



Message from the President

By the time this newsletter is distributed, most people in the Melbourne area should have spent the last few weeks enjoying the flowers of their *C. miniata* as well as some interspecifics. Colder areas may still have lots of blooms but of course the weather patterns can also influence flowering to some extent.

The main topic of the August meeting was “Fertilizers”, presented by Di Mathews. In September the topic of “Peaches” was programmed and we hope that various members would be able to introduce the kinds of peaches they have. Vu Dang agreed to share with us some of his methods in seed growing on that occasion as well.

The August raffle of *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii* (an offset of a Nakamura plant) was won by Neil Greenway, with John Bannenberg receiving a packet of seed of Chubb Peach crosses donated by Huxley and Lyn Althaus. Hugh Williams kindly donated a range of pollen samples, which we placed on the raffle table and which were taken home by a further seven or eight lucky winners. Huxley has also kindly donated seed of the five crosses of European peaches he has for sale, so there was another opportunity for some members to receive some special seed in the September raffle, in addition to another packet of Chubb Peach crosses. Our Trading Table in August had quite a range of seed and seedlings, and we hope the new owners will be happy with their acquisitions in the future. We thank all the interstate people mentioned above for their generous donations, and also Jeanne Marten for her contribution of seed for the Trading Table.

Members attending the August meeting of the MCG saw plenty of interspecifics in flower, and were also privileged to see a collection of Eddie Pang’s beautifully-grown miniature Chinese Clivia. The only *C. miniata* in full flower to be brought that evening was a very nice Light of Buddha plant grown by Laurens Rijke. For those of us growing interspecifics, the topic of their hybridization is one of interest. Some notes which I prepared on that topic are included in this newsletter and are accompanied by a new set of slides on the website entitled “Interspecific hybridization”.

We thank all members who have agreed to assist on the MCG’s display table at the ABC gardening Expo at the Caulfield race track in early October. Thanks also to George Simmler and Lynn Rawson for doing the set-up this year.

The committee will meet soon after the October meeting to plan topics and activities next year. We do invite members to provide us with suggestions so that the club can focus on the things which you want us to do. Without this input, the program will have to be put together from the ideas of committee members so do take this opportunity to have some input.

I am off to South Africa the morning after our September meeting. I expect to “feast” on many superb Clivia during my short stay there, in addition to attending the International Clivia Conference where I will give a presentation on “The Heritage of Clivia in Asia”. The theme of the conference is the heritage of Clivia and, accordingly, Ken Smith has been invited to cover the topic of “The Heritage of Clivia in Australia” and Keith Hammett will introduce New Zealand.

Helen Marriott



Editor's Message

We would love to hear from you!

We need and welcome your input. Please write to us with any clivia experiences, photos, articles, or questions.

This is your newsletter, and it needs your participation to reflect your questions and interests..

Di Mathews

SPRING IN THE GARDEN.

We are have had a very cool and wet winter, so still be careful not to over-water your plants – the weather is still cool and damp at times.

There have been a lot of snails and slugs around, and the slugs can cause significant damage to emerging flowerbuds, so be on the lookout for these.

Now is the time to start feeding your plants – they will be putting on a lot of new growth, so if they are in pots or in the ground, be sure to give them some fertilizer to maximize their growth and healthy development.

Of course, enjoy the spectacular flowers that these magnificent plants produce.

ABC Expo 2010

Caulfield Racecourse

1 October – 3 October 2010

Volunteers will be needed to assist with the display table – all help will be gratefully accepted.

Carnival of Flowers Festival Toowoomba

Friday 17 September – Sunday 26 September 2010 – another successful display was held in Toowoomba this year.



For quality clivias for the discerning buyer and collector, from seed to advanced plants, visit www.pinemountainnursery.com.au

FEATURE FLOWER



A beautiful cream clivia owned by a member of the MCG.

