

red color; referring to the flower &/or leaves)

\*Refer to early issues of CPN for details of ecology and culture.

Next — *Darlingtonia* and *Heliophora*, a study in confused names.

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### Special Notice

We wish to apologize for omitting mention of The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens as a CP source in the last issue. Write for their catalog (18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335).

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## Q & A

What is a good method for propagating *Cephalotus follicularis*? MM, Merrimack, NH.

*Cephalotus* is easily propagated by division of the rhizome as well as by leaf cuttings. Hormone can be used to speed and improve rooting. Keep moist in well lit location between 70°-80°F. Do not keep too wet or cuttings will rot. Sphagnum is best for rooting, but you probably could use medium size vermiculite. (LCS)

# Beginner's Corner

by  
L. Song

(Continued from last issue)

Asexual methods, on the other hand, require only a "starter plant" or a portion thereof. Large numbers of uniform individuals can be built up relatively quickly and has proven to be the difference between making a plant very rare or common. A good case in point are the pygmy droseras. Seeds of these species have generally been very difficult to germinate, but they make up for this in producing specialized bodies called gemmae that are ready-made buds with a built-in food supply that begin to grow almost immediately after being shed from the mother plant. These propagules can even be induced under controlled conditions — short photoperiod (fewer than 12 daylight hours in a given 24 hour period) and relatively low temperatures. More on these methods when propagation of these species are discussed further.

Propagation by asexual means must also be used where a particular variety or hybrid is to be increased. To use seed of these would result in progeny with mixed genetic makeup, different from the special

variety or hybrid and therefore undesirable. Furthermore, in cases where portions, such as a leaf, stem or root, are used, these can be taken almost at any time the plant is in active growth, which is generally a longer period per given season than when seed is available.

In propagating a given plant, a balance must be reached between the two methods and the ultimate goal must also be considered. Sexual propagation will ensure the variability of the offspring and would make them, through time, better able to adapt to changes in their environment, whereas the production and distribution of asexually propagated plants results in a more uniform group and therefore a more highly vulnerable population to changing conditions. The latter method works in cultivation because we can control the environment more.

Now we will begin a discussion of each of the genera and the methods of propagation generally employed starting with the genus *Sarracenia*.

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