



ESPINAS Y FLORES



April-1967

Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

MATTER OF ORGANICS After last month's issue, we should have some idea as to what comprises a good soil. Knowing these factors aids one immeasurably in making the necessary corrections to existing soils or combining the proper ingredients for our pot culture. Having well drained soil eliminates about 80% of the problems of growing things. It is recommended that almost every plant be planted in such a soil, for few plants enjoy wet-feet or bog-like conditions. A simple test of

APRIL MEETING

Saturday April 1st 2pm
Floral Assoc Building
Balboa Park
GALA CELEBRATION
100th BIRTHDAY PARTY
for
JENNIE MEANS
Exchange & Sale Table

TO JENNIE:

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your joys by golden hours,
Never when life's worries call.
Count your nights by stars, not shadows;
Count your days by smiles, not tears.
And on any birthday morning
Count your age by friends - not years.
-Geo. W. Douglas-

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE-

See you all at the MEETING

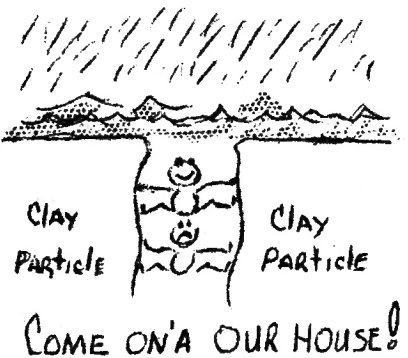
the tilth of the soil is to spade up a spot or two a couple of days after a good rain or watering. Squeeze a portion in the palm of your hand, if the ball of soil crumbles easily under the gentle prodding of your thumb, you probably have little to worry about; however, if it resists breaking and remains in a soggy malleable glob, cancel the weekend golf game, you've got work to do.

It's times like this that remind you of that sunny Spring day when you first thought how nice it would be to have a garden, and when you remember what your neighbor said about, "anything will grow in (California); all it needs is just a little water," oh yes, do not forget the back-ache you had that night. Now, before you start, pause for a moment... What kind of plant material are you growing? How long will you leave the garden in its original form? What is the lay of the land? The sun? The when has already been determined for you. If you are on a slope, maybe it would be better to build a header board and
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MATTER OF ORGANICS (con't)--- raise the level of the garden; or if they are all shallow rooting plants, maybe you won't have to dig so deep? Possibly! But answers to questions like these and many others are seldom yes or no, and are solved only after individual consideration, keeping in mind that if you have time to do it over; you had time to do it right at first.

Working organic humus into the soil in liberal amounts to give it that good "gardener's loam" feel, will almost always enable you to have 80% problem free soil, and will also put you in proper position to handle the other 20% with less difficulty. We stress organics for Southern California, because where ever heavy clay exists the most economical and effective way to condition soil is to do it nature's way.

Pound for pound modern chemicals may out shine organics, but dollar for dollar organic materials are one tenth the cost. Most every gardener has his or her pet product from Mr. Morgan's Manure Mix to Blue Whale Peat. They are all good, if amounts are used in relation to their content, the job to be done, their lasting qualities, your pocket-book and conscience. Let us take a look at what is commercially available to us.