From The Trading Table

If you have any spare seeds, seedlings or plants that you would like to sell, just bring them to the meeting so I can try to sell them for you. Seeds can be in lots of 5 in small bags or any other way you like, but these must be labelled. Seedlings and plants need to be labelled as well. If you don't have a TT-form, I will have plenty of spares on the night.
George

Classifieds

2 Year old C.miniata seedlings for sale. Seeds are from NZ and South Africa. Interested people please email me - george-oz@hotmail.com

Events & Contacts

NEXT MEETING

Friday 15th October 2010
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

Creams/Yellows –
Helen Marriott & Laurens Rijke

Bring a plate for supper

15 Nov 2010 – Christmas Get-together

CONTACTS

Helen Marriott – 97964365
hmarriott@ozemail.com.au

Di Mathews – 98531566
akdesign@bigpond.net.au

Erika Van Der Spuy- 95610487
evanderspuy@rdns.com.au

Rae Begg – 0354286473
bbrigade1@hotmail.com

George Simmler - 9761 3790
george-oz@hotmail.com

Brenda Girdlestone - 9390 7073
macstone@hotmail.net.au

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone Number –
0410 929 510

Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue –10 September 2010

OUR ADDRESS

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
PO Box 811,
Lilydale, VIC 3140

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



For those of us interested in the growing and breeding of our own Clivia, the hybridization of interspecifics offers a very promising way to further develop flower shapes and colouration patterns as well as the combination of leaf and other plant features, not to mention the extension of the flowering season. Breeding interspecifics is equally available to large or small growers, including hobbyists, provided they have at least two species such as *C. miniata* and one other, or one species and one interspecific, or access to such pollen.

Interspecifics include a whole array of combinations of Clivia. If we start with the primary interspecific hybrids which have been described as the “first generation hybrids between different Clivia species” (Duncan 2008, p.101), further variations can be made, still within the categorization of interspecifics. *C. x cyrtanthiflora*, which originally comes from *C. nobilis* x *C. miniata*, is an “old” Clivia interspecific that has been found in Australia (and other countries) for a long time and is a good plant to utilize. Furthermore, an increasing number of other combinations which seem to have been used in the majority of interspecific hybrids to date, especially *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii*, *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* as well as *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* (or sometimes the reverse cross, eg. *C. gardenii* x *C. miniata*), are becoming more widespread in various countries. *C. robusta* is also available in interspecific hybrids, and in South Africa and perhaps elsewhere, crosses involving *C. mirabilis* have also appeared.

Last year Laurens Rijke suggested to me that the crossing of an interspecific with another interspecific was an important topic to cover at an MCG meeting. I certainly agreed with him but as I thought about it prior to our August gathering, I realised that a good starting point was to consider a fuller range of breeding possibilities.

Utilizing existing interspecifics, a variety of breeding patterns are available, including the most basic ones:

- (a) interspecific x self and sibling crosses
- (b) (i) *C. miniata* x interspecific
- (ii) interspecific x *C. miniata*
- (c) (iii) pendulous species x interspecific
- (iv) interspecific x pendulous species
- (d) interspecific x interspecific

Some slides will be placed on the MCG website under gallery (<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/index.html>) and headed Interspecific Hybridization to illustrate these patterns.

(a) Interspecific x self and sibling crosses

Selfing, where we use the pollen from the same plant, is recommended to bring out the recessive features of the cross. Laurens's beautiful 'Clementina', which was bred by Yoshikazu Nakamura, is thought to be an F2 cross of (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) x self (See MCG newsletter vol 3, 2, p.3, and photos). In my experience, some plants – interspecific or intraspecific hybrids - do not self well, if at all, though persistence is certainly worth while.

When we grow our own interspecifics (a primary interspecific hybrid or otherwise) from seed to the flowering stage, sibling crosses are often recommended. Here we can select out the best siblings or else choose those that display the characteristics we want to retain or even increase, and thereby produce an F2 generation. Wherever possible I will undertake this kind of cross, but where I do not have this option, and this is the case with most of the mature interspecifics in my collection, I will try selfing the plant, but not with a lot of optimism, and also use one or more of the approaches described below.

