(1) An area of about two hectares, in the middle and to the south-west, can be considered to be so nearly natural in condition that we may be able to prevent any major deterioration. It will need irrigation when required, extermination of weeds (especially the English male fern), and judicious control of pohuehue. Possibly, and regrettably, it may have to be fenced.

(2) Treating the rest of the bush in broad terms I would advocate:

(a) Reducing the number of tracks to ensure less exposure in some critical areas

(b) The war on weeds must be looked on as one which will always be with us

(c) Annual plantings of bare spaces in the interior of the bush should be continued, followed by release from competition. Hinau should be included (there are only two trees left).

(d) The mass of oak, ash, sycamore and poplar on the south and south-west margins should be removed

(e) The belt of oaks on the north-west margin should be removed in two stages - the innermost trees now and the remainder in a few years

(f) A 10-year plan should be prepared for the close planting with natives of all open spaces in the margins.

The action suggested will not restore the primeval character, structure and composition of the bush but it would give us for all time in the heart of this big city, a complete collection of the plants originally growing in the bush, growing in an association not so very different visually from that which greeted the pioneers.

CAREX INOPINATA

By: John Thompson

Carex inopinata has been found only in the limestone country in the Castle Hill Basin. I collected a small portion of this sedge, with leaves up to 8 cm. long, on the 25th March, 1972 and placed it in a 6 inch pot in ordinary potting soil to which a heavy dressing of crushed limestone had been added.

By the 31st December 1972 the plant had spread completely filling the pot with a very thick healthy growth of leaves up to 8½cm. long. The roots had reached the bottom of the pot around its sides but had only grown 5 cm. long in the centre, due perhaps to inadequate watering.

I was interested to learn if lime was essential to the growth of Carex inopinata and whether better growth could be obtained by adding fertiliser.

The plant was divided on that date into 4 similar portions which, after the soil had been washed away from the roots, were planted into 5½ inch pots in a good potting mixture and heavy dressings of crushed limestone and blood and bone were added as follows :

Pot No.	Additive
1	None
2	Blood and Bone
3	Limestone
4	Limestone and Blood and Bone

On the 1st June, 1973 the pots were examined showing the following:

Pot No. 1 Completely filled with leaves up to 24 cm. long.

Pot No. 2 Filled except for 1½ inch on one side with leaves up to 22 cm. long.

Pot No. 3 Completely filled with leaves up to 24 cm. long.

Pot No. 4 Filled except for 1½inch on one side of pot with leaves up to 28 cm. long.

The unfilled spaces in pots 2 and 3 showed evidence of some small shoots. Probably these pots would be completely filled at a later date. The width of the leaves were the same in all pots up to 2mm. At no time has there been any signs of flowering culms.

The tests appear to show that in these conditions Carex inopinata grows as well without lime as with it. The value of adding blood and bone is not clear.

The reason why the leaves grew to only 8½cm. in the 6 inch pot but grew up to 28cm. in the 5½ inch pots is not known. The potting mixture was similar and all pots were grown in a cool glasshouse with no treatment except watering. The time of the year varied as would the frequency and amount of watering.

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