years have given many people much pleasure. Please don't let them give up. Keep growing new plants and keep putting them out. That is almost the only reason I have to go to San Francisco.

O BAD! How bad can a Vireya Hybrid be. I have a seedling of R. stenophyllum X macgregoriae in bloom now. This is a good blooming plant, but, the flowers are awful. There are 5 flowers in the truss. The flower bud scales are reddish colored and tend to stick to the flowers and not fall away like they are meant to do. The flower color is golden/mustard/ yellow, which is not really too bad and they look like a good mix of both species. But, the flowers are not even as big as R. stenophyllum itself. I will be interested to know if other seedlings of this cross end up being really worthwhile. I really think that us Vireya Nuts need to be able to get rid of inferior hybrids, and if we do it we will be doing us all a good turn.

The above paragraph was written in early April. Now it is late May and another plant of the same cross, R. stenophyllum X macgregoriae is in bloom. It is good. Not great but what most of us would keep and watch. The flowers are almost as big as R. macgregoriae and are colored a real nice orange. The flower bud scales fall away as the truss of 5 flowers open. This plant I shall propagate and pass around while the bad one has gone into the garbage can.

On the next two pages I have included a temperature conversion chart. It is the most useful chart that I have found.

To use the chart <u>remember to use the center column and then read the temp that you</u> want from the °C or the °F column. Example; If you want to know what 15°F is in Celsius, look at the center column for the number 15 and read the °C number to the left (-9.4°C). And the same thing for °C to °F, go to number 15 in the center column and read to the right (59°F).

This chart looks dumb but it really works. If you have one of the Vireya Vine Books you might want to copy the chart and place it into the back of the book.

TEMPERATURE CONVERSION CHART CENTIGRADE (C) & FAHRENHEIT (F)

°C = (°F-32) X 0.5556 °F = (°C X 1.8) + 32

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READ CENTER COLUMN & THEN GO TO °C OR °F COLUMN

°C	< >	°F	°C	< >	°F
-37.8	-36	-32.8	-11.7	11	51.8
-37.2	-35	-31	-11.1	12	53.6
-36.7	-34	-29.2	-10.6	13	55.4
-36.1	-33	-27.4	-10.0	14	57.2
-35.6	-32	-25.6	-9.4	15	59
-35.0	-31	-23.8	-8.9	16	60.8
-34.4	-30	-22	-8.3	17	62.6
-33.9	-29	-20.2	-7.8	18	64.4
-33.3	-28	-18.4	-7.2	19	66.2
-32.8	-27	-16.6	-6.7	20	68
-32.2	-26	-14.8	-6.1	21	69.8
-31.7	-25	-13	-5.0	23	73.4
-31.1	-24	-11.2	-4.4	24	75.2
-30.6	-23	-9.4	-3.9	25	77
-30.0	-22	-7.6	-3.3	26	78.8
-29.4	-21	-5.8	-2.8	27	80.6
-28.9	-20	-4	-2.2	28	82.4
-28.3	-19	-2.2	-1.7	29	84.2
-27.8	-18	-0.4	-1.1	30	86
-27.2	-17	1.4	-0.6	31	87.8
-26.7	-16	3.2	0.0	32	89.6
-26.1	-15	5	0.6	33	91.4
-25.6	-14	6.8	1.1	34	93.2
-25.0	-13	8.6	1.7	35	95
-24.4	-12	10.4	2.2	36	96.8
-23.9	-11	12.2	2.8	37	98.6
-23.3	-10	14	3.3	38	100.4
-22.8	-9	15.8	3.9	39	102.2
-22.2	-8	17.6	4.4	40	104
-21.7	-7	19.4	5.0	41	105.8
-21.1	-6	21.2	5.6	42	107.6
-20.6	-5	23	6.1	43	109.4
-20.0	-4	24.8	6.7	44	111.2
-19.4	-3	26.6	7.2	45	113
-18.9	-2	28.4	7.8	46	114.8
-18.3	-1 '	[*] 30.2	8.3	47	116.6
-17.8	0	32	8.9	48	118.4
-17.2	1	33.8	9.4	49	120.2
-16.7	2	35.6	10.0	50	122
-16.1	3	37.4	10.6	51	123.8
-15.6	4	39.2	11.1	52	125.6
-15.0	5	41	11.7	53	127.4
-14.4	6	42.8	12.2	54	129.2
-13.9	7	44.6	12.8	55	131
-13.3	8	46.4	13.3	56	132.8
-12.8	9	48.2	13.9	57	134.6
-12.2	10	5 0	14.4	58	136.4

