

NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS



prepared by the public services division

December 10, 1973

RESEARCH DIVISION

Part of the new research by Wayne Loescher involves development of new techniques for propagating plants which have resisted propagation in spite of repeated attempts by nurserymen and horticulturists. These difficult-to-root plants include nearly all species of Eucalyptus and most species of pines and oaks. The relatively new technique of tissue culture is being used to propagate these plants. For this, callus cultures from small pieces of tissue from Eucalyptus ficifolia and Eucalyptus globulus have been established. Experiments are currently underway to determine the requirements for best callus growth and also for best root development. Our results now show that the callus cultures can be grown on a mixture of inorganic salts, sucrose, vitamins, and a combination of two plant growth regulators, 2, 4-D and kinetin. Results also show that roots can be initiated in cultures of E. ficifolia. The requirements for root initiation are different from those required for callus growth since naphthalene acetic acid replaces 2, 4-D and no added kinetin is necessary. Additional experiments are being conducted to determine requirements for shoot initiation. The goal is to induce both root and shoot formation in these cultures. Any plantlets so obtained would be similar in function to rooted cuttings, serving as a source of new plants identical to the parent plant from which the cultures or the cuttings were initially taken.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

The Division Heads, California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., and other supporting organizations are sponsoring a luncheon on December 21, 1973, at 12 noon to honor the many department retirees. Valued employees of long time service are leaving in number due to forced retirement at the end of this year. We hope all employees will join with us in wishing our fellow workers and friends a happy retirement. If you have any questions about the party, check with your supervisor. The retirees are: Joyce Day, Glenn Hiatt, Mark Anthony, Jess Tomory, Gertrude Woods, Henry Noerdlinger, Carl Roth, and Ruth Taylor.

Other retirees who have already left county service are expected to be in attendance and we will once again have a chance to wish Francis Raitt and Al Bardelli continued enjoyment in their new life.

Most recent news about Ross Goodrich is that he is in fair condition and is keeping up good spirits.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

We will have a special Christmas exhibit, "Holidays in the Garden," on display from December 16-26. A reception from 2-4 p.m. on December 16 will open the event. Exhibitors are members of various garden clubs and plant societies in the South Bay area.

A retirement party for Henry Noerdlinger is being planned by the staff for a date in December. We and many of the garden's regular visitors will certainly miss Henry.

The remodeling of our southeast visitors' rest area (Leisure Circle) has now been completed. Visitors are invited to relax and enjoy the new surroundings.

Fall has brought us 2.04 inches of rain, season to date. We have twice recently recorded low temperatures of 38° and there were six days when the mercury failed to reach 60°. In spite of the rain and cold, we have had a number of volunteers helping out in the propagation project. We especially want to thank Bonnie Finnegan, Daniel Scott, Sandra Remoaldo, and Susan Nunamaker.

The Audubon Society will hold their annual Christmas tally in the Information Center at 7:30 p.m. December 22. We have been told to keep our eyes open for a big red bird with white chin and crest and black feet, also identifiable by its distinctive "Hohoho!" call.

Speaking of birds, these were observed during the November walks: common raven, scrub jay, red-shafted flicker, rock dove, California quail, house wren, loggerhead shrike, white-throated sparrows, Brewer's blackbird, Audubon's and black-throated gray warblers. Not seen lately are quite a number of our mallard residents. Perhaps they went home with someone for Thanksgiving dinner?



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