

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A nother flowering season is over, done and dusted. A few of us still have the late bloomers putting on a final show and fingers crossed our pollinations were successful giving us a lot of great berries for the 2022 seed list.

It was so disappointing to cancel the Clivia Expo again this year, but we are all feeling positive about 2022. With restrictions easing and borders opening again, we can look forward to holding our meetings again in 2022 as well as our garden tour and Expo.

From all accounts, members enjoyed a great flowering season with a good number of first-time flowering plants. We have a 2021 Online Clivia Expo on our website and at last count, we had 166 photos and a few videos to share with the public. There have been 320 people view the photos in the last few weeks. If you have not already seen the 2021 Online Clivia Expo, please take a look. Thank you to the members who sent their photos to the secretary for inclusion. If you have photos and would like to be included, send the photos to secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au.

We have had a lot of enquiries in the recent flowering season from the public looking to purchase Clivia plants and even seeds. Thank you to Brenda for fielding these enquiries and sending emails out to members. It seems to be working well and members have the opportunity to sell if they wish.

With the cancellation of the Clivia Expo this year, Brenda Girdlestone and John Mackenzie decided to go ahead with their own Clivia Expo, complete with show benches, black tablecloth, signage and our new MCG flags. Lucky for us they took videos and photographs of the beautiful display. In this newsletter you will find an account from John of the day, and on the MCG website we have posted the videos and photos for your enjoyment.

We will not be scheduling a Christmas function this year and this will be the last newsletter for 2021. Our next event will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday the 18th February at our usual venue. Another brief newsletter will be out in January to remind everyone of the meeting and call for nominations for office bearers. I will not be standing for President next year as I will be relocating to NSW but will remain involved with the club as much as I can.

Thank you for your continued support of the Melbourne Clivia Group. Many small hobby groups will have struggled to survive during the pandemic of the last two years. Let's keep the MCG strong.

Lisa Fox

NEXT MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 18 February 7.30pm

COVID safe measures apply QR code check-in

Uniting Church Cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Hwy, Burwood

The Melbourne Clivia Group holds regular meetings at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Fellowship Room. Night meetings start 7.30 p.m.

> Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. Burwood East LPO PO Box 4225 Burwood East, VIC 3151 Ph: 0477 134 863

2022 CALENDAR

Friday 18 Feb 7.30pm – Annual General Meeting
Friday 15 Apr 7.30pm – Meeting & Movie night
Saturday 18 Jun 2pm – Meeting
Saturday 16 Jul 2pm – Garden visit and lunch
Friday 19 Aug 7.30pm - Meeting
Sat 17 & Sun 18 Sep 2022 CLIVIA EXPO
Friday 21 Oct 7.30pm – Meeting

2021 Online Clivia Expo

https://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/2021online-clivia-expo/

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OUR CLIVIA EXPO– John Mackenzie

The lockdowns still with us, it was decided to go ahead with our Clivia Expo this year on the 18th and 19th September, (at the home of Brenda Girdlestone and John Mackenzie).



Before benching, each *Clivia* plant had to be carefully cleaned and checked as per COVID-19 guidelines which led to the show starting later than anticipated. This year it was decided to hold a competitive First Flowering section and it proved very popular with the exhibitors. Some late arrivals had to be turned away as there was no space left available on benches.

Refreshments were freely available during the afternoon as the exhibitors were experiencing dehydration from the hard work being done. Sunday started off slowly with the weather a little overcast. Plant numbers were similar to Saturday with a large variety of shapes, colors and foliage. Overall, there were 55 entries shared by two exhibitors with People's Choice being a four-way tie as well as First Flowering. A lot of fun was had by all who attended and are eagerly waiting for the Clivia Expo at a bigger venue in 2022.



What a lovely way to relax on a weekend enjoying our Clivia in flower.

People's Choice was hotly contended and was a 6way tie after finding two extra votes.

- Eileen Peach,
- TKO x TKO,
- Nakamura superstar peach x Florid White Lips,
- Rainbow Magic,
- Tri colour,
- Flowerdale yellow.

First flowering this was the first time for this category and was well received by members with a 4-way tie.

- Morris yellow,
- [(orange x yellow hybrid) x (Belgium red x Doris)],
- Glady's Blackbeard x (Nakamura yellow x Best yellow x pale yellow),
- Carnival x Shirley Hardman.