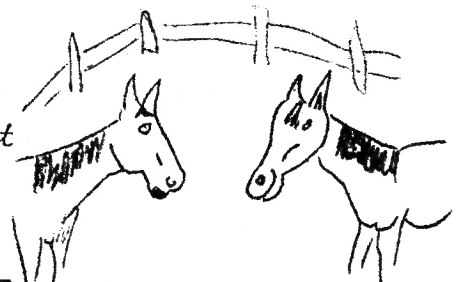


The various kinds of organic ammendments come to us under many lables, however, they usually fall in the following catagories or combinations thereof. All true organics come from animal and vegetable wastes or biproducts and contain varying amounts of protein (the nitrogen substance needed by plants) and ash (the mineral content of living matter and unuseable residue): Manures (steer, rabbit, chicken, etc.) rated good, but high in salt and weed seed unless treated, inexpensive, breaks down rapidly and lasts in the soil little more than a year. Peat (moss or sedge) moss-generally the Sphagnum variety from Canada or Germany-rated very good, high in water retention, high in nutrient retention, long lasting to five years, low in useable protein, much more satisfactory in use with sandyer soils; sedge type-generally from California or Salt River Valley in Arizona-is inferior to the moss, not as long lasting, less water retention, slow to accept water, and is high in ash content. Leaf Mold (Oak Leaf and others) rated poor, high in ash content, high loss of volumn due to rapid decomposition, must be cautious of source, if gathered in the wild, leaves may harbor fungus spores. Nut Shells, good, keeps soil open, slow to absorb water, excellent lasting qualities, contains considerable ash, sometimes toxic to bacteria-especially Walnut shells. Bone Meal, fair, like nut shells it is slow to break down, introduces calcium, high in ash, low in useable protein. Cotton Seed Meal, very good, breaks down fairly rapidly, high in available nutrients, moisture holding capacity good. Tankage (canery or slaughter house debris) good, breaks down readily, contains goodly amounts of useable plant food, is a little more expensive than stree. Kelp (seaweed, Eel Grass, etc.) very good, decomposes

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MATTER OF ORGANICS (con't)--very rapidly, contains generous amounts of protein, potash, and other needed elements, low in residue. Sewer Sludge (activated or digestive) activated is excellent, low in residue, high in available nutrients, release is gradual, moderate in price, fortified with all plant requirements. Digestive, good, higher in ash, and has less actual plant food than activated, but less expensive also. Wood Products (sawdust, bark, lignin) sawdust, fair, very inexpensive, high in ash, lasting qualities good, must add considerable nitrogen to aid in decomposition. Bark, very good, either composted or not, lasting to five years or better, reasonable amount of residue, takes and hold moisture readily, sometimes is nitrogen fortified, at present time this is the best buy for general purpose gardening. Lignin, excellent, it is a chemically treated wood product which has the more rapid decomposing element removed, keeps soil open, holds water effectively, resist compaction in heavy ware areas, lasts in the soil up to 10 years, expensive for general garden use, but well worth the money in a more permanent planting.

You know, that last paragraph sounded more like we were handicapping the horses that discussing garden materials; at any rate don't handicap your plants. Give the best you can right up to post time; and during each furlong of the race, spread a thin layer of Nature's finest over the track, working it into the soil periodically and replacing with fresh.



WE CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN THRILLS

In this way you will always be replenishing the needed "intermediary" that keeps all soil functions in harmony. Plus this protective cover will keep the surface of the soil from drying too rapidly, as well as reduce weed growth. Those kind of odds you can't get in "Vegas"! "He who waits to do a great deal of good all at once, will never do anything."--Samuel Johnson--

The editor

CACTUS CAR-A-VAN

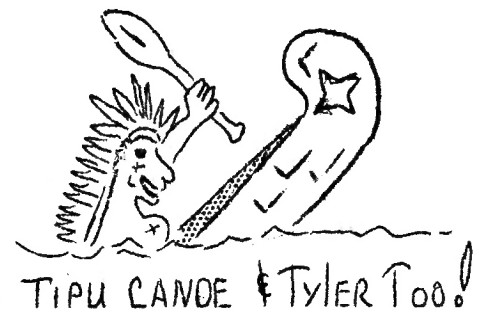
Part Two... SOUTH COUNTY... April 22, 1967...

Launching site-3430 Wilshire Terr (The Scotts) at 9 o'clock a.m. Pack a sandwich, fill your canteen with cactus juice if you like, put on comfortable shoes, some small change in your pocket, a roll of film in your camera, and prepare for Cactus-Car-A-Van. We're going South this time, and will stop at private collections, or shall we say backyards, and as many nurseries as we can include. Leave the scheduling to us; lead by the lites of the glowing glochids, and propelled by the high octane chlorophyll in our viens, we will raise a green thumb at every sign of the spine.

