

# A Further Note on *Nepenthes rajah* Cultivation

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It has been several years since I wrote "On the cultivation of the Giant Malaysian Pitcherplant, *Nepenthes rajah*" (see CPN 12 (4): 82-84. 1983. Here I report that my plants are not only still alive but growing ever larger (Fig. 1). The estimate of 4 years from seed to maturity in my first article seems a bit small now. I strongly suspect they require 7-9 years under the best horticultural conditions. During the last 3 years I devoted my energies to other matters and my plants have endured rather than prevailed.

Basically, since the first paper, I have found that this endangered plant species is not so exacting in its requirements. Misting is not essential, but if provided, is most beneficial. At times my plants have sat in standing water. I believe their root systems have shrunk as a result. Flow-through water from above is still best for a vigorous root system.

I have no doubt that this species can reach 8' tall as a clump of 4-5 stems each 2.5-3" across (and dropping huge crimson traps from each leaf). I have seen a stem diameter over 2.5 inches across on a herbarium sheet of this species. I suspect even the most plegmatic horticulturist can be moved to ecstatic exclamation when he sees the first plants reach these dimensions.



Lower pitcher of *N. rajah* grown by author.