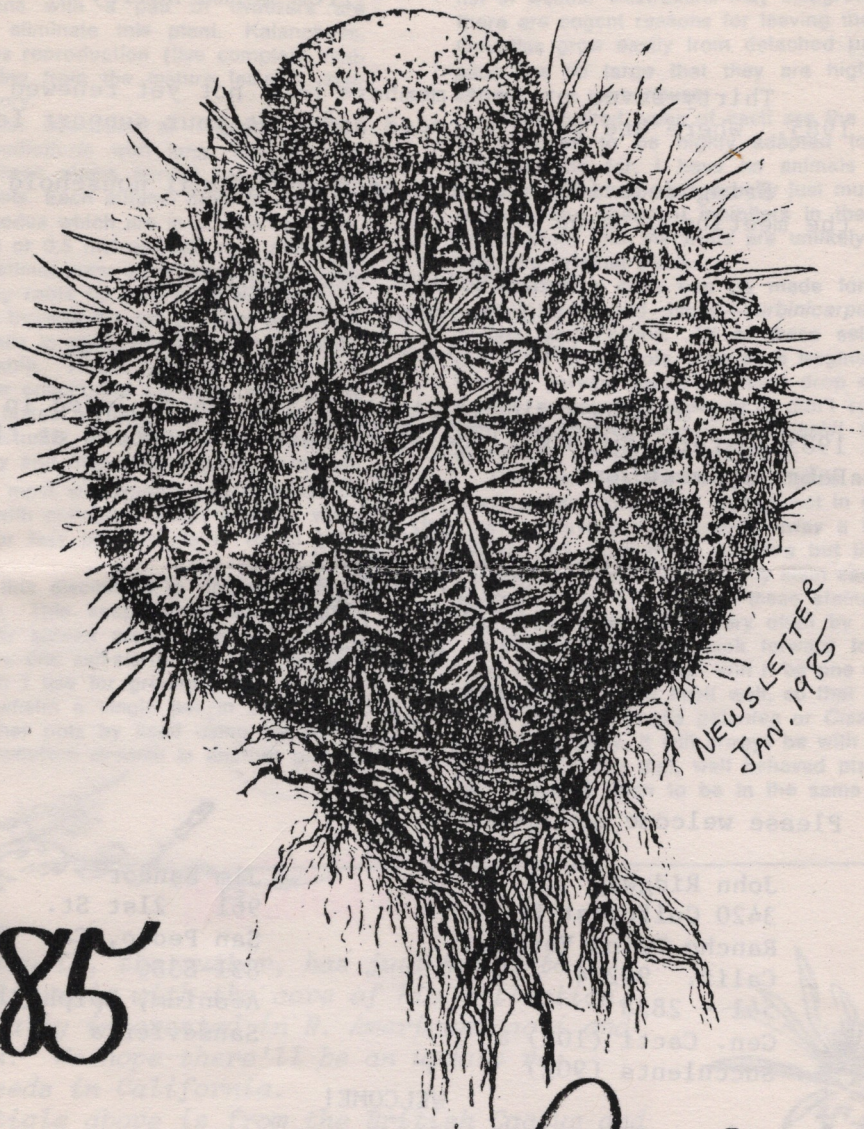


*South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
presents*



1985

Year of the Cactus

MEMBERSHIP

- from Norma Holley

Thirty-seven present members have not yet renewed for 1985. Where are you? We need and want your support for 1985!

Bring dues (\$5 + \$1 for each additional household member) to the meeting or send to:

Norma Holley, Membership
[Redacted]

Dues must be paid by JANUARY 15 to be included in the new 1985 Roster, which will be distributed to members at the February meeting.



Please welcome new members

John Ridgway
[Redacted]

Gen. Cacti (10%) &
Succulents (90%)

Jim Sandor
[Redacted]

Aeonium, Epiphyllum,
Sansevieria

WELCOME!

There are several address changes for present members, and these will appear in the new roster. But if anyone has an address change and hasn't let me know, please do so before the 15th.

JANUARY MEETING

SUNDAY JANUARY 13 AT 1:30 PM AT *South Coast Botanic Gardens*
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Palos Verdes Peninsula

PROGRAM: Woody Minnich of
Cactus Data Plants
will present OAXACA #7 - one of his recent
trips deep into Mexico in search of Mammillarias
and other beautiful and interesting cacti and
succulents.

(The dictionary says Oaxaca is pronounced wă hä' kä -
just in case anyone out there wondered!)