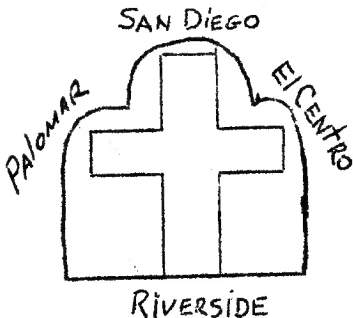
As before, the trip is completely voluntary, and will be made in our private cars. Spare seats are available to members on a first come basis. The day will conclude with dinner at St. George's Smorgasbord in (Julia Vista). We have it on good authority, it will be the equal of our last trip. Call on contact me at the meeting; I'll be the fellow in the white hat... Wagonmaster Scott-----296-6022

DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN- Maybe, but "we use not only all the brains we have, but all we can borrow"...what to do in April...this will be the month that decides the success of your garden...for golly sakes, get that annual clean up completed...the early sun and longer days are for enjoying-"a gush of bird-song, a patter of dew, a cloud, and a rainbow's warning; Suddenly the sunshine and perfect blue-an April day in the morning"-H.P. Spofford...It was a tough fight, but HAZEL SCOTT with *Pleiospilos Nellii* won out over WALT GREENWOOD and PERLSO LEWIS sporting *Echinopsis multiplex* in the monthly confrontation of the Bragging Table...there are those of us who never doubted for a minute that with her husband counting the votes the contest wouldn't be "legit"... BOB TAYLOR had an eminence grafted specimen of *Neoporteria nidus senilis* in full and stunning bloom to sweep the open class...speaking of classes, the line to learn more about grafting forms immediately behind this writer.

GRANT STANLEY was relating about the 7 course Irish dinner he was invited to St. Patrick's Day... a boiled potatoe and a six-pak...Welcome to the Club Mrs. MOON CHIN of Taipei, Taiwan and L.E. NEWTON of Kumasi, Ghana, you are both along way off and the mail by sea travels very slow, but drop us a line we would



be very interested knowing about the plants in your country and how your garden grows... FRANK MOUSSEAU and his two one minute subjects...the second took so long, we forgot the first...oh yes, on Frank's endeavor to display San Diego the Crossroads of the Botanical World; he would like not only suggestions as to what to incorporate, but something to include...the second was of Horticultural interest which arose out of a discussion with your editor on the origin of Brazilian Rosewood, used in fine furniture; Frank contended that it not only comes from the *Tipuana tipu* (Tipu Tree, unusual in the San Diego area), but also from the lovely Jacaranda, which is more familiar here...BOB NELSON inform both that the State Highway Department was using the Tipu a great deal in new developments...the beautiful foliage and yellow sweetpea-like flowers will be a welcomed addition to our ever growing botanical community...it is difficult to express the club's appreciation to people like BOB NELSON & BOB TAYLOR for their authoritative comments which add so greatly to the meetings. Serving up the coffee and de-



lights at the meeting is like playing on the U.C.L.A. basketball team with Lou Alcindor, you never get any credit; but like all successful teams, we couldn't have it so good without EVELYN CHAGHAN and CATHY KENNETT in there pitching...

There's a new word going around... "INTERCLUB"...if the last Car-a-van did nothing else, it opened the eyes of many of us to the existance of sister (actus Societies in our area
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DOES THE THUMB MAKE THE GARDEN (con't)--and their activities...the exchange of re-
sources and ideas, which will surely come to pass, will broaden the scope of our enjoy-
ment to dynamic proportions...ART MONTAGUE, Pres. of the Howard E. Gates Society in
Riverside, and wife DELL were visitors at the last meeting...Art, who is very much in-
terested in the Interclub movement, gave us some briefs on his club's vivacity and com-
ing events...Katie Mc Reynolds, Pres. of the Palomar Society and caretaker of our Fair
display last year, for which she deserves our many thanks, recently subscribed to the
paper and membership...both are strong proponents of the new "word" and both are names
you will hear often...Dr. PHILLIP CORLISS also attended and explained the virtues of
the Royal Horticultural Society; as did CARL ROSENE of the San Jose Society...Wood-
row Wilson said, "Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together."
What can we add to that..... A. Phidd

