

Botanico, Università, Cagliari, Italy; Dr. T. M. Tadros, Professor of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Alexandria, Egypt, and Mr. Eugene Nasir, Gordon College, Rawalpindi, West Pakistan. These gentlemen, on a tour of Botanical Gardens of Southern California, also visited the University of California Botanical Gardens in Los Angeles, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and Earhart Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

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The Annual May Festival of the American Begonia Society, Glendale Branch, announces its date as May 26th—too early for inclusion in *Lasca Leaves*, summer issue Calendar, but for the record, Sylvia Leatherman is to be the speaker, and members invited to attend in their favorite gardening attire. Booths, plants, and refreshments featured.

## GROWING NOTES

GEORGE H. SPALDING

If you are looking for a low shrub for a sunny corner, try *Melaleuca wilsoni*. Another worthwhile Bottle Brush from Australia with small lavender "brushes" set close to the stems among the needle-like leaves. It appears to be perfectly hardy, having survived one fairly severe winter in the open ground. The plants are very spreading and only moderately compact. The foliage is a good medium green presenting a good appearance at all times. Plants four years old are about 4' in diameter and about 1-1½' high. No difficulty has been experienced in growing them from seed, which germinated in thirty days.

Australia has given us several very worthwhile vines. The subjects of this note, *Kennedya rubicunda* and *K. nigricans*, in all honesty should be classed somewhere between those two commonly used terms, "chiefly of botanical interest" and "a useful ornamental." The first, *K. rubicunda*, in one year from seed has made a vine 9' high with a spread of about 6'. It is planted along our chain link fence where it has reached the top and a little

more (9'). It provides only a moderate screen but indications are that it will become quite thick if it survives a few winters. Its hardiness is somewhat in question since one previous attempt to grow it ended in failure during 1950. However, those plants were very young and the winter was extremely severe. *K. rubicunda* is a mass of dark red pea-shaped flowers at this writing (June 1) and has been for a month; it shows no sign of letting up. This is not a showy plant from any distance because the flowers are so dark; however, it is an interesting and useful vine. Seed requires no special care and should germinate in a week.

*K. nigricans* is similar to *K. rubicunda* but is more vigorous. Our plants of this species are three years old and have topped the 9' fence and gone 10' or more into an adjacent eucalyptus tree. The leaves are trifoliate and about 5" across. The flowers are black with a small yellow spot on the keel. Of the two species *K. nigricans*, so far, appears to be the more vigorous grower and *K. rubicunda* the more ornamental.

*Melaleuca cordata* will probably never attain popularity as a landscape subject. It is definitely worthwhile but, in the Arboretum collection at least, is rather sparse of foliage and open in habit. Three year old plants are about 3' tall and vase-shaped. The plant gives the appearance of a miniature *Euc. pulverulenta* with greener foliage and lavender pink flower balls, first at the ends of the branches, then flowering along the stem at the base of each leaf. The flower heads are 1-1½" in diameter and very attractive. Seed will germinate in three weeks to a month. This *Melaleuca* is not as easy to grow as most of the genus. Why, we do not know. It appears that drainage in the containers is one critical factor. For the plant connoisseur this is a worthy subject.

## BOOK REVIEW

HOWARD ASPER La Canada, Calif.  
*History of the Rose* by Roy E. Shepherd. New York: The Macmillan Co. 263 pp. \$4.75

"History of the Rose" is primarily a book for rose-growing specialists and hybridists; but

it is also fortunately a book for the dedicated amateur, of whom there are many thousands. Freely admitting that the history of the genus *Rosa* has been mightily confused over the centuries, with long lapses, Mr. Shepherd still





Spalding, George H. 1954. "Growing notes." *Lasca leaves* 4(Summer 1954), 70.

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