

'The Cultivation of Clematis spp.'

Contributed by Ron Close

This is the title of a thesis submitted by Mr. J. Cartman as part of the requirements for the National Diploma of Horticulture of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. The thesis has been placed in the Library of Lincoln College where it is available for consulting.

As is to be expected the thesis deals mainly with the native species of Clematis, and includes a key to the eight species. The first part of the thesis describes the methods of propagation and cultivation. The methods discussed are propagation by seed, and by cuttings (the preferred method). The two types of cuttings are nodal and inter-nodal. Further details are given on growing-on and planting-out, and maintenance of plants. There is also a short section on pests and diseases and their control.

Each of the New Zealand species is fully described together with notes on its propagation, localities where it occurs, and the genetic variation, especially in leaves, which occurs within the species. Excellent colour photographs are provided of each species.

Mr. Cartman is of the opinion that natural hybridisation between Clematis spp. is not common. However, crosses can be made in cultivation. Crossing methods are discussed, and some results of crosses between native spp. and between native and introduced species are presented, the aim being to obtain new forms of value in horticulture.

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U F O's, FRESHWATER ALGAE, AND AMATEURS

Both the Guest Editorial and the article on Desmids, to some extent, give the amateur's place in the botanical world. In order to encourage, as well as we are able, the members interest in the cryptogamia, we are asking the programme sub-committee to arrange a workshop at a time when the objects of interest will be freely floating and in a place where suitable instruments will be readily available for their proper observation. Watch your monthly news letters for further announcements. Is it possible that another Amy Hodgson may appear, perhaps, beguiled by the intricate form of some unidentified floating organism? (Ed.)

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