VIREYA VINE

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From Roland Perry Dear Vireya Vine,

Los Gatos, California Sept. 17, 1992

Most of my "plant hunting" has consisted of checking on the few available sources of Vireya plants - Bovees, Red's Rhodies, Cape Cod Vireya, and Roslyn's nursery for R. leucogigas species and its hybrids. I have lost touch with Greer Gardens and the Sonoma Horticultural Nursery so I am not sure of their stock.

I am interested in putting together a collection of leucogigas and its hybrids, so I have started raising them from seed available from Bill Moyles (ARS Vireya seed person). With Bill Moynier's excellent article about "Vireya Rhododendrons for Warmer Climates" ARS Journal 1992 as a source for seed culture and help. Then with seed from Bill Moyles, I'm off and running raising seedlings now. I use a heating pad, lights (two tube four foot fluorescent). I am having excellent results. The seed not sown is keep in the freezer.

I would like to thank all of the contributors of Vireya seed, particularly those providers of leucogigas types.

Roland H. Perry 161 Prospect Ave. Los Gatos, Ca 95032

Thanks Roland, as far as I know, Greer Gardens no longer sells Vireyas. I might stop in and see them this month because they have lots of other good Rhodies.

Lyn Craven from Canberra, Australia sent along a photo of 'R. Hunsttien's Secret' x aurigeranum. It was sent in 1991. Lyn describes each flower as 13-15cm, (that's up to 6" for us non metric types). He says that it is one of the best, a # 10 in his book. Lyn was also in Auckland, New Zealand for a work conference in 1991 and met our good friend, Joyce Waters from Wellington. Joyce set him up to visit the garden of Jan and Brian Oldham in Auckland. He says, "Vireyas do very well in Auckland and I was astonished at the casual manner in which they struck their cuttings. They just insert them into the potting mix in the shade house. Growing seed was not such an easy affair and they might want to build a cold frame for seedlings. One of the suburban shopping centres there has a planting of Vireyas which had only been in the ground for a few weeks.

It is too soon to say how these plants will do, but for municipal authorities to plant Vireyas says a lot for their suitability, municipal bodies not being renowned for innovation".

OK Fine, Lyn, but I bet that the municipal body had nothing to do with planting the Vireya Rhododendrons. It more probably was a gardener who really cared about plants and wanted to try something new and differant. I can say things like that now as I am retired from work. I spent over 30 years with the Tacoma Park Department and loved every minute of it but I had to get out. My wife, Marlene has "Alzheimer's Disease". It is not too bad yet but I needed to stay closer and watch after her. I am keeping my chin up and I like to use the saying, "Life Goes On". I have only been retirted for two weeks as of December 11th and have run out of things to do. Hence this VV is coming out a little early. I have cleaned up the greenhouse, repotted everything that even remotely needed it, mixed more potting mix, transplanted all of the rooted cuttings and burned holes in every plastic pot I could find. Does every one put holes into their pots? I would not think of potting up a Vireya with out holes in the pot. I use an old soldering iron. Don Stanton was here once years ago from Australia and said I must do that and I have never let him down.

Marlene and I are going on another of our "highway plant hunting trips" in January or February 93.

Does anyone have good luck growing Vireya seed??????? I mean really good luck, like, the seedlings grow at a reasonable speed... That they grow on fairly fast after pricking out. Not me, that is for sure. I do have a new "Fertilizer/rooting/growth enhancer" stuff that a salesman gave me to try. He wanted to sell it to me but I may be dumb but I'm not stupid. I will write to him and try to find out more about it and let all of you Viners know. This material is sprayed on as a foliage feed and I have been using it now for two months. My plants look great, but they also looked great before I started using it.

REALLY, if you have good luck growing Vireya seed, TELL US HOW.

Hey, know what. I could be using scanned line drawings of Vireyas in the Vine. How about you Viners doing some small line drawings and sending them along and I might use them. Don't make the drawings too elaborate because scanned drawings take up a lot of memory and disk space on the computer. Here is the one that I have been using on my letterhead. It is suppose to be R. gracilentum.

Not too bad. I am not very good at drawing things If you do a drawing, please put the plant name on it

but some of you are.

From Fred Renich Dear VV.

Camarillo, Calif. Dec. 7, 1992

Here is the explanation for every one about "reverse osmosis" water filtration systems. The water in much of Southern California suffers from high alkalinity. Part of this is caused by the sub-soil itself because in many areas it is very alkaline. In areas such as ours it is partially due to many years of heavy chemical fertilizing by the local farmers. With many years of minimum rainfall, we really never get these salts washed out of the soil.