°C	< >	°F	°C	< >	°F
15.0	59	138.2	30.0	86	186.8
15.6	60	140	30.6	87	188.6
16.1	61	141.8	31.1	88	190.4
16.7	62	143.6	31.7	89	192.2
17.2	63	145.4	32.2	90	194
17.8	64	147.2	32.8	91	195.8
18.3	65 ·	149	33.3	92	197.6
18.9	66	150.8	33.9	93	199.4
19.4	67	152.6	34.4	94	201.2
20.0	68	154.4	35.0	95	203
20.6	69	156.2	35.6	96	204.8
21.1	70	158	36.1	97	206.6
21.7	71	159.8	· 36.7	98	208.4
22.2	72	161.6	37.2	99	210.2
22.8	73	163.4	37.8	100	212
23.3	74	165.2	38.3	101	213.8
23.9	75	167	38.9	102	215.6
24.4	76	168.8	39.4	103	217.4
25.0	77	170.6	40.0	104	219.2
25.6	78	172.4	40.6	105	221
26.1	7 9	174.2	41.1	106	222.8
26.7	80	176	41.7	107	224.6
27.2	81	177.8	42.2	108	226.4
27.8	82	179.6	42.8	109	228.2
28.3	83	181.4	43.3	110	230
28.9	84	183.2	43.9	111	231.8
29.4	85	185			

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From Norman Cruttwell Papua New Guinea Dear VV, April 14, 1991

Over the last two years I have been very busy managing the Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary. I have also been doing a lot of computer work, cataloging and recording plants. Of course Vireyas are only part of it. I have been concentrating a lot on orchids lately.

One of the correspondents to the Vine asked if he could have found R. phaeochitum on Mt. Wilhalm. Most unlikely. I know R. phaeochitum very well. It is common around Goroka, usually epiphytic, Altitude range - 2000m to 2500m. Mt. Wilhalm shrubberies at 3200m to 3600m. Far to high for phaeochitum. I suggest that he found R. beyerinckianum. They are quite similar and both can be red or pink.

> Rev. Canon N. Cruttwell P. O. Box 961 Goroka, EHP Papua New Guinea

(Norman has been in a hospital in Townsville, Australia. He was rushed from PNG by plane to a Intensive Care Unit and has spent a month there. He will then spend another month with friends in Australia, before returning to PNG. We all wish him well. I bet Norman would like to hear from some of you Viners out there.)

From Bill Moynier Dear VV,

Los Angeles, Calif. March 19, 1991

First I want to note that my wife Bette and I appreciated the very kind words in VV #28 about our now terminated "Vireya Specialties Nursery." It was an enjoyable undertaking for the 10 years we "did" the nursery. We especially enjoyed the interesting people that we met and corresponded with during that time. When I retired in 1988 from Hughes Aircraft Co. we decided it was time to get on with some other priorities which wouldn't allow time to run the nursery beyond 1991. What we really didn't know at that time was that by 1989 we wouldn't really have much choice in the matter. By then our severe drought which began in 1986 was beginning to have very noticeable affects on the quality of our nursery plants; reduced plant vigor and / or increasingly severe burning (browning) of leaves on a large number of plants. By 1990 it was clear that we no longer had plants of sufficient quality to continue the nursery and we decided to through in the towel a year early.