Since Woody specializes in Mammillarias and has
studied them in habitat, he's the one to ask re:
the identification of any Mamms. you've been
unsure about.

Refreshments: Verna McCarty (645-5009) reports that Dorothy
Herrera, Rosalind Hancock, Eve Workman, and Verna
herself will be bringing the mini-feast.

Bragging Table: Bring any bloomers or interesting or problem
plants you have.

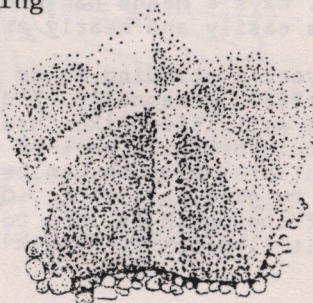
Plant of the Month: Apparently we have no P-of-the-M. Chairperson
just now, but this would be a great time to
bring in Mammillarias - many are in bloom
and others may be unnamed - all are interesting.

Dues Due: Last Notice. (Last newsletter for non-renewers, as well).

Cactus Garden: Doug Rawcliffe reports there'll be info. and decisions
to be made at the meeting

Plants for Sale: Yes - CLUB SUPPLIES
as well.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY
IN '85
YEAR OF THE CACTUS!



As a society, were we successful in meeting our goals in 1984? I believe yes, we made some progress on all fronts though, except for attendance and membership figures, we have no way to truly measure success -- which won't keep me from trying!

Our membership roster includes the following:

THE PURPOSE OF THE CLUB SHALL BE:

- (1) To promote interest, understanding, and appreciation of Cacti and other Succulents,
- (2) To study, instruct, and improve the propagation, cultivation, and care (of succulents),
- (3) To learn to correctly identify, and
- (4) To engage in competitive showing and exhibiting.

Our show and sale helped meet all four goals, as we had lots of visitors and lots of club participation. Just about everybody who could turned out to help! And the sale helped keep us solvent....The annual trip was a pleasant and stimulating learning experience as well as an acquisitive one....But perhaps most important in bringing people to meetings were the varied and interesting programs - which also advanced us in our goals....And then there were the delicious refreshments.... Another vital function of our society is the work on our cactus garden within the larger South Coast Botanic Garden itself. With this project we serve the community and our plants as well as ourselves. The garden has moved ahead in '84: groundwork and sprinkling systems were completed, a Sunday-in-the-Garden featured the garden-in-progress, and a master plan for the garden's design and maintenance is being finalized....Our library has grown by a book or two, and our Society contributed a nice sum to the National Society's Research Fund. Our donation joined others in providing grants to assist various researchers who are contributing to our knowledge about our plants. There may be no immediate "payoff" to some of these projects (other than advancement of goals 1 & 3 above - to my mind worthy in themselves)....As editor, I've enjoyed putting out a newsletter which pleases me, but I'm not the best judge of my "baby". Regretably, however, I see no direct correlation between the newsletter and participation in our various activities (members know what they want to be involved in without any more than the bare facts from a newsletter) however I do believe there's a strong correlation between a newsletter and membership as well as general club prestige, wellbeing, and information dispersal..... Finally, Ways & Means has provided members with the opportunity to purchase supplies easily and nearly at cost, a real time and money saver.

Beyond continuing to do what we did this year, what should we hope for in 1985? Personally, I'd like to see more member participation even in small activities like "bragging" plants. Show & Tell can sometimes be the most informative part of a meeting as well as the most beautiful.... And Plant-of-the-Month can be wonderful if only there are volunteers willing to give it a shot. One or two people can't carry the load. But if plant-of-the-month is left to the very end of the meeting when everyone's tired, it'll probably remain as it was this year. Only, when else can

