

Dear Calytrix Member,

With great regret this is my last Newsletter, through poor response, lack of good cutting material and viable seed. I have been unable to successfully propagate the species. Some seeds have germinated and then like most of the Members I have not been able to grow them on. In the case of propagation by cuttings, I have had some success and have a few in the garden, notably *Calytrix tetragona*, *A. alpestris*, and *C. sullivanii*. There is some confusion with regard to the species, particularly *C. tetragona* and *C. brunioides* being one and the same plant.

Viable seed of the rarer gems from W.A. is very hard to obtain and this limits my ability to supply the Members with suitable material.

*Calytrix tetragona* from the Eastern States is a variable shrub with green or grey foliage and white to dark pink flowers, *Calytrix sullivanii* is usually some shade of pink, *C. glutinosa* and beautiful pale mauve. Yellow flowered forms include *C. depressa* and *C. aurea*.

Seed, which looks like a parachute should be sown in the upright position with the awns or hairs attached to the calyx resting on the potting mixture. This mixture should be one third each of washed sand, loam and peat. Pot on into tubes as soon as they can be safely handled, as they have delicate root systems. Plant out into the garden situation when good progress is noticed as they die off if held too long.

Cutting material can be taken twice a year. Firstly, soft wood in late Spring after flowering when the new growth has reached 5 cms to 10 cms and has become firm. Secondly, hardwood cuttings should be taken in Autumn, also 5 to 10 cms, bearing in mind that this will make a difference to the flowering.

Recently on a trip to Darwin and environs, I saw *C. stipulata* growing and flowering prolifically in the area of Darwin and Fogg Dams. Although botanically described as being 3 metres tall it was not seen to be more than 2 metres. Seed was immature and therefore not viable.

Would any Member with sufficient time and interest please volunteer for the Leadership of this Group.

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