(b) *C. miniata* x interspecific, or interspecific x *C. miniata*

In the majority of existing primary interspecifics, *C. miniata* has been used. A lot of interspecifics are now being crossed again with *C. miniata*, where the latter is often used as the seed parent, as in pattern (b. i) above, but not necessarily. Such crosses will produce a wide variety of flower shapes, including some which are more upward facing. In one of my early interspecific crosses, I used *C. x cyrtanthiflora* with a (Belgian hybrid-like) short-leaved, small-flowering orange *C. miniata*, and an attractive umbel with small flowers resulted (see photo). Kevin Walters has also crossed *C. x cyrtanthiflora* onto Belgian hybrids with excellent outcomes, which include 'Sakura'.

Where the primary interspecific involves a yellow-flowering *C. miniata* parent, then by crossing the interspecific again to yellow *C. miniata*, either as the seed or pollen parent, a percentage of new yellow-flowering interspecifics can be achieved by just one cross. Nakamura's cross of interspecific *x C. miniata* 'Vico Gold' (see photo) is one such example. Nakamura has also crossed 'Day Dream' (which is actually a complex interspecific of {*C. miniata* orange *x C. miniata* yellow} *x [C. caulescens x C. miniata]*) onto a yellow *C. miniata* to achieve an attractive yellow interspecific, 'Yellow Delight' (see photo). It seems that Nakamura used yellow *C. miniata* in many of his primary interspecific crosses, as did Wessel Lotter (Lotter 2000), and thus much colour variation appears in these interspecifics, especially in the F₂s. Pale coloured flowers including those with a pronounced bicolour patterns also emerge in such crosses, in addition to yellow interspecifics themselves (see photos).

Laurens has crossed a nicely-shaped Nakamura interspecific (*C. miniata x C. caulescens*) with 'Aurea' (b. ii above) to produce splendid offspring like 'Pansy', 'Patsy', 'Primrose', 'M Rose' and the recent 'Sarah', among others (see photos). Shigetaka Sasaki's 'Inspirational' is a cross involving an interspecific (of unknown background) by Vico yellow hybrid orange (see photos).

In some earlier crosses, I also utilized 'Aurea' with Nakamura's *C. miniata x C. gardenii* and a pinky-coloured flower has resulted (see photo). I have continued to use yellow-flowering *C. miniata* in various crosses but should also consider using peach more, especially with interspecifics which already have a yellow-flowering parent. *C. miniata* with variegation also represent a good choice as seed parents for those wishing to make variegated interspecifics. Shigetaka Sasaki is now crossing various interspecifics with multipetals/polytepals, thereby aiming to produce more multipetal interspecifics.

My observation is that when an interspecific, which already involves *C. miniata* is crossed with *C. miniata* again, the flower size increases. Sometimes, interesting new flower shapes and colours are achieved, including some upward-facing interspecifics. However, to me, those offspring which look principally like a small *C. miniata*, are not particularly desirable, even if they are yellow flowers. In July this winter, a first flower from Nakamura's breeding mix has emerged and based on its shape and size, I guess that it is an interspecific which has been backcrossed to *C. miniata*, because characteristics from the latter parent are quite strong. The buds were quite brownish and the outer colouring of the first three flowers was deep red, with the inner flower appearing palish at first, so I named it 'Red Zebra'. However, as further upward-facing flowers opened, they were a paler orange so my initial expectation about colour was not met. Nevertheless, it is an attractive flower, with a relatively high flower count and a tendency to produce polytepals.

(c) pendulous species *x* interspecific, or interspecific *x* pendulous species

Crossing interspecifics with the pendulous species will no doubt aid in retaining the pendulous or, more likely, semi-pendulous character of the interspecific. One of my favourite interspecifics is 'Green Imp', from (*C. miniata x C. gardenii*) *x C. gardenii* (c.iv above) bred by the late George Hellen. The strong green tips and long protruding stamens show the strong *C. gardenii* inheritance.

In the case of crosses of an interspecific with the pendulous species, the same species could be repeated or else different species could be utilized. For instance, Keith Hammett has crossed (*C. gardenii x C. caulescens*) *x C. robusta*, thereby utilizing three different combinations.

The creation of interspecific hybrids drawing more upon more than one of the pendulous species is an approach that seems to have been underdeveloped to date. Use of rare forms, such as a dwarf *C. gardenii*, will add yet another dimension to interspecific breeding.

