

There is no magic in the raising of palm seed; it is merely a common sense approach to collecting, storing and dispatching — and finally sowing and transplanting. In every case, speed and thoroughness are the essentials.

## **THE NEED FOR PLANT BREEDER'S RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA**

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Unless some form of national protection is established the achievements of plant breeders will be small and the immense possibilities of breeding from our native flora will not be realized. With other countries having their protection legislation this will be our loss unless we act quickly. Another factor is that with this protection overseas it is now almost impossible to introduce our strains to them without having reciprocal protection.

I, and other breeders, have made great efforts over recent years to get this established but nothing has been achieved. It has, however, been a great pleasure to know that all our State and Federal Nurseryman's Associations have formed a Plant Breeder's Rights Committee and are very active in this field. Currently, States have the power to enact appropriate legislation but I can not see the possibility of uniform legislation unless the states give this power to the Australian Federal Government.

An ordinary patent was taken out three years ago on a winter-flowering carnation in the hope that a basis for a High Court test case may be developed. In the absence of any favorable advice the patent has now elapsed. Perhaps different wording of the original patent would have improved the chances and if anybody is considering launching a patent of his own I will be pleased to supply a copy of our legal advice.