

I.P.P.S. What it Means to Us All[®]

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THE I, THE P, THE P, AND THE S

The words making up the name of the International Plant Propagators Society (I.P.P.S.) are worth examining closer and examining each separately we can gain a better understanding of our unique organization.

INTERNATIONAL

International means the Society has no boundaries. The aim is to develop a truly international organization, a platform where people, the love of plants, and growing them can develop their own skills, swap ideas, learn new techniques, and gain a better understanding of the botanical diversity of this planet. We all have a common bond that overcomes cultural and ethnic difference.

I for one have been coming to Japan, as well as other countries, for a few years now and although I have not been able to grasp the language I have always been able to learn a lot about the plants and culture because of that common bond that you develop.

Back in New Zealand the I.P.P.S. door is always open for local and overseas people of all levels and horticultural interests to:

- A) Attend meetings and see what the society is all about.
- B) Feel the camaraderie and co-operation existing between members.
- C) Present their own experience and research findings.

And because the Society recognizes and values their contribution it encourages people from all walks of horticulture, small nurseries, large nurseries, researchers, parks staff, and trades people to join so they can participate on an ongoing basis.

PLANT

Like the word international, there is also no boundaries. A person interested in fungi, both disease and edible types, in moss or lichen, annuals, groundcovers, perennials, shrubs, trees, forest, fruit, or ornamentals, in their names, culture, or use has a valuable contribution to make to the I.P.P.S. Last year in Japan we visited bonsai growers at Omiya City and were stunned by their expertise, we saw Tokyo Disneyland and marveled at the skilled way plants have been used in the landscape and as decoration, heard about specialized bulb breeding from one of your members, visited the research station, and saw fruit and plants under trial for plant patents. Every one of these plant families visited, their propagation and cultivation has something to add to the I.P.P.S. and the I.P.P.S. has something to add, either by its collective knowledge or the links between people to add to these species. In Europe the previous year, I visited a water species nursery and was fascinated by their production methods and the fact that they were selling their plants internationally via the Internet. The I.P.P.S. fostered this link and is proving to be a significant forum for greater plant awareness and understanding.

PROPAGATORS

The I.P.P.S. was founded by passionate American plant propagators in 1951 and while propagation is a key to the Society and its members it has not hindered the Society's development and today all manner of subjects to do with the plant world are discussed.

I believe the word propagation has a broader meaning and rather than just confining it to the proliferation of plants, I see it as the propagation of horticultural understanding and development.

In the English language the word propagation means to increase, to have young, so when we look at the Society we should say yes we want to increase membership, increase our knowledge, increase plants, and increase the importance of these to civilization.

The second meaning "to have young" can mean we need to involve young people in every facet of the Society — at meetings, on committees, by organizing field trips to further their education, and as we do in New Zealand "to have young people's awards" which encourages them to further their education and to excel.

If we don't involve young people the I.P.P.S. will die. I encourage you to encourage your young colleagues, young staff, and young growers to participate.

SOCIETY

The I.P.P.S. is a unique plant-based Society of Passionate Plants People based on a simple, three-word, encompassing motto "seek and share". *To Seek* – is to go out and find, ask questions, research, *To Share* – is to give freely of ones knowledge and experience. The philosophy is brilliant because it is inclusive. There are no boundaries and that is why I and others who sit on the fringe of the plant world and supply pots, fertilizer, and other plant related products, can participate. In New Zealand we have two organizations the Nursery and Garden Industry Association (NGIA) and the I.P.P.S. I belong to both because they are important meeting forums where the trade can meet, discuss and share the issues, information, and ideas that will benefit the industry and those with plant-based interests. Both are important. The NGIA deals with the nursery industry or trade, the IPPS focuses on the craft. In Japan your history goes back many thousands of years and there were techniques developed over those years by the craftsmen of the past that I am sure are relevant today in the plant world. It is in forums like this and belonging to a society such as ours that can enhance us all and bring this knowledge out. Thank you.