

seed raising mix and left to germinate. Seedlings emerge in around 3 months. Watering at this stage is crucial as rotting off can occur. The seedlings are pricked out into large tree tubes and grown on. Currently this species is protected by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and the effects of collecting seed from the wild are still under debate. As one of the very few growers of this plant, we would like to look into the production of this species in the future using tissue culture, so as not to put any pressure on wild populations. Making this beautiful species more readily available would hopefully see it used in the place of *Cycas revoluta* in landscaping around town.

Calytrix carinata is a species we haven't been able to grow yet. We have tried fresh seed, old seed, and cuttings. The only time we were able to achieve any germination the seedlings rotted off.

As you can see we are still a very new organization. Five years on and we have been able to grow around 500 of the 2000 taxa. A lot more work has yet to be done, we will make mistakes, but have some success as well.

Having established suitable propagation techniques for a range of central Australian plants and planted them at the Desert Park, we have created a considerable increase in interest in growing indigenous plants in Alice. Initially, local retail nