

Beginner's Corner

by
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SARRACENIA PROPAGATION

(Continued from last issue)

2) Asexual propagation

a) Leaves — As far as I know, leaf cuttings or buddings have never been successfully accomplished with this genus. If you know of a certain technique, please inform the readers through us. If you wish to experiment, the most likely success may be accomplished by using the stout, pointed little bud scales clustered around the growing point of a rhizome. These, I would guess, would have to be peeled off, and budding would occur in the bases placed in sphagnum, similar to the technique used for winter bud scales of certain *Pinguiculas*. If it works for you, let us know, giving details!

b) Rhizome — The actual stem of *Sarracenia*s is the stocky underground portion of the plant referred to as the "root" by the uninformed. Actually, the fibrous roots can be seen to grow from this rhizome. The stocky, starchy rhizome grows either parallel to the surface of the ground as in *S. flava*, or is small and more or less vertical as in *S. purpurea*. As the rhizome grows in salubrious conditions, it frequently branches, this branching activity being most marked in *S. rubra* and its infraspecies. One can accomplish propagation using rhizomes by two different methods, or variants thereof:

1. Break off the branching "points" of a rhizome and plant these in sphagnum. Leave at least one point (growth bud) on the main portion of the rhizome. You will observe the most rhi-

zome branching and budding on large, old and vigorously growing specimens.

2. Rhizome division with inducement of new buds. Steve Clemesha has developed one of the easiest and most useful techniques of doing this. It works best with a horizontal rhizome. Uncover the upper surface of the horizontal rhizome so the upper surface is exposed to the air, the lower surface with roots still in the growing medium. Then, using a fresh razor blade, carefully make multiple cross cuts about 2 cm apart along the rhizome, the depth of the cut being about halfway through (not *all* the way through). Do not recover the upper half of the rhizome. In a few weeks, new green plant buddings will be seen to appear from both sides of the cut areas. After the new growths have attained sufficient size that new roots have been put down for each section of the rhizome, you may lift out the rhizome, complete the separation, and repot each plant separately.

The foregoing is a very abbreviated description, but the techniques (except those noted as experimental or theoretical) work and are simplest to accomplish. If you have difficulties, or note aspects, successes or problems insufficiently emphasized above, let us know so we can share the information with other readers. Also, by all means, if you develop or know firsthand of other useful techniques of propagation in *Sarracenia*, send your information to one of us for inclusion in CPN.



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