Editorial - continued

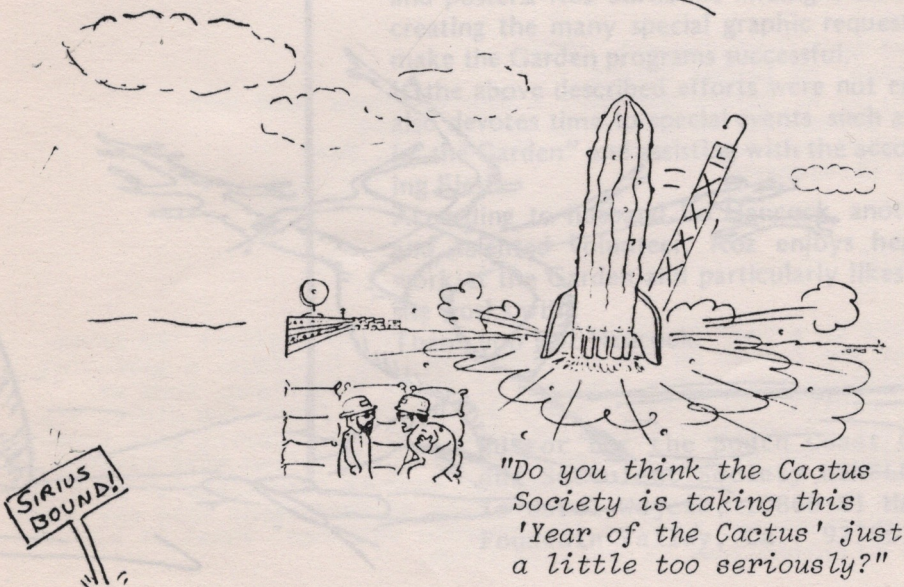
we schedule it?.....Also I'd like to see the plants in our garden identified and labeled for the public - a really time-consuming but worthwhile job. We have the library to help us make a start..... And if we can carry out our master plan for design and garden maintenance, we'll have made '85 a fine year.....What about a second bus trip? Do we have members will to go?.....And do we have any scribblers who'd like to jot down something for the newsletter? I'll be glad to check spelling etc. and type - and in general play editor.....Last but not least, our club is a social thing. Are established members making an effort to meet newer ones? Are people wearing nametags? Do new members feel truly welcomed? Would anyone be willing to conduct a sort of induction social for new members - especially after the show? After a big effort like a show, there's the potential for letdown, sort of post-show syndrome. Throughout the year we can't just connect with our plants; we have to connect with each other. Are we succeeding? I'm not terribly good at being aware of such things so I'm not sure.

What do you think?

Carol

1985

CEREUS ORBITOUS



CREDITS

Cover drawing is from our 8th Annual Show Schedule, otherwise undated, I believe is from 1980, and which is, though unsigned, I suspect of Karen Holley. Can anybody tell me for sure?

Astrophytum myriostigma "dot" illustration is from the Cactus and Succulent Exchange, No. 1 for 1983.

The cartoon (before I changed and added captions) was from The Hobbyist's Planter Magazine, PO Box 695, Wallingford, Ct. 06492 credited it from the NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU, INC., 1186 Los Alamos Ca. 94022; and it was re: the year of the cucumber, 1980! I

The Roz Hancock article is from South Coast Botanic Garden's own COM for Nov. - Dec. 1984.

The "Spines" info. overleaf is from the Wisconsin Cactus and Succulent for Sept. 1982, V.8, No. 8, and is part 2 of a series we'll bring out time to time. Part 1 appeared in 1984.

And the best for last, all the other line drawings are by Eleanor Bannister appearing in our own past Newsletters. The wonderful drawing is one of these.



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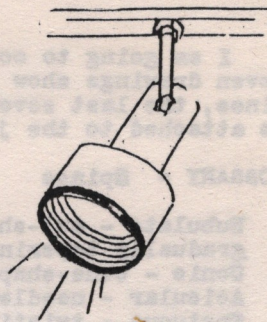
Succulent Information

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POST newsletter

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**SPOTLIGHT
ROZ HANCOCK**

This spotlight is directed on another of our wonderful volunteers, multi-talented Rosalind (Roz) Hancock. In addition to being a homemaker and launching two fine budding attorneys, she finds time to devote considerable effort to volunteer activities. Fortunately, the South Coast Botanic Garden benefits from Roz's services. Roz is one of those people who has to be doing something beneficial as well as enjoyable.

Roz is experienced in accounting as well as in design and calligraphy. You will find this capable volunteer working with the craft shop artisans creating items to be sold in the Garden Gift Shop. She can also be found selling in the Gift Shop, totaling daily cash receipts, arranging the Garden Courtyard display windows, designing and making signs, logos, invitations, and posters. Roz burns the midnight oil drafting and creating the many special graphic requests that help make the Garden programs successful.

If the above described efforts were not enough, Roz also devotes time to special events such as "Holidays in the Garden" and assisting with the accounting during Fiesta.

According to husband Ed Hancock, another capable and talented volunteer, Roz enjoys her volunteer work at the Garden and particularly likes the people she works with.

Thank you Roz Hancock.

Editor for the South Coast Cactus
and Succulent Society NEWSLETTER
is Carol Wujcik, 10860 El Mar Ave.,
Fountain Valley, Ca. 92708.