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CULTIVATION NOTES - Di Mathews

e are moving into summer after a very wet spring, with water catchments at levels not seen for some years, which is great news for gardeners.

Clivia will still need care during summer if they are to thrive, even though they are drought resistant plants.

Small seedlings and young plants will need regular watering, while mature plants, especially if grown in pots, will appreciate a good weekly watering in most cases.

When watering your pots, it is important to give a good drench of water so that the water flows freely from the bottom of the pot, then do not water until it is needed again. It is also preferable to water during the early part of the day to allow excess water to drain and help reduce the incidence of fungal attack.

The hot winds we often have at this time of year will often deposit a layer of dust on the leaves, so the *Clivia* will appreciate quick gentle spray with the hose to remove this.

Continue with your fertilising regime of choice. Small seedlings will thrive with liquid fertiliser at half strength applied regularly, while more mature plants will do well with a good quality slow release fertiliser. Flowering size plants start to produce their flower buds for the following spring in January, deep within the base of the plant, so it is important to ensure good nutrition at this time to promote a good head of flowers.

Potassium is essential for good flowers and strong peduncles, and one way to ensure both is to feed with some potassium sulphate over the summer. It can be applied as a weak solution in water, or simply sprinkle about a teaspoon of it around the top of the pot of your flowering size plants and water in well. This can be done monthly over summer.

Ensure that plants are well shaded during the very hot days. *Clivia* are prone to scorched leaves if left unprotected in the sun.

Continue to keep a watchful eye for leaf chewing pests, such as mealybugs, cockroaches, and snails, and treat as necessary. Snails have been abundant for many of us with the damp spring conditions and can cause a lot of damage to the new leaves.

If spraying for pests, do not spray on hot days, but wait for a cooler and wind free day to use pesticides. Do not apply in windy weather to avoid drift to other parts of the garden, and to prevent damage to beneficial garden insects.

Finally, spare a thought for our birds and wildlife in this hot weather, and if you can, leave a dish of water out for them in a safe and sheltered part of the garden.

SAMPLE FROM 2021 ONLINE CLIVIA EXPO



Figure 1 Michael Barrett



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Figure 2 Di Mathews



Figure 4 Alexander Dumas



Figure 3 Ian Johnson



Figure 5 Terry Edwards



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Figure 6 Mal Foster



Figure 7 Rae Begg



Figure 8 - Alan O'Leary



Figure 9 Lisa Fox



Figure 10 Brenda Girdlestone & John Mackenzie



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Figure 11 Allan Gibson



Figure 12 Geoff Brown © 2008-2021 Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.



Figure 13 Michael Barrett display





Review of Clivia Groups and Mutations

By George Mann, Michael Holt and Pieter Saayman (reprinted with permission)

Very often one gets asked the question, "what should I pollinate this with?" This is a complex question which depends on the outcome wanted. However, in most instances the reasoning behind pollination is to reproduce the plant that one already has. Luckily when one works with colour mutations this is not a difficult thing to do if one knows which group one's plant belongs to and which other plants belong to that same group.

For this reason, we have been asked to update a listing that has been available from the Clivia Forum days. We have done so based on information available to us at this stage and we are sure that there are many other plants that could be included and some that might even be moved to other groups in future.

What is a compatibility group?

A group of plants is accepted as plants that are compatible with each other genetically.

Compatibility for this purpose is defined in terms of colour breeding with *Clivia* as two plants that will, when crossed with one another, give seedlings with a similar colour flower to that of the parents because of genetic compatibility of the colour mutation they both share.

Grouping plants in accordance within the below mentioned "Grouping" system can aid one in coming to a predetermined conclusion of what can be expected when breeding between two known compatible plants.

Currently we accept that group compatibility occurs in yellow, peach, splash and blush types of *Clivia miniata*.

Colour Mutations vs Colour Patterns

A colour mutation is a genetic variation in a *Clivia miniata* which can be reproduced through sexual reproduction whereas a colour pattern is the colour distribution on a *Clivia miniata* flower. It is important to understand that not all *Clivia* fall into the groups listed below. Orange for example is the standard default colour of a *Clivia* and as such is not a mutation like the colour mutations listed below so it does not fall into a group. Within oranges we do however find colour patterns.

A good example of colour patterns would be the Chiffon type plants, generally large throated orange flowers or White Lips/Ghost flowers where parts of the petal colour is washed out giving a "ghosted" pattern. When breeding with these plants the outcome cannot be guaranteed however a percentage of similar results are expected as opposed to mutations where one expects 100% similar results when two plants from the same mutation is crossed. In this article we are focusing on genetic mutation groupings rather than colour patterns.

Methods used to test a group

There is only one fool proof method of testing which group a *Clivia miniata* belongs to and that is to pollinate it with known groups and checking the results. In some mutations you will be able to tell



compatibility on the pigmentation of the seedlings already where in others you will have to wait until the seedlings flower to be able to tell.

Colour bleeding on the flowers when damaged or on the berry as it ages, leaf and leaf tip shape are not good indicators of which group a plant belongs to.

Using a little bit of deductive knowledge, it is also possible to include a specific plant into a group. For instance, if Plant A crossed with Plant B is genetically compatible and Plant B crossed with Plant C is also genetically compatible then it's safe to assume that Plant A and Plant C are genetically compatible and belong to the same group.

Splits

A split can be defined as a plant that came about by crossing a plant from one mutation with a nonmutational plant or with a plant from a different mutation group thus resulting in a plant that is orange flowering. This plant will now be carrying 50% of the genetic mutation of the original parent/parents.

These orange splits often result because of ignorance, wrong information, misunderstanding of the grouping system, mislabelling or intentionally to improve certain traits such as flower size, flower count or flower shape, being aimed at second generation results. By breeding a split plant back to its parents' mutation one can retrieve a percentage of plants with that mutation with hopefully some of the better traits from the other parent involved in the original cross.

Strain or Series of plants.

A lot of the plants available for sale these days are strains of plants that have been developed from mutations by crossing two plants of the same mutation together or selfing a particular plant with a colour mutation, the reason for this is that it is much easier reproducing colour with a mutation. Although the plants in a strain all have the same name, no two plants are 100% identical. Good examples of these include Pretty Pinks, Hirao, Tipperary Peach and 777.

The plants in a strain may not be identical in looks, however they look similar in colour to the rest of the plants in the strain and they will all fall into the same group and will be compatible with each other. When outcrosses are done either within or outside the strain, the resulting seedlings are no longer part of that particular strain of plants.

Current Known Compatibility / Groupings

From our combined years of breeding results as well as knowledge gained from other *Clivia* growers across the globe, we have put together the following listings. The list has been simplified to include *Clivia miniata* plants and hybrids that are commonly available.

The terms Group 1 and Group 2 were originally intended to be used only for yellows – however over the years some peach coloured Clivia have been found that are "compatible" with either Group 1 or Group 2 yellows. They give unpigmented seedlings when crossed with yellows from the same group resulting in seedlings with varying shades of yellow and peach. For simplification these peaches have been included in a subcategory with the group of yellows that they are compatible with.



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Group 1 Plants Yellows

The majority of yellow *Clivia miniata* fall into this group. Flowers are yellow, produce yellow berries and seedlings from crosses within the same group are unpigmented when germinated.







- Albany Yellow
- Arturo's Yellow
- Blitz
- Chiba Yellow
- Col Pitman Yellow
- Eshowe Yellow
- Howick Yellow
- Jim Holmes Yellow
- Jumbo Yellow
- Karkloof Yellow
- King Hamelin Yellow
- Kirstenbosch Yellow
- Mare's Yellow
- Miss Perfect
- Noyce's Yellow
- Pat Quinn Yellow
- Pen Henry Yellow
- San Marco Yellow (sym . Solomone Yellow)
- Saunders Yellow
- Sir John Thouron Yellow
- Sleeping Beauty
- So Excited
- Vic Daniels Yellow
- Vico Gold
- Vico Yellow (sym. Smithers Yellow)
- Watkins Yellow
- Yellow Green Girl

Peaches

Flowers are a peach colour and seedlings from crosses within the same group are unpigmented when germinated.