YOU ARE INVITED -- Dear Cactiphiles: The Howard E. Gates Memorial Cactus and
Succulent Society cordially invite you and the members of your Club to participate in
a two-day field trip. Saturday, April 8, will be devoted to visiting private gardens
in the Palm Springs and Indio area.

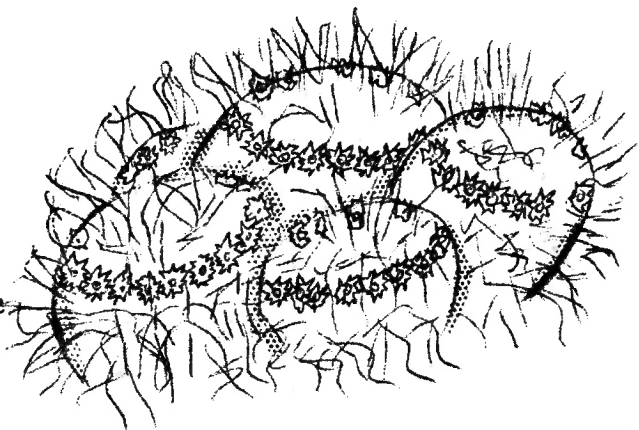
For those who wish to bring their campers & trailers, an area will be available
to camp over night. There are many good motels in Indio for those who do not wish to
camp out. Sunday, April 9 will be devoted to a field trip to the Chuckwalla Mountains
east of Indio. The directions are included in the itinerary which follows. Hope to
see you all there:

Saturday, April 8 -- 10:00 a.m., Slim and Patricia Moorten, 1701 South Palm Canyon Dr.
Palm Springs... 12:00 noon, Indio City Park, three blocks west of business district on
Miles Avenue for picnic lunch... 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Locate and register at the motel
of your choice, for those not camping out... 2:00 p.m., Melvin and Helen Shepherd,
81600 Avenue 4, Trailer Space 172, Indio... 3:00 p.m., Possible additional garden on
trip to Fargo Canyon - details will be given to those on trip... 5:30 p.m., Meet at
Indio City Park to form caravan to campfire location... 7:00 p.m., Dillon and Fargo
Canyon Roads for campfire and camp site.

Sunday, April 9 -- 10:00 a.m., Tour begins from a location approximately 40 miles east
of Indio on Highway 60, where the railroad crosses the highway. The area to be explor-
ed is 12 miles south of Highway 60 on a level graded road suitable for pleasure car
travel. In the area, one plant to be examined is an Cholla type not listed as yet. The
flower color is chartreuse to bronze yellow or red. Members should bring warm cloth-
ing, walking shoes and road map. Also food and firewood if they desire to cook. The
tour chairman for San Diego is Doc Vaughan. We will hope to see all of you for all or
part of the tour. The cultivation and growing habits of plants in the low desert area
will prove interesting throughout the tour.-----Bruce L. Emery, Tour Chairman

PLANT OF THE MONTH -- The plants we have chosen this month are in no way meant to dramatize the age of our guest of honor, but in our mind's eye are the things one might see while rambling about in the hinter-lands looking for the last vestiges of winter. In the *Mammillaria hahniana* we see the first flowers of spring poking thier shinning faces up through the snow of a mountain meadow. In *Grotopetalum paraguayense* we see the evening stars in an emethyst sky or the frosty glaze on a frozen pond ready to fade at morning's first light. *Mammillaria hahniana* - Old Lady Mam. - (Mam-mil-lar-ia) -- *Mammillaria* comes from the latin word *mamilla* meaning nipples having reference to the closely set fleshy lumps surrounding the body of the plant called tubercles. *Hahniana* is the man for whom she was named.