(d) interspecific *x* interspecific

A different type of cross, which is not yet that widespread, involves crossing an interspecific with another interspecific. The same combination could be involved, eg, (*C. miniata x C. gardenii*) *x (C. miniata x C. gardenii)* or else a different one, such as (*C. x cyrtanthiflora x C. miniata*) *x (C. miniata x C. gardenii)* or (*C. nobilis x C. caulescens*) and so on. I am growing Rudo Lotter's 'Tinkerbell' *x* 'Jealous Heart', which consists of (F₂ *C. miniata x C. gardenii*) *x (F₂ C. nobilis x C. miniata)*. To me, this is an attractive, tall plant, despite its irregularly-shaped flower tips.

Thanks to the work of other breeders, I now have four or so yellow-flowering interspecifics (see photos). I am thus purposefully crossing them with each other and with a small number of other specially-chosen interspecific hybrids with paler inner flowers (which probably indicate the use of a yellow-flowering parent).

When recently pollinating 'Tinkerbell' x 'Jealous Heart', I decided to use one other interspecific but also used *C. miniata* on some of the other flowers. In the case of 'Red Zebra' I selfed several flowers and crossed some of the remaining ones with two other interspecifics, one possessing a darker colour and the other, a nicely-shaped larger flower. I will not cross 'Red Zebra' with *C. miniata* again because it would likely become indistinguishable from that kind of flower.

If one of our main aims is to increase the combination of genes in new interspecific hybrids, thereby producing maximum variation in the offspring, and perhaps obtaining new colour combinations, new flower shapes and the flowering or re-flowering over many months, the hybridization of interspecific x interspecific has much to recommend it. Offspring are unlikely to become close to *C. miniata* through this kind of cross, and yet other desirable characteristics, especially the re-blooming features of interspecifics can be enhanced if we employ hybrids which contain *C. caulescens*, *C. nobilis* or *C. x cyrtanthiflora*. Further observations of these kinds of crosses will be necessary as plants of this type become more widespread in the future.

I expect that other experienced growers and breeders will have more suggestions in how we proceed with the hybridization of interspecifics. In the meantime, we can enjoy the huge range of flowers which these plants offer us and eagerly await many more exciting ones to emerge from now on.

To view further photos of interspecifics, see:

<http://www.rudosclivias.co.za/> (Rudo Lotter)

<http://members.jcom.home.ne.jp/clivia.3/> (Shigetaka Sasaki, see under "my collection" and "Nakamura collection")

<http://www.northamericancliviasociety.org/galleryn.php?color=interspecific> (North America Clivia Society, see under interspecific, and elsewhere.

References

Duncan, G. (2008). *Grow Clivias* (2nd edition). Cape Town: SANBI.

Lotter, W.J. (2000) *Clivia 2. Advanced hybridising of Clivia* (pp. 34-41).



In their natural habitat, the majority clivias grow on the forest floor.

They have adapted to soils high in organic matter, soils with a high level of potash (Potassium) from fallen leaves, humid soil conditions and competitive growing conditions.

Nutritional practices should ideally be aimed at trying to meet the requirements of clivias that have evolved when growing in their natural state.

Fertilising your clivias is essential to their well-being, especially if they are grown in pots.

It can, however, be a daunting choice when deciding which fertiliser to use. When we grow clivias in pots, we are, in effect, growing them hydroponically, and therefore must provide every nutrient required by the plant.

Plant nutrition can be a complicated area, and the nutritional requirements of plants can be affected by such matters as the growing medium, climate and temperature, and even the amount of light that your plants receive.

Over the course of the growing year, your plants must be provided with the amount and types of nutrients that they require to maintain healthy plant tissues and good growth.

Plant fertilisers come in many different compositions and types. All fertilisers contain nutrients that are essential for healthy plant growth, but some are complete plant foods that supply the sixteen essential nutrients, while there are others for specific needs or deficiencies.

When choosing which fertiliser to use, it helps to have an understanding of the different components.

Fertiliser has three principal components.

They are listed on fertiliser packets or bags as N – P – K. They are always listed in this order.

The symbols mean : N – Nitrogen

P – Phosphorus

K – Potassium.

These symbols are also followed by numbers – for example - 10 – 20 – 20

Or

20 – 10 – 10

These are examples only, and there are several other combinations.

These numbers represent the percentage by weight of the three major nutrients. The sum of the nutrients added together does not equal 100% - there are other nutrients and fillers in fertiliser mixtures.

N- Nitrogen

Nitrogen gives plants the ability to produce more chlorophyll. Most plants take nitrogen from the soil continuously throughout their lives, and nitrogen demand usually increases as the plant size increases. A plant supplied with adequate nitrogen will grow rapidly and produce green foliage.

It is a major component of chlorophyll, the compound by which the plants use sunlight energy to produce sugars from carbon dioxide and water. This is known as photosynthesis.

Nitrogen is a significant component of nucleic acids such as DNA, the genetic material that allows plants to grow and reproduce.

P – Phosphorus

Phosphorus is vital to plant growth and is found in every living plant cell. It is involved in several key plant functions, including energy transfer, photosynthesis, nutrient movement within the plant, and the transfer of genetic characteristics from one generation to the next. Its functions cannot be performed by any other nutrient, and an optimal supply is required for optimal growth and reproduction. It plays a vital role in virtually every plant process that requires energy transfer.

K - Potassium

Potassium is vital to many plant processes. It increases root growth and improves drought resistance, and activates many enzyme systems. It almost helps to maintain turgor. It plays a major role in the transport of water and nutrients throughout the plant. Plants depend on potassium to regulate the opening and closing of the stomates – the pores of the leaves through which they exchange CO₂, water vapour and O₂ with the atmosphere. The stomates must function properly for photosynthesis, water and nutrient transport, and plant cooling to occur, and K is essential to these processes.

Deficiencies of N, P, and K.

N Deficiency.

A nitrogen deficient plant is generally small and has slow development, as it lacks the nitrogen necessary for the manufacture of adequate structural and genetic materials.

The leaves are usually pale green or yellowish, because it lacks adequate chlorophyll. Older leaves often show symptoms of yellowing first.

Take care when using bark and woody products if plants are pot grown. Micro-organisms utilise nitrogen to break the bark down, and this can deplete the mix of nitrogen – sometimes referred to as “nitrogen robbery.” Nitrogen deficiency is also more common in soils that are low in organic matter.

P Deficiency

A phosphorus deficiency will cause stunted growth and poor production of fruit and flowers.

Flower stalks are often small and thin, and the plants may be stunted and short in stature.

Leaves may develop a purplish hue, or may develop purple veins – this may be evident in new growth as well as older growth. P promotes flower and fruit production, so a deficiency may cause the flowers to be smaller or lack their usual colour.

K Deficiency

K deficiency is most common on light sandy soils, or peaty soils with a low clay content, although it can also occur in heavy clay soils with a poor structure.

This deficiency causes the plant to be more susceptible to frost and disease, and typical symptoms are brown scorching and curling of the leaf tips, and yellowing of the leaf veins, and also yellowing along the leaf margin. Plants grow slowly and have poorly developed root systems. Seeds from K deficient plants are often smaller and are more susceptible to disease.

There are sixteen elements that are required for plant growth – the three major components have been briefly discussed.

The macronutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, sulphur, and the micronutrients include boron, iron, zinc, copper, manganese, molybdenum, and others.

Two other nutrients that may have a noticeable effect on your plants are iron (Fe) and magnesium (Mg).

Iron

Soils need to have a pH of between 5 – 6.5 for iron to be available. If the soil is too alkaline, iron becomes unavailable. Iron is needed to produce chlorophyll, and a deficiency of Fe causes chlorosis, or yellowing. The leaves may become pale yellow or even whitish.

This is most easily remedied with a foliar spray of iron chelates, but it may need several applications to be effective.

Magnesium

Magnesium is easily washed out of soils, and excessive K fertiliser may make it unavailable.

Symptoms include yellowing between the leaf veins, which can give the plant a marbled appearance.

Epsom Salts applied at a rate of 200gm in 10 litres of water will remedy this in most cases.

pH of Soil

Soil pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. The pH is measured using a logarithmic scale, which means that for a pH decrease of one, the acidity has increased by a factor of ten.

The pH value is a measure of hydrogen ion concentration – a very acid medium has a low pH, and a high hydrogen concentration. An alkaline medium has a high pH, and the hydrogen ion concentration is low.

Soils with a pH of 6.5 – 7.5 are referred to as neutral, while soils with a pH of less than 6.5 are considered acidic, and those with a pH greater than 7.5 are alkaline.

Clivias prefer a slightly acid soil, with a pH roughly between 5.5 – 6.5.

The pH of the soil affects the amount of nutrients that are soluble in soil water, and therefore the amount of nutrients that are available to plants. Some nutrients are more available under acid conditions, while others are more available under alkaline conditions. The majority of nutrients are available when the soil has a neutral pH.

Acid soils with a pH of less than 6 commonly have deficiencies in –

- Calcium
- Magnesium
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Molybdenum

Soils with a pH less than 4 often have toxic amounts of –

- Aluminium
- Manganese

Alkaline soils with a pH greater than 7 may make the following nutrients unavailable –

- Iron
- Manganese
- Zinc
- Copper
- Boron

It is possible to alter the pH of the soil.

Adding agricultural lime (calcium carbonate) or dolomite (magnesium carbonate & calcium carbonate) will increase the pH and decrease the acidity of the soil.

Soil is often made more alkaline by watering with 'hard' water, laundry detergent residues, and applying incinerator ash to soils.

To lower the pH (increase acidity), sulphates of iron, ammonia, elemental sulphur, and organic matter are used.

Soil is often made more acid by the repeated use of ammonia-rich fertiliser, acid pollution in urban areas, overwatering and therefore excessive leaching of salts, and the repeated use of the same fertiliser.

Gypsum reduces compaction in clay soils and increases aeration, but does not alter the pH.

Types of Fertiliser

Fertilisers may be either organic or chemical, and come in various forms, such as liquid, granules, or slow release.

The type you use is very much a matter of personal choice to suit your requirements.

Chemical fertilisers, or inorganic fertilisers, are usually concentrated forms of naturally occurring mineral salts. They have the advantage of being very precise, and are usually supplied as a powder which dissolves readily in water to provide a liquid fertiliser. They can also be purchased in a granular form.

Organic fertilisers are made from things which were once living, so their nutrient analysis can be variable, particularly with the home made variety. These can include liquid manures and teas, liquid from worm farms, etc. The great benefit of these types of fertilisers is that they add beneficial bacteria and fungi to the soil as well as nutrients. These types of liquid fertilisers should be diluted with water to the colour of weak tea. There are several organic fertilisers that may be purchased, such as different types of manures, both powdered and pelleted eg Dynamic Lifter, Blood and Bone, etc, as well as organic liquid fertilisers.

When applying liquid fertilisers, the golden rule seems to be to apply ‘little and often’, so it is advisable to apply it at half the recommended strength, but more frequently.

Fertiliser may also be applied as a foliar spray – plants uptake nutrients through the leaf cuticle, and this type of feeding is more readily taken up in younger plants, as older plants tend to have a thicker leaf cuticle.

Foliar feeding should be used as an adjunct only, perhaps to help correct a specific deficiency, and should not take the place of regular fertilising.

Nutrients such as iron chelates, for example, are often given as a foliar feed, to correct a specific deficiency.

Liquid fertilisers offer a quick response, and the nutrients are immediately available to the plant.

All liquid fertilisers should be applied when the plant is actively growing, and when they are needed by the plant. The fertiliser is taken up by the root-hairs, and the fertiliser must come into contact with these to ensure uptake.

Solid fertilisers, or slow release fertilisers, have to break down and dissolve in water before they become available. They are very useful if you are ‘time poor’ or have a lot of plants.

Fertilisers such as Osmocote are water-soluble nutrient granules. They are coated with a thin semi-permeable resin, and this coating controls the release of nutrients according to the soil temperature.

This type does not contain urea, but contains N, P, and K.

It should be mixed through the potting mix for maximum benefit.

Seasol is a plant growth stimulant, and promotes healthy growth. It also reduces plant stress when transplanting.

Seasol, however, is not a fertiliser, and should never take the place of a regular fertiliser program; it should be used as an adjunct to your regular fertilising regime.

One slow-release fertiliser that is recommended by David Banks from Sydney, is called Organic Life Pellets.

The fertiliser is described below -

‘‘The complete food for gardens and lawns, made from blended Blood & Bone, fish meal, seaweed extract, Sulphate of Potash and composted poultry manure. Widely used by Commercial Farms and in the Horticultural Industry.

The organic content is a blend of Blood & Bone, Fish Meal, Seaweed extract and composted animal manure. This rich organic blend is then compacted into pellets. Each pellet contains a complex range of nutrients which are gradually released after watering. The slow release organic ingredients allow nutrients to be available through the growing season and activates beneficial soil micro-organisms.

Organic Life Garden Food will boost the soils level of nutrients to assist with root development, leaf growth and flower production.’’

Other growers prefer to use fertilisers such as Osmocote, generously mixed through their potting mix, with or without the addition of liquid fertilisers.

The use of a specific fertiliser to encourage good flower formation, such as a ‘Bloom Booster’ is also used successfully by some.

It is very much a personal choice, but remember that your plants will grow and flower better, and be more disease-resistant, if they receive adequate nutrition for their needs. Clivias are regarded as ‘heavy feeders’ and will respond very well to a good fertilising program.

Clivias that are planted in the ground will appreciate slow-release fertilisers such as blood and bone, well-rotted manures, and leaf litter which is allowed to break down, which would be the case in their natural habitat.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING – 17 September 2010

Venue	Uniting Church, Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Roads, Burwood
Meeting commence	7:35 pm
Committee	Helen Marriott, Erika van der Spuy, Rae Begg, George Simmler, Brenda Girdlestone
Apologies	Diane Mathews, Lisa Fox, John Trotter, Terry Edwards
Introduction	Helen Marriott Welcome all the members of the MCG and all visitors. Despite the cold weather, we still have a good number of members attending the meeting.
Announcements	ABC Garden Expo: 1-3 October 2010. MCG will have a table to market our group. Roster has been compiled to man the table. Orders for peach seeds from Huxley Althous can be collected from Helen Marriott and payment to her.
Secretary report	ABC Garden Expo: Roster will be sent out via e-mail to all members that volunteered to man the desk for the period 1-3 October 2010 at Caulfield Race Course. I have contacted Kelly at the event organisers of the ABC Garden Expo. She will phone me back – was not available on Friday. Joan Ilsley phoned and asked if one of the members is prepared to be an agent for buying some seeds on her behalf. Suggested if members have some seed that they have spare, can they make it available to her. Accepted by : Coral Aalbers Seconded by : Lynn Rawson
Treasurer's Report	Opening Balance (Bank) \$ 2 337.91 • Income – Memberships/Raffle/TT \$ 348.70 • Expenses – Hall Hire \$ 75.00 • Balance (including petty cash) \$ 2 690.01 Accepted by : Yvonne Hargreaves Seconded by : Brenda Gridlestone
Presentation : Main	Peaches by Yvonne Hargreaves Provided a presentation on her Anderson peach (Toowoomba peach), the “European Peaches” and Chubb Peach
Raffle	Donated by: Helen Marriott and seed from South Africa and Huxley Althous. Raffle winner/s : Judy Simmler, Ray Begg, Con Krikas, Andrew Cuno, Brenda Gridlestone, Judy , Lynn Rawson, Stephen Wright, Yvonne Hargreaves, Rae Begg
Presentation : Minor	Vu Dang on seed growing. He demonstrated using coco chips and plastic glasses (obtained from wholesale catering places).
Display Table	The display table did not have the normal number of plants for this time of the year. Majority of the members do not have plants in flower. It seems the cold

winter had an impact on the flowering of the plants.

Laurens Rijke and Helen Marriott brought some of their peaches.

Questions and Answers

Question and discussion were around the peaches and why the crosses between the different group peaches provide you with an orange flower and not a peach flower.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be the 15 October 2010
The theme will be Yellows by Helen Marriott and Laurens Rijke

Trading table & Supper

Various plants and seed were available to buy.

END





Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

September 2010
Vol 3.5





Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

PO Box 811
Lilydale VIC 3140
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au