UNDERSTANDING PLANT DESCRIPTIONS AND KEYS
Part two

I am going to continue this month with Spines. The first eleven drawings show the shape or characteristics of various cactus spines, the last seven refer to the manner in which they grow or are attached to the joint or rib.

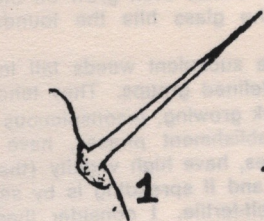
GLOSSARY - Spines

1. Subulate - awl-shaped; narrow, circular in cross-section, and gradually tapering to a point. As in *Opuntia subulata*
2. Conic - cone-shaped. As in *Myrtillocactus*
3. Acicular - needle-shaped, As in *echinopsis*
4. Tortuous - twisting; having a crooked, meandering habit of growth. as in *Leuchtenbergia* (papery spines)
5. Hooked - curved or bent like a hook. as in *parodia maassii*
6. Bristles - slender, stiff hairs. as in *Cephalocereus senilis*.
7. Sheathed - encased in a thin papery covering. as in *Opuntia echinocarpa*.
8. Glochids - short barbed bristles. as in *Opuntia microdasys*
9. Glochid - enlarged showing barbs
10. Annulate - ringed. as in *Homalocephala texensis*
11. Plumose - feathery. as in *Mammillaria plumosa*
12. Porrect - to stretch out, extending forward; growing at right angles to the plant. as in *Opuntia elata*
13. Pectinate - like the teeth of a comb. as in a) *Pelecypora aselliformis*, b) *Echinocereus reichenbachii*
14. Decurved - curving downward.
Recurved - curving backwards.
15. Deflexed - bent abruptly downward (also called reflexed)
- 16a Central - Extending from near middle of areole.
- 16b Radial - extending from outer edge of areole like rays
17. Appressed - Pressed closely against rib or joint.

REFERENCES

- Cactus and Succulent Journal, 1930
Spines, by Ysabel Wright
Cactaceae, by W. Taylor Marshall & Thor Methvens Bock 1941
Name That Succulent, by Gordon D. Rowley 1980
A Glossary of Botanical Terms, by Cyril A. E. Parr
Webster's Dictionary

can be a running nose → There is a very interesting article in the Aug/Sept '82 issue of Flower and Garden on How to Propagate From Cuttings. A good hint in the article is - "For cuttings of kinds that bleed, such as many euphorbias, which exude milky liquid from their cut stems, dip the cut end immediately into cold water and the dripping will promptly cease. After the stem has dried, dip the cut end into mild rooting hormone, then into a tree-tar compound such as 'Tree-Kote'." He goes on to say that, that single tip has been of more value than any other factor in consistent rooting of euphorbia cuttings. There is also a article on Epiphyllums in the same issue.



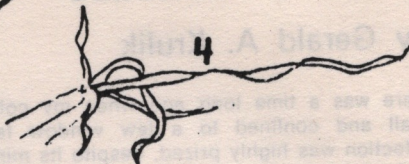
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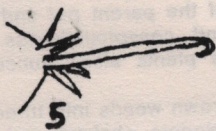
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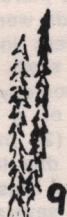
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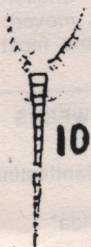
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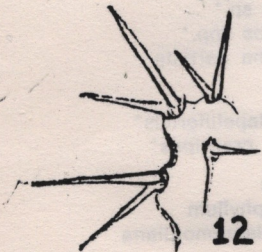
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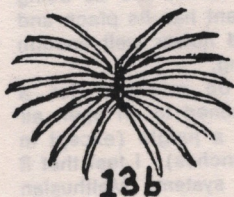
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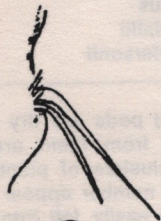
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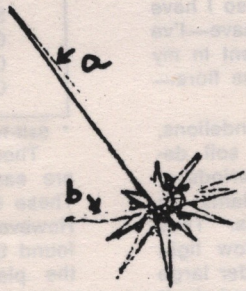
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Succulent Weeds in the Home Greenhouse

by Gerald A. Krulik

There was a time long ago when my collection was small and confined to a few window ledges. The collection was highly prized, despite its miniscule size. Each plant was thoroughly inspected almost every day. Offending weeds were pulled almost before they germinated. Hapless insects immediately felt my wrath or my alcohol swab.