Our problem was degraded water resulting from our prolonged drought (now into its fifth year). Before 1986, we received all of our water from the eastern Sierra mountains (Owens River) and our Vireyas flourished almost without exception. Starting in 1986, we began receiving a mixture of that water along with water from other Southern California sources, the latter increasing gradually until now it is 80% of what we receive. Comparisons of before and after water analyses provided by the water agency indicated that the most obvious major change in the water was the use of the disinfectant chloramine in the new water vs. straight chlorine in the eastern Sierra water. We were told that chloramine takes up to 2 weeks to "dissipate" after coming out of the tap compared to 1 to 2 days for straight chlorine. There were other parameters which were also significantly degraded, but our experiments to date to counteract the degraded water have assumed chloramine to be the primary culprit. mercifully, we were informed in early March of this year that the use of chloramine had been discontinued. So, if chloramine was indeed the culprit we, hopefully, may notice some sort of turnaround in the next year or so. It is quite likely that the absence of heavier leaching type rains over the last several years have contributed to our problems. If any of you people out there have any knowledge of the effects of chloramine (or relatively high levels of chlorides in water) on Vireyas, we would certainly appreciate hearing from you!

For the last couple of years we have been preoccupied with the above problem, so we don't have much more to report. We've lost perhaps 80 - 85% of our hybrid seedlings (small up to blooming size) because of the water: perhaps 300 - 400 plants. This year we are in a simple survival mode, gathering as much rain water (plus purchased purified water as needed). We are trying to keep the better things as healthy as possible and to minimize further losses while we note the effect of the now dechloraminated water on the remaining plants.

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Our above problems are probably not of much interest to those of you who are not faced with this particular problem. And perhaps the following will not be either. But it may be of some more general value in indicating which species are able to tolerate a wider range of growing conditions.

In February 1990, after 4 years of the current drought, I did a qualitative survey of 106 of our more mature plants. These had been in our garden beds for at least several years to determine which parents seemed to produce progeny which could tolerate the degraded conditions best.

1) Of the 106 plants, 25 - 30% were showing very significant change for the worse while another 50% or so exhibited some lesser, relatively tolerable degradation. This left only 20 to 25% which were relatively unaffected.

2) Defining the plants in the last 2 categories as "good-doers" and including only those plants in which a given species was involved to the extent of at least 50%, the following table resulted. (The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of plants which had the 50% involvement)

<u>Species (# of plants)</u>	<u>% Good - Doers</u>
konori (10)	100
jasminiflorum (2)	100
leucogigas (22)	95
javanicum (12)	83
phaeopeplum (5)	80
aurigeranum (10)	70
zoelleri (18)	67
lochae (9)	67
brookeanum (2)	50
christianae (2)	50
macgregoriae (2)	50
laetum (16)	50

NOTE: For those species in the 50% category, the good - doers were almost always hybrids with those species in the top part of the table. Crosses involving only those species in the lower half of the table were predominantly "bad - doers".

I would like to add my vote for 'Marshall Pierce Madison' as being outstanding in every way. I consider it #1 on my list of favorites. Another newer Pete Sullivan hybrid which I rate right up there with MPM is 'Dr. Sleumer X leucogigas (test name, 'Cephas'); 5 to 7 large pure pink fragrant flowers, each 4 1/2 inches across.

> Bill Moynier 2701 Malcolm Ave. Los Angeles, Ca 90064

A person must begin to wonder what this kind of poor water does to people. And what about all of the other plants that grow in the Southern California area. Does this tell us something about what we are doing to our world? Southern California was at one time known as a paradise. Is it no longer so? Is this why so many people are moving north to Washington and Oregon. Will it happen here? Yes and it has probably already started to happen here. I wonder if we will ever learn................................ If you are having similar problems with your local water, let us know what chemicals are causing the problem and the effect on your plants.

Only about 60 of the Vireya Vine Books left for sale!!!

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