The filter system uses a series of three filters plus a membrane which the water passes through. I am not sure what the first filter is composed of but the second one is a paper material to remove sediment, and the third is made of charcoal.

The membrane rejects 5 to 6 times as much water as it lets pass through it, and then you end up with a lot of water even more concentrated than your original tap water. I use this saltier water to deep water my fruit and ornamental trees. The good R-O water is used only for my Vireyas and other salt sensitive plant material. There is a monitoring system used in our area that records the amount of T.D.S. (total dissolved solids) in the water. This measurement is expressed in PPM (parts per million). Our tap water test out at 300-600 PPM. The R.O system brings that reading down to about 20-25 PPM. In my experience, anything over 100 PPM is eventually fatal to most Vireyas. All of this is worth the trouble though, when you see a species or a hybrid bloom for the first time.

I would like to encourage everyone to try growing Vireyas from seed. It is very rewarding to see something you have grown yourself bloom for the first time. One must have patience with the little seedlings as they are so slow at first. I start the seed under grow lights on milled sphagnum moss in plastic containers. After they are big enough to transplant, I put them in the covered plastic muffin containers that I get from the bakery section at the grocery store. I use a flame to burn about five holes in the top and bottom of these containers for aeration. If you have a greenhouse, of course, this is not necessary. Once they are about two years old, I plant the seedlings into flats out in the open. I have better luck with flats because the seedlings seem to develop bigger and stronger root systems and are easier to water than the small 2 inch pots.

I have been using more Perlite in my mix of late and find that the root systems develop faster and stronger. My standard mix now is 60% Perlite, 25% fir bark, and 15% coarse peat moss. I have also found that Vireyas prefer a shallow container. Their root systems have a string tendency to spread out and not grow down. If I don't have a shallow pot for a plant I put in a buffer of an inch or so of just Perlite in the bottom of the container.

About deformed flowers. I agree with Luurt Nieuwenhuis that trusses of Vireyas blooming during hot, dry spells almost always come out deformed somehow. As soon as the weather cools down the trusses return to normal.

I would like to trade cuttings with any of you Viners out there. Drop me a line and send your plant list.

Fred Renich 2080 W. Chapel Drive Camarillo, Ca 93010 Phone 805-484-1459

The "Old Deep/Shallow Pot Argument" again. I agree with Fred about deep pots but all of us Viners don't think that way at all. So what, ---- if it works for you then do it.

The next few pages contain the VV mailing list. May people have asked for a new list and a few address have changed over the years. There are a few people who we have no address for but hate to just drop their names from the Vine. If you know new address and or telephone numbers, kindly send them along. We always welcome new readers. The charge for the Vireya Vine is \$10 US. Not per year but \$10 or whatever else you want to send, forever, or when we get tired of doing the Vine. If you have a Rhododendron group using the Vireya Vine you may make copies of it for other people. We are doing this project only to get information out to Vireya growers around the world. We sure are not doing it to make money.