That was some years in the past. I am now the proud owner of a relatively small greenhouse of about 275 ft² (28 m²) in area. The actual growing area is larger due to several levels of plants using lattice work and glass shelves. There are people, in fact I know of several, who effortlessly handle a collection the size of mine. All of their plants are carefully spaced on clean glass shelves or benches. The plants are removed and the shelves washed every week. There is room between each pot for (in my view) several more pots of plants. The benches are filled with large chunks of sterile clean gravel. Plants are regularly repotted, cleaned, de-loused, and so on.

I must confess that such a collection has some interest to me. If I could space out my collection in this manner, I would have to at least triple the size of my greenhouse. This would finally give me enough room for new plants—at least for a year or so. That type of collection is fine, but it strikes me as being too much of a museum. Every plant has its place and stays there. The plants grow and flower well enough but something seems to be lacking.

My collection could never be mistaken for a museum. Perhaps it could be likened to an open air zoo or safari park. It isn't really a jungle (except in a few corners and under some benches). I feel that it is an actual thriving ecological system. Malthusian battles are fought out constantly; survival of the fittest is no mere buzz-word or empty phrase in my greenhouse.

Actually, most of my plants are relatively well behaved. But as my collection matures—that is, as I've almost run out of room for new acquisitions, so I have to pay more attention to what I already have—I've grown conscious of a hitherto ignored element in my greenhouse. This is the presence of a unique flora—succulent weeds.

I have my share of normal weeds—dandelions, grasses, and such which appear on fresh soil deposits. The high temperatures and lengthy periods of drought quickly discourage most of these plants. In contrast, succulent weeds are hardy beasts. They thrive on neglected pots, in corners with low light levels, high or low moisture contents, and under large spiny plants. Thick gravel layers on the ground don't discourage them. They just grow through or on top of

the rocks. Some weeds even grow on the bare moist cement where the glass hits the foundation of my greenhouse.

Most of these succulent weeds fall into a limited number of well-defined groups. They tend to be relatively small, quick growing, inconspicuous in the growth and establishment phases, have large numbers of propagules, have high vagility (the propagules spread readily), and if spreading is by sexual phases preferably are self-fertile. I consider these plants to be in quite a different category from those normally labelled as 'volunteer seedlings'. Volunteer seedlings rarely grow outside of the parent pot and are usually limited in number and conspicuousness. They are often highly desirable plants also. Succulent weeds are quite the reverse.

I group the seed-grown weeds into three categories which are labelled exploders, shakers, and flyers. This refers to how their seeds travel in the greenhouse. Flyers have wind dispersed seeds. Exploders shoot their seeds away when ripe. Shakers drop their seeds when the pots are touched, moved, or watered. The flyers and exploders have the most random distribution in other pots.

TYPICAL WEEDS

Exploders:

*Euphorbia clavata**, *clandestina**, *obesa*,
meloformis
*Dorstenia crispata**, *foetida**
Oxalis gigantea

Shakers:

*Portulaca poellnitziana**
Plectranthus sp.*
Anacampteros spp.*
Trichodiadema barbata

Flyers:

*Ceropegia stapeliiformis**
*Pelargonium crassipes**

Fragmenters:

Sedum dasyphyllum
Kalanchoe diademontiana

Runners:

Sedum trifolium
Cissus tuberosus
Ceropegia randallii
Ceropegia sandersonii

* Self-fertile

Those whose seed pods are dry and whose seeds are easily dislodged from them are called shakers. These tend to give clusters of plants in nearby pots. However, a surprising number appear elsewhere. I have found that seeds will easily fall into other pots when the plants are moved. New plants will magically appear at some later date. When you have shakers in hanging baskets, as I have my *Plectranthus*, plants can appear almost anywhere.

The other group of weeds spreads by vegetative reproduction. There are two basic groups, runners and fragmenters. The fragmenters are those which break into pieces when you try to remove them from pots. *Sedum dasyphyllum* is an especially insidious type. Each tiny leaf or insignificant stem fragment will not, grow, and twine tightly around my spiniest plants. Repeated excursions with a pair of tweezers are needed to totally eliminate this plant. Kalanchoes, with their viviparous reproduction (live complete miniature plantlets falling from the mature leaves), also fall into this category.

