

News in brief

Handy hints

by the late Mrs. Alice Herbert of Geelong:

Use a pair of tweezers to remove small weeds from cactus pots without pricking your fingers; excellent also for pulling off dead leaves and other debris from succulents. For big plants with big spines and big weeds, use big pliers.

When repotting *Sedum morganianum*, which so often sheds its leaves when handled, allow the pot to dry out thoroughly beforehand. The plant becomes limp and repotting is then accomplished with very little loss of leaves.

Internet tips

To help develop and keep your interest!

1. Don't accumulate more plants than you can manage and care for.
2. Try to grow them well. If you can't give each plant individual time occasionally, then you have too many.

Important Reminder



Our next meeting is not until the 5th Tuesday – 30th August.

Flowering now

A huge mass planting of Aloes by a local council has transformed this previously bare roadway centre, outside a shopping precinct (Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill, Vic) into a striking display. The aloes whether in flower or not, contrast very well with the darker stems of the large eucalypt trees.

All these aloes were originally sourced from Aloe- Aloe (see back cover)



Snail Pests

by Graeme Griffiths

Some nights ago the night was still, and dew lay heavy upon the grass. Perfect conditions for those snail killing machines, so off I go looking for them.

I had tried the bait, and the occasional shell told me that a few had fallen foul of the tactic, but the damage done was in excess of what the odd shell could do, and despite the odd shell, the damage continued.

Torch in hand, walking quietly, keeping my breath quiet lest I be heard, I patrolled the premises. Of course I knew they couldn't hear or see me coming, but this was war! I opened the second gate to our property, seldom used, less so at night time. I recoiled in horror and shock at what lay before me! Dozens upon dozens of snails, feasting on the remains of a biodegradable bag.

Gaze upon the photo. I couldn't help but take a picture of this bizarre gathering. I was truly amazed at how attracted the snails were to the breaking down bag. Had no-one seen this before??

I do find it interesting though, that as these bags degrade, they provide a food source, obviously desirable, for one of our most dreaded pests. Snail bait is obviously ineffective, or less attractive, than these degrading bags.

If you look at the picture closely, you can see that there are also small/young snails, barely visible, but there none-the-less.

.....I do suspect the bag was originally from Aldi. It was a very windy position where we lived, and that second driveway used to be a constant source of blown in rubbish.

Do we make a pile of pieces, perhaps 20 cm square, and nail/stake them to a far corner of the garden as an attractant, greater than our plants and dispose of them from time to time? More reason to use the synthetic fibre bags, and no plastic bags of any kind?

Canberra Get-Together 30 Sept - 2 Oct 2011

There are still vacancies for the weekend gathering of people interested in cactus and succulents, in Canberra.

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