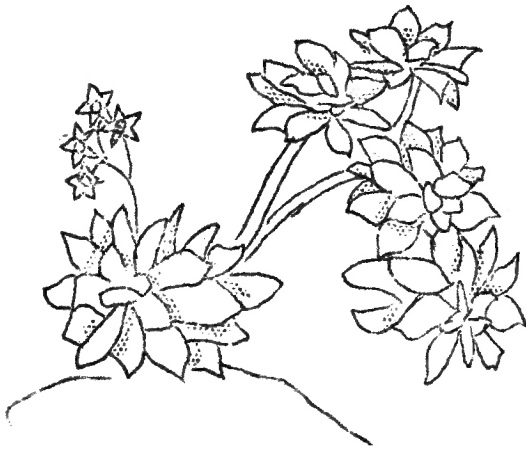
Found in the mountains at the 6,000 foot level east of Queretaro, Mexico, this plant is undoubtedly one of the finest introductions in recent years. She is easily identified by the long, thin, flexible white hairs that crown each tubercle, and fan out in a comb-like pattern, 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long. Each tubercle bears 20-30 of these hair like radial spines and two central spines 1 1/2" long which are white with a reddish-brown tip; one points up and the other down. Also in the axils or cavities between the tubercles there are tufts of wool 1 1/2" long which number 20 or more bristles.



At first the bodies are globular; later they become more cylindrical branching freely from the base to form large wooly flat clumps. The bell-shaped flowers are borne from the axils, protruding up through the wooly mass in a circle around the crown of the plant; with narrow lanceolate petals sparkling burgundy in color with an acute crimson mid-rib. She grows readily from seed and becomes flower size in three years. Loose sandy soil about 75% to 25% organic is desired. Water generously in summer, and because it grows well in full sun don't deny it moisture in the winter time. Variety - *giselana* is essentially the same except it is sparsely covered with the hairs. Variety - *werdermanniana* - is again the same except the axil hair is shorter (about 1" long). They all bloom from this time on through summer.

Grotopetalum paraguayense - Ghost Plant - (Grap-to-pe-ta-lum) *Grotopetalum* is a small genera of the crossulaceae family consisting of seven or eight species, and whose homeland extends from Arizona down through Mexico. There is great variation in their forms from succulent little balls to somewhat angled leaves which have a pruinose or off-white powdery covering like a grape, for which we presume their name *Grotopetalum* was given; *Petalum* is latin for leaf. *Paraguayense* is rather a missnomer - meaning from paraguay - for it is not recorded as having been found in the wild. It
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PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)-- has also been known in the past as *Byrnesia*, *Sodium*, *Echeveria*, or *Gnaptopetalum Weinbergii*. It received its name because of its peculiar pale gray, bluish-green colored leaves with a tinge of magenta, which readily melts into the dusk of evening. If left in full sun it will take on an orbic appearance. The stems are stout and fleshy, from 8 to 12 inches long, pendulous and informal in nature. The leaves, 2 to 3 inches long, 1/2 inch thick, 3/4 of an inch wide near the bluntly pointed tip, are flattish, slightly concave on top, and have a keeled underside. They form loose but definite rosettes which spiral left in a circular flat cone.



Flowers are little, bright, white five pointed stars and borne on an inflorescence extending from the stem, from April to May. This genera is closely related to *Echeveria* and *Pachyphytum* and requires the same culture of rich loamy soil 50/50 sand and organic. They will stand a great amount of neglect. Easy to grow from leaves or stem cuttings and very suitable for indoor or outdoor. From the list of names it was known by, it appears as though someone didn't know quite what to do with it; but it is an excellent plant for hanging baskets, rock gardens, or anywhere that color is needed.