Others are better described as runners. *Cissus tuberosus* is a caudiciform with long, fast growing vine-like stems. These stems spread for many feet over and around pots. Each autumn most of the stem dries up, but any nodes which are in or near soil (i.e. within about 2 feet or 0.5 metres) will root and form a new plant. Sometimes new ones even grow underneath a pot, putting roots up into the drainage hole, and either grow up through the pot or twine around it.

The major weeds in my greenhouse are listed by category in the table. These are my weeds. The types found in other collections will differ significantly depending on the tastes of the owner. Perhaps this would be an opportunity to apply the principles of island biogeography and dispersal to greenhouse culture. Many of the most widespread weeds would be the most popular with collectors (high vagility) while more specialised or less popular plants would have limited occurrence.

I have limited this discussion to non-intentionally planted succulents. This keeps them distinct from those I intentionally spread around the greenhouse. For example, I have one self-sterile clone of *Neohenricia sibbettii* which I use for ground cover in many pots. It may overwhelm a single pot in time but it never colonises other pots by itself using vegetative propagation. *Rhinephyllum broomii* is another ground

cover plant. Since I have several clones and can't resist cross-pollinating the flowers, I occasionally get a random seedling in a new pot. It is too well behaved (rarely spreading to other pots on its own) to qualify as an actual weed.

One should note that there are no cacti in my list of weeds. Australians may disagree with this, but there are cogent reasons for leaving them off the list. Opuntias grow easily from detached pads, but these pads are so large that they are highly unlikely to spread in a greenhouse.

Fleshy-fruited types of cacti are the most common. These seem to be highly adapted to dispersal by animals. (So far, I have no animals in the greenhouse.) Detached pods usually just mummify and disappear. The chemical inhibitors in the fruits prevent germination, and the fruits are unlikely to be spread from the original plant.

At best, a case can be made for some of the smaller dry-fruited types—*Turbinicarpus*, *Encephalocarpus*, and *Frailea*. All of these self-sow in large quantities in my pots. The pods fragment easily when I try to harvest seeds so many drop or bounce into nearby containers. However, I don't regard 50 seedling *Encephalocarpus* or *T. polaskii* as real weeds since they are so slow growing.

Cacti such as *Mammillaria fragilis* and *M. prolifera* are possible exceptions, though not in my greenhouse (yet). I have probably given away a kilogram of *M. fragilis* and more of *M. prolifera* but the 6-inch pots, started years ago with one tiny stem each, never seem to get empty. Fortunately, these stems don't spread out of their home pots very often by themselves.

I am beginning to look forward to new acquisitions in a different way. Will it be one of those plants which will establish itself well, so that no matter how many plants of *Oxalis gigantea* or *Cissus tuberosus* I try to give away, it will always be with me? Or will it be one of those dull, well behaved plants which can be depended upon to be in the same lone pot year after year?

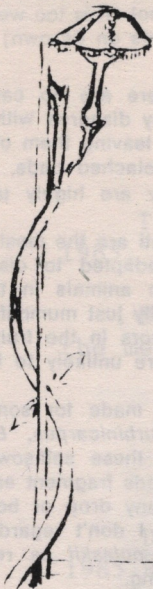


Jerry Krulik, the author, has just moved to Southern California with the core of his collection. He is especially interested in N. American cacti and Anacampseros. We hope there'll be an update re: succulent weeds in California.

The article above is from the British Cactus and Succulent Journal, Sept. 1984, pp. 57-59. This very readable and often pleasantly humorous journal is published 4 times a year and costs \$15/year U.S. Write to Miss W. E. Dunn, 43 Dewar Drive, Sheffield S7 2GR, England. (Check with our P.O. re: postage.)
to ENGLAND.



A TOOTHPICK IN EVERY POT



Ed Gay suggests using an old pencil stub or a wooden toothpick as a watering gauge. Leave it stuck through your mulch and into the soil and pull it out to see if it's still damp with soil particles clinging to it - much as you would test the doneness of a cake in the oven. This method should help all growers, and those of us using a rock mulch to cover the planting mix, will surely find this a boon. For deep pots or mulches you can use inexpensive shish kabob bamboo skewers which look like long, stretched out toothpicks. (If you're afraid you'll skewer plant roots, blunt the tip.) There is one problem. When you take your plant to shows or bragging tables, you have to remember to remove the toothpick, as it definitely does not add to the staging of your plant.

When conditions are good, it's generally best to water when the toothpick is just slightly damp. If it's bone dry, then your mix will be too - and this can zap hair roots...It doesn't take long to learn how to "read" your "meter". CW

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Norma Holley

HAPPY NEW YEAR