Viners not living in the USA

- 1. Mr. & Mrs. Graham Snell, 7 Lawrence Place, M.S. 16, Maleny, Queensland 4552, Australia, Tel (071) 942 179
- 2. Mr. Howard Walker, 24 John Street, Kew, Melbourne, Victoria 3101, AUSTRALIA
- 3. Mrs. Felice Blake, 56 Ridge Road, Kallista, Vict. 3791, Australia
- 4. Mr. Brian Clancy, 31 Renown St., Bentleigh Vict. 3204, Australia
- 5. Mr. L.A. Craven, 26 Saville Close, Melba, A.C.T. 2615, Australia, Tel. 58 3133;
- 6. Mrs. Nancye Dryden, 2 McArthur Road, Mangerton, N.S.W. 2500, Australia
- 7. Mr. Ivan Menzies, 33 Anne Cresent, Blaxland, N.S.W. 2774, Australia;
- 8. Mr. J. Clyde Smith, 15 Cassian St., Keiraville, N.S.W. 2500, Australia, Tel 042 29-2521;
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- 10. Mr. H.R. Malone, R.D. 106 A; Lapoinya, Tasmania 7325, Australia
- 11. Mr. David Stanton, 46 Parrish Ave., Mt. Pleasant, N.S.W. 2519, Australia
- 12. Mr. S. Begg, 37 Diosma Dr., Glen Waverley, Vict. 3150; Australia
- 13. Dr. Graham P. Price, Australia
- 14. Mr. William Mearns, 155 New Mt. Pleasant Rd., Mount Pleasant, N.S.W. 2519, Australia
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- 16. Ron Moodycliff, Clegg Road, Mt. Evelyn, Victoria 3796, Australia, Tel. (03)7362715
- 17. Mr. John Wilson, P. O. Box 59, Forest Hill, Victoria 3131, Australia, Tel (03) 878-4119;
- 18. Dr. R.M. (Bob) Withers, 23 Melissa Street, Donvale, Vict. 3111, Australia
- 19. Mrs. Ruth Funder, 7 Mary Street, Kew, Vict. 3101, Australia
- 20. Dr. Jolin Rouse, House 8 Stonehaven Court, Toorak, Vict. 3142, Australia
- 21. Dr. Ben Wallace, Royal Botanic Garden, Mrs. Macquaries Rd., SYDNEY, Australia 2000
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- 29. Mr. Umnas Kaja, Sagadi 202123, West Viru, ESTONIA
- 30. Christopher Fairweather, Hilltop Nursery, Beaulieu, Hants, SO42 7YR, England
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- 32. P. Pohlmann, Little Acre, Duncannon Mead, Stoke Gabriel, Devon TQ9 6QY, England, Tel # (080 428)294
- 33. The Library 'R.G.B Kew', Richmond Surrey TW9 3AE, England
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- 37. Nicholas Guyomarc'd, Keramaout St. Jean, Riec-sur-Belon 29124, FRANCE
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- 39. Lindsay J. Davis, Staces Road, R.D. 1, Palmerston North, New Zealand
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- 41. Mr. Graham Smith, P.O. Box 385, New Plymouth, New Zealand
- 42. Michael Cullinane (& Mary-Lynn), P. O. Box 631 Rose Tree Gdns, Levin 5500, New Zealand
- 43. Mrs. Joyce Waters, 24 Thane Road, Roseneath, Wellington 3, New Zealand
- 44. Mr. Bill Robinson, Thermal Nurseries, P.O. Box 819, Rotorua, New Zealand
- 45. Mark Jury, P. O. Box 65 Urenui, North Taranaki, New Zealand
- 46. Mr. Keith Adams, Redwoods, 12A. Sequoia Grove, New Plymouth, New Zealand
- 47. Jan Oldham, Garden Creations, 1 Rangitoto Ave. Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand, Tel 540-056;
- 48. D.L Clark C/ Decor Garden Ctr., Moffats Road, RD 1, Tauranga, New Zealand
- 49. Dr. I.B. Wilson, Cartrefle, Holyhead Rd., Menai Bridge, Anglesey, North Wales, U. K.
- 50. 'Curator', Mt. Gahavisuka Bot Garden, P.O. Box961, Goroka, E.H.P., PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- 51. Dr. George Argent, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Scotland
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- 53. Mrs. A. McLeod, Box 461, Hilton, Natal 3245, South Africa
- 54. Leslie Riggal, Fern Vally BG, Igwababa Road, Kloof 3610, South Africa
- 55. Paul Schauenberg, Los Navarros 4, E-35140 Mogan / Las Palmas, Spain

Viner's living in Washington State, USA, I don't know why there are so many in Washington. Maybe some are just trying to support the Vine, or maybe this is really the place to grow Vireyas.

- 1. Dr. Gordon D. Alcorn, 3806 No. 24th, Tacoma, Wa 98406
- 2. Mr. Donald H. Allen, 3280 So. State Highway 525, Greenbank, Wa 98253
- 3. Mrs. William E. Avery, 724 No. Yakima, Tacoma, Wa 98403
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- 17. Mr. Robert W. Franz, 4507 Dubois Dr., Vancouver, Wa 98661-6039
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- 38. Dr. Frank Mossman, 8407 NE 88th St., Vancouver, WA 98662
- 39. Mr. George W. Muller, 2766 N. 590th. E., Oak Harbor, Wa 98277
- 40. Mr. Robert V. Nelson, P.O. Box C, Milton, Wa 98354
- 41. Luurt Nieuwenhuis, PO Box 2353, Vancouver, Wa 98668
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- 56. Mrs. Skipp Thomas, 6107 So. Sheridan, Tacoma, Wa 98408
- 57. Scott Gregory Vargara, P.O. Box 329, Burley, Wa 98322
- 58. Mr. Steve Whitcher, 11908 67th Ave E., Puyallup, Wa 98373-4510, Master Gardener Program

Viner's living in the USA but not in Washington State. Tis is an odd way of keeping a mailing list but it is the way I started it years ago and don't dare change the order and take a chance of messing up the list.

- Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, Pa 19348
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- 31. Mr. Mathew A. Gordon, R.D. #1, Chester Springs, PA 19425
- 32. Mrs. Betty B. Gould, P.O. Box 746, Pebble Beach, Ca 93953
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- 34. John A. Gray, 633 High Plains, Baton Rouge, La 70810
- 35. Jeanne K. Gustafson, 28 Wood Hollow Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
- 36. Barbara J. Hansen, PO Box 2, Lakeside, Or 97449-0002
- 37. Stephen Herje, Box 652, Hudson-on-St. Croix, WI, 54016-0652
- 38. Mr. Robert Hirano, Lyon Arb, 3860 Mona Rd., Honolula, Hi 96822
- 39. Willard P. Hunnewell, 855 Washington St., Wellesley, Ma 02181
- 40. Yoder BrothersInc., PO Box 68, Alva, Florida 33920, Tel (813)728-2535 State Route 80, Alva, Fl.
- 41. Carl Jacobson, SR Box 7A, Haiku, Hawaii 96708, Also lives in Alaska in the Summers
- 42. Don M. Jenkins, P. O. Box 1009, Brevard, NC 28712
- 43. Mr. Bill Jenkins, 12311 Texas Ave., Los Angeles, Ca 90025, Tel (213) 826-9885
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- 45. Clarke V. Keller, 49 Bruiswick Rd., Montclair, NJ 07042
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- 48. Mr. Ralph Love, 74 Lloyden Dr., Atherton, Ca 94025
- 49. Mr. Richard Lynch, 26363 Silver Spur Rd., Palos Verdes Pen, Ca 90505
- 50. Dr. Mack McCormick, 2361 22nd St. N. Court, Florence, Or 97436
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- 52. Mr. Walter Mills, Box 52, Chappaqua, NY 10514
- 53. Mr. R.A. Mitchell Jr., P.O. Box 298, Valcano, Hawaii 96785, Tel. (808)967-7209
- 54. Paul Molinari, 1890 Joy Ridge Road, Occidental, CA 95465
- 55. Chris Ellen Montgomery, 4239 25th St., San Francisco, Ca 94114
- 56. Karen Morebeck, 195 Jersey Street, San Francisco, Ca 94114, Tel. (415) 282-6120
- 57. Mr. Brion Morley,
- We don't have a good address 58. Mr. Bill Moyles, 4243 Norton Ave., Oakland, Ca 94602, Tel (415)531-1375
- 59. Mr. William Moynier, 2701 Malcolm Ave., Los Angeles, Ca 90068