DEAR NEMA--Would you help us, we are "red-faced" asking this of you; but we are going to anyway, because we are desperate. A Cactus family in our yard potted typical container has become quite distressing. The family is *Echinopsis multiplex*; it looks like it is stressing the "multiplex" part out of reason. Mamma Plex is practically submerged in a field of fuzzy-headed sticky little pups. Last week we counted 28 including Mamma. This week we are afraid to count.

The old girl had such beautiful flowers last year; she probably won't have the strength to bloom this season. It looks that way; she's turning yellow, and then there is the question of room. What's the best solution to the problem-Sandy & Fertililla Loom Dear Sandy; the best solution we can recommend is that you add a couple of "birth control" pills to your next watering...NT

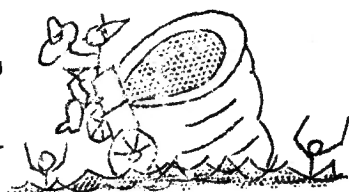
DEAR NEMA; If you are in the habit of doing things the same old way day in and day out-watch out-you are probably headed for trouble! Very few people today realize the tremendous impact that our scientific progress is going to have on our everyday lives.

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DEAR NEMA (cont)--- 90% of the scientists through all history are living today! And they are all busy working on things which are going to change our daily lives. From here on it's the person who is flexible—who can change from day to day—that is going to come out on top. Accept change as inevitable. Edison said, "There's a better way to do it—find it." And back almost two thousand years ago Heraclitus said, "No man can step in the same river twice." Not only does the river change, but the man himself changes as well. The point is that a rule which was good ten, even five years ago, may not be good today. The moral is: Make today's decision on today's facts.—Norman A. Morris

DEAR NORMAN; I'm breathless— things are moving so fast that tomorrow's yesterday will be today, and today will be yesterday's tomorrow.....NT



DEAR NEMA; you were going to give me the name of the plant I got from the Exchange Table last meeting. Also, would you happen to know the name of the attractive plant under the work bench at the Arnold's that was getting ready to bloom. It had long narrow green leaves with purple spots and grew in a clump?— Helen Howe

DEAR HELEN; Let's try *Machaerocereus gummosus* on for size with your plant, and *Manfreda variegata* for the Arnold's plant. Let us know when it blooms.....NT

DEAR NEMA; Attached is a sheet containing lists of two publications missing from inventory of books of Cactus Society. Please, run in "E & F" in an effort to retrieve same or some of.— Ruth Nelson, Librarian :: CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL—1962 Jan-Feb, March-April, Nov-Dec... 1963 Jan-Feb... 1964 May-June, July-Aug, Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec... 1966 Jan-Feb, July-Aug. CALIFORNIA GARDEN— 1962 Aug-Sept... 1963 Apr-May, June-July... 1965 June-July, Oct-Nov... 1966 June-July, Dec-Jan... Thank you very much.

DEAR RUTH; It was our pleasure...we would like to run a list of all the books that are available in our Library one day: would you make us a list.....NT

DEAR NEMA; Glancing through a '65 copy of *So. Calif. Rancher*, I noted a two page add from the Verd-ee Products Co. who were featuring dehydrated cactus tablets. I phoned for info and was told in detail of all the ailments (real & imaginary) that the tablets might aid. The man stated they had aided him personally with a Pancreatic & Liver ailments. He said the source of the cactus come from the Miriscalco Ranch in Lakeside where they produce Tunas fruit, jelly & candies. I visited there once & along with a tour, was shown how to peel the fruit without getting stuck. Sincerely...Helen Hezzi.

THANKS HELEN; we are referring the matter of the pills to "Doc", he's the expert. The Cacti that Sam & Mary grew were a variety of *Opuntia* from the Mediterranean area...wonderful fruit. The way Sam taught us to deburr the fruit was to buy a peach defussing machine...Sorry to say, but they are no longer in that biz...try Sam's Pizza House in Lakeside...the pizzas may look like *Opuntia* pads, but you'll do the biting; yummm...NT

Sorry, but that's the way this Italian typewriter spells Mediterranean—Nema Toed