

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Astelia solandri
" *trinervia*
Cordyline banksii
Earina mucronata
Freycinetia banksii

Gahnia sp.
Pterostylis banksii
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Thelymitra longifolia

A YEAR FOR CLEMATISJ. Beever

On a trip to Rotorua at Labour Day weekend my wife and I were amazed at the display of Clematis flower which delighted the eye for mile after mile along the Mamaku Range before we descended to Ngongotaha. There was none in the Fitzgerald Glade but higher up where more or less continuous bush starts, the first white bunches appeared and from then on for about eight miles we were never out of sight of it. Usually there was a bunch every five to ten yards near the roadside and farther back in the bush the same was again true. Sometimes a vine ran for a chain with continuous flowers draped over the dark green background. After a mile or two one became almost blase, surfeited with what is normally such a delight of spring.

Another member, Mrs Seddon, independently reported almost the same thing on the Waikaremoana road so it seems that this year the Bay of Plenty had a most wonderful flowering season for Clematis. Presumably the altitude and latitude differences accounted for the lateness of the display compared with the Auckland area.

I wonder if any members, especially country members, who have been more familiar with these areas over the years can tell us whether this is a normal flowering, or is it a bumper year. I feel that I must have seen more bunches of Clematis on this weekend than in fifty years of observation previously. I don't think even the vandals can get all of it.

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