



Author Allen Lowrie with giant *N. sanguinea* × *gracillima* hybrid. See article beginning on page 88. Photo by Rob Oliver.



Cephalotus follicularis
Grown and photographed by Andrew Hanlon

GROWING CEPHALOTUS IN AUSTRALIA

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I have been growing *Cephalotus* for about 5 years now, using all sorts of "recommended" potting mixes and micro climates with varying results. Some method were good while others were disastrous. Last year I wrote to Allen Lowrie in Western Australia who specializes in these unique plants and he recommended using a good quality pure German peat moss as a medium. So I repotted all my adult *Cephalotus* into 6 inch full length plastic pots with about one inch of crocking in the bottom to allow for good drainage. I then moved all my plants into the *Nepenthes* hot house. The hot house has the following conditions: Winter minimum temperature is 55° F (12.8° C); summer maximum temperature, 100° F (37.8° C); humidity is 85-98%; shading is about 50-60% and there is a continuous air circulation system, automatic heating, venting and misting system. The misting jets do not spray directly onto the *Cephalotus*, however with the humidity of around 90%, the pots only require a little water around the edge every month or so in winter to keep the peat moss damp. It is important to remember that under cool or cold conditions during winter, when growth almost stops, not to allow the plants to get very wet or otherwise the roots will rot. In the summertime when temperatures rise up to about 90-100° F, I stand the *Cephalotus* in about ½ inch of water which allows the plants to draw water up through the crocking as required. When most of the water in the tray has been used or evaporated, I then add more.

Under these conditions, *Cephalotus* really thrive, with pitchers 1.5-2 inches long and with good coloration. Last year, I had a number of seedlings that sprouted on their own, so this year I plan to do a little hand pollination and experiment with fertilizers. The *Cephalotus* in the photo is in a 6 inch pot and shows a

slightly different form, inasmuch as the inside of the pitcher lid turns completely red after 4-5 months while the peristome remains green. The pitcher on the left opened the end of last summer and is 1.65 inches (42mm) long. The pitcher in the middle opened mid-winter and is 1.5 inches (38mm) long and the pitcher on the right opened 6 weeks prior to the beginning of spring. It measures 1.9 inches (48mm) long, the lid is 1.1 inches (28mm) wide and the total length from the top of the lid to the toe of the pitcher is 2.3 inches (59mm) long. Most of the *Cephalotus* are similar to the center pitcher but the peristomes are also colored red. Finally, perhaps I should point out that I have been growing *Cephalotus* under the described conditions for about 15 months, so as yet I am not aware of any possible long term problems. However, I am not expecting any since without any help from me, the plants have produced seed, which germinated, and the seedlings are growing well.

Nepenthes (from p. 93)

guys (10 of them). No doubt these guys thought they had hit the jackpot—surely no one goes to the places we had in our passports, unless they're up to no good. Every tent pole and tooth paste tube was checked and tasted. Two hours later we were released.

The first and especially the second expedition overall were highly successful, with many new varieties added to our respective C.P. collections. We all look forward to the day when we can make new hybrids from our new mother stock.

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