- 60. Bob & Jay Murray, ARS Registrar, 21 Squire Terrace, Colts Neck, NJ 07722
- 61. Mr. Michael O'Hara, 8375 Carson Rd., Gladstone, Or 97027
- 62. Sheldon Ofshe, 1989 Wilson Ave, No. Bellmore, NY 11710
- 63. Hadley Osborn, P.O. Box 223128, Carmel, Ca 93922-3128
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- 65. Joane P. Paine, 1105 NW Ocean Drive, Waldport, OR 97394
- 66. Mr. Roland Perry, 161 Prospect Ave., Los Gatos, Ca 95032, Tel (408)354-9125
- 67. Thomas H. Pigford, 1 Garden Drive, Kensington, Ca 94708
- 68. Frances T. Plunkett, 1117 G St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003
- 69. Mr. Brian Pocock, 1955 W. 28th, Eugene, Or 97405
- 70. Mrs. Susan Podd, 207 Ozark Acres Dr., Bentonville, Ar 72712, Tel (501)271-7434
- 71. Mr. John Randall, Rt. 2, Box 23B, Glenwood, Iowa 51534, Tel (712)-527-4974
- 72. Mr. Charles Ransome, Davis, Ca 95617, wrong address
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- 74. Mr. Russell A. Redler, 304 Jefferson Hights, Jefferson, La 70121
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- 76. Mr. Ramon Reyes, 1216 Palisades Ave., Union City, NJ 07087
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- 79. Jack Rosenthal, 86-52 Pinto St., Hollis Woods, NY 11423
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- 82. Sue Sanders, University of California, Dept of Botany & Plant Sci., Riverside, Ca 92521-1024
- 83. Mr. Peter Schick, 17455 Ocean Drive, Fort Bragg, Ca 95437, Tel (707)964-3343
- 84. Irving Schynert, 1553 Queensbury Ave., Los Altos, Ca 94022
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- 87. Mr. E. Parker Smith, 12500 Elliott Lane, Sabastopol, Ca 95472, Tel(707)823-7736
- 88. Mrs. Lucy Sorenson, 1737 SW Coronado, Portland, Or 97219, Bovee's Nursery, Tel (503)244-9341
- 89. Mr. Ruben Sotelo, 1741 Hannalei Drive, Vista, Ca 92083, Tel (619)941-2512
- 90. Dr. Herbert Spady, 9460 Sunnyview Rd. NE, Salem, Or 97301
- 91. John Spring, 1715 45th Ave., San Francisco, Ca 94122-3907
- 92 Dr. Peter Stevens, 166 Vassal Lane, Cambridge, Ma 02138, Arnold Arboretum Herbarium
- 93 Mr. Peter Sullivan, 221 Richland Ave., San Francisco, Ca 94110
- 94 Mr. Maurice H. Sumner, 350 Edgehill Way, San Francisco, Ca 94127
- 95 Harold Sweetman, 631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, Pa 19333, Tel (215)-647-8870
- 96 Mr. John Swisher, 96000 Overseas Hwy #C5, Key Largo F1 33037-2107
- 97 Loraine D. Towle, Box 348, West Falmouth, Mass 02574
- 98 Charles R. Trommer, P.O. Box 118, Ninole, Hawaii 96773, (808)963-6340, U of H at Hilo
- 99 Steven N. Trout, 89 Yosemite Ave., Oakland, Ca 94611
- 100. Dr. Philip Waldman, Roslyn Nursery, 505 Motts Cave Rd. South, Roslyn, NY 11576, Tel (516) 643-9347
- 101. Steven Whiteman, 390 Hayes, San Francisco, Ca 94102
- 102. Mary Wildavsky, 4400 Sequoyah Road, Oakland, Ca 94605, Tel (415)562-7752
- 103. Gloria F. Wildharber, 7956 Ramsgate Ave., Los Angeles, Ca 90045, Tel (310)670-1909
- 104. Mr. Ralph Williams, 157 Yale Ave., Lewisville, Tx 75067
- 105. Mr. Joseph F. Williamson, Lane Publishing Co., 80 Willow Road, Menio Park, Ca 94025

Powdery mildews are becoming troublesome on Rhododendrons. Here are a couple of new ideas to think about. New research shows that simple baking soda (sodium bicarbonate, NaHCO3) works on roses. Three teaspoons (0.5%) of soda + 0.5% insecticidal soap. Also used with the soda was horticultural spray oils, at 2.5 tablespoons of oil per gallon of water. Note Most of this research is being done at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Another new item to me is the use of "Antitranspirants" for control of some leaf diseases. The product that is most available in the USA is called "Wilt Pruf" and it is a polyterpne type material. Others tried are, latex acrylic polymer, polyvinyl alcohol, hydrocarbon wax emulsion, and others. In simple terms the antitranspirants close off the leaf cells and protect the leaf from infection by some diseases. I am going to try both methods on my Vireyas for Rust disease.

After many hours at the computer formatting this address list, I wonder who some of you people are. A few of you have never been heard from, ever. Are you still out there? Do you still want and use the Vireya Vine?

We really do need your letters. We have had so many good letters over the years. Really, anything is worth saying in the Vine. It sure doesn't need to be new and different. Viners have said to me "Oh, I don't have anything to tell, I just try to grow the plants." Well don't we all. We all try and we all need to keep learning. The real problem is that we can only learn from each other. These plants are not like the hardy hybrids that anyone can just stick into the ground. These Vireyas take a little special tender loving care.

Thanks to Fred Renich for his wonderful letter about water.

I was out at the Rhododendron Species Foundation on December 18th and saw my first R. cruttwellii in bloom. Very nice tubular, white flowers, 8 to the truss. I must take better care of my cruttwellii plants and maybe they will bloom some day. Also there was a plant of R. preatervisum (Sleumer #268B) in bloom. Wow, it is sure different in flower. Narrow, tubes hanging down, 6 to 8 flowers per truss, and dark rose or plumb in color. Not at all a typical color for a Vireya or any other Rhododendron. Very striking flower form.

The American Rhododendron Society Annual Convention for 1996 will be held in Scotland, May 7 to 12. We are working on a Vireya Tour before the convention. If you are interested, please notify Dick Chaken or E. White Smith. Space is limited. Act fast.

VIREYA VINE RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION P. O. BOX 3798 FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON 98063 U.S.A.