

to the culture to achieve a pH of 6.2. Add more distilled or rain water to the moss and keep on hand as stock acid water.

You can feed Aldrovanda additional nutrients by purchasing a culture of microworms (which you grow on a cornmeal mush) from a large tropical fish store or mail order houses that advertise in hobby magazines. Using a fine tip dropper, one can direct a thick suspension of these tiny worms into an Aldrovanda trap and watch it rapidly close on the white wriggling mass. If you find some pond water with copopods swimming in it, these seem to be ideal for the trap size of this species. By so doing, I noticed that plants began to branch from the terminal axils, a sign that all is well and you're on the way towards propagating the plants from these branches.

CULTURE OF ALDROVANDA

by Jacques Haldi

Aldrovanda is a rootless plant that floats on the surface of clear acid water. It requires a high light intensity, warm (21-26° C.) and acid water. I think that slightly briny water is a good thing. This you can make by using a little kitchen salt (NaCl or Na⁺, Cl⁻). It is better if there are some small crustaceans in the water because if they are missing, the plant does not grow so well and the leaves stay small in size. One can observe the capture of these crustaceans by placing the plant in a clear glass. It is very difficult to observe this phenomenon in an aquarium. For propagation of the species, cuttings are made in summer so that they will be strong enough by fall to produce winter buds. This plant should be started into dormancy in September. To prepare the plant for this process, the plants must be in 8° C. water with very good luminosity. I like to use mud taken from a swamp that is algae-free and place this mud in the bottom of the container. The minerals from this mud seem to help the plant grow stronger and help the plant acquire extra buds. The mud is also useful because when the winter buds form, they will sink into it during the long winter rest. In the culture of Aldrovanda, algae is the biggest enemy. It is best not to place the container directly in the sunlight but instead use bright diffuse light.

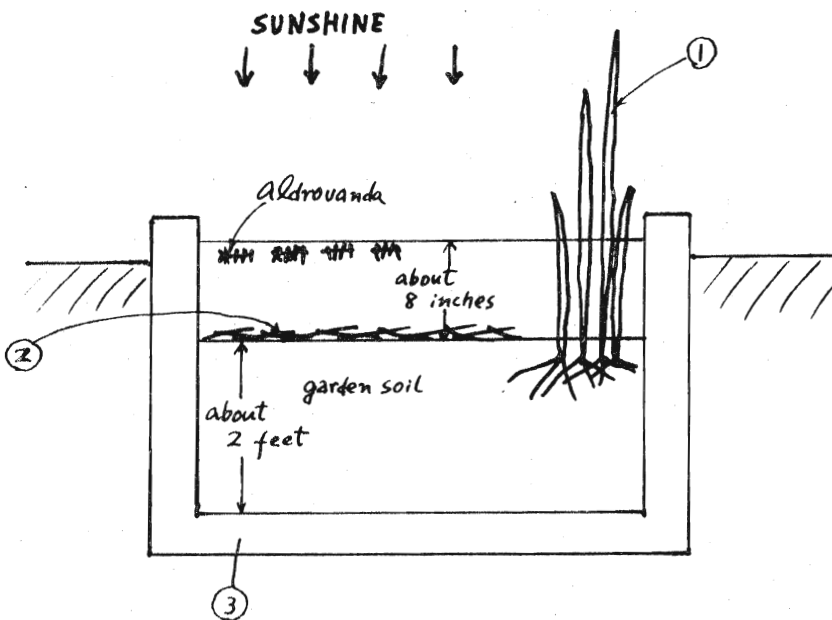
GROWING ALDROVANDA

by Kiyomichi Hanabusa

(1) Iris, or other water plants such as Zizania latifolia, Typha latifolia, Phragmites communis, may be useful. Their roots are believed to produce acidic substance which lowered the pH of water. I prefer wild Iris.

(2) Immerse dead rice grass (stem) enough to change the color of water "beer-like yellow." We often use the rope made of dead rice stem. This rope is customarily used in Japan (especially in farmhouse).

(3) Trough made of concrete (cement). If you use new concrete container, first fill water and immerse much hay or rice stem and keep them for couple of weeks to neutralize alkaline extract.



Necessary conditions: (1) Sunshine (2) Garden soil at the bottom of container
(3) Water plant (4) Dead rice grass (stem)

Bad sign: Algae growing. If a "bloom", water should be renewed and more rice stem added.