- Albany Peach
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- Chubb's Peach
- De Villiers Peach
- Gail's Peach (sym. Reed's Peach)
- Lotter's Peach
- Vico Peach

Group 2 Plants







Yellows

The plants flower yellow, produce yellow berries and seedlings from crosses within the same group are unpigmented when germinated.

- Auriel Batten Yellow
- Banshee Yellow
- Centani Yellow (sym. Qntani Yellow)
- Cynthia's Best
- Cynthia's Dream
- Dwesa Yellow
- Golden Fleece
- Nano
- Natal Yellow (sym. Giddy Yellow, Gibelo Yellow, Holl's Yellow, Swellendam Yellow, Stella Parish Yellow)
- Pat's Gold
- Port St. Johns Yellow
- TK Hirao
- TK Miniature Yellow
- TK Original
- TK Yellow
- Transkei Yellow
- Tsolo Yellow

Peaches

Flowers are peach in colour and seedlings from crosses within the same group are unpigmented when germinated.

- Cranrao
- Cransley Peach (sym. Meg's Peach)

Group 3 Yellows

Plants flower yellow with a pink colouration as the flowers mature, berries are red and seedlings from crosses within the same group are pigmented when germinated.

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- Celtis Kloof Yellow
- Greendale Yellow
- Oribi Gorge Yellow
- Peacevale Yellow
- Potterill Blush Yellow

Alpha Yellow Group





A small group of yellow flowering plants

- Ndwedwe Alpha Thurston
- Ndwedwe Beta Thurston
- Mvuma Yellow

Euro Peach Group



Flowers in the group are various shades of peach / pink, seedlings are unpigmented when germinated (Tipperary and Cameron will occasionally have pigmented seedlings which flower peach in colour)

- Anderson's Peach (USA and Aus.)
- Anna Meyer Peach
- Cameron Peach
- Conway'sSunrise Sunset
- Conway's Tessa
- Pretty Pink
- Simply Pink
- Tipperary Peach
- Victorian Peach
- Wittig Pink



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Appleblossom Type Group



Flowers are generally white infused with pink towards the tips and seedlings from crosses within the same group are pigmented when germinated.

- Appleblossom Strain
- Gloria
- Helgaard
- Mopi Hirt

Four Marys Type Clivia Group









Flowers are light yellow or white infused with pink that bleeds to a darker shade of pink to hints of mauve as the flowers age, unpigmented seedlings when crossed within the same group.

- Brenthurst (sym. Hantie)
- Four Marys
- Gordonia
- Lady Jane
- Meltzer's Picotee No.2 (pink blush)
- Monet
- Ngidi Pink Champagne
- Paljas
- Wintersong

Splashed Clivia Miniata Group



Flowers are generally yellow in colour with a pronounced red colouration on the back of the petals, seedlings from crosses within the same group are unpigmented when germinated.



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- 777 Series
- Andrew Gibson
- Discovery
- Fairytale Series
- Meltzer's Picotee No.1 (spotted)
- Msubo Nguni
- Msubo Wow
- Naude's Peach
- Royal Gala Series
- Ruby Stewart
- Rumpelstiltskin
- Splash Series
- Strawberry Cheesecake
- Waterkloof Blush (sym. Pietersen Blush)

In Conclusion.

It is of great importance when using the above mentioned method of breeding compatible mutation plants with one another, that one knows ones plants, if there is doubt on where in the above mentioned groups a plant falls, take the time and effort to first to do experimental crosses in order to determine without a doubt in what mutational group a plant falls as to not find out a year later after using its pollen on several plants that the plant might not in fact be what it was suspected of being. Similarly it is of the utmost importance to properly label ones plants, as well as listing their compatibility group to limit the chance of mistakes occurring.

Colour mutation breeding is certainly one of the most valued methods available to *Clivia* breeders, not only can one guarantee the expected result by working with plants in the same group, it is also an invaluable method of increasing numbers of a desired mutational colour, and much faster than following the method of out crossing, where it can take several generations to achieve the desired results. Also when one knows where in the above grouping system a plant falls, it makes it so much easier to select other compatible plants for hybridising in order to improve desired traits.

Lastly one cannot write an article on colour breeding and group compatibility without giving mention the late Wessel Lotter, his son Rudo Lotter, Bill Morris and Sean Chubb who started paving the way for what we know today about *Clivia* Groups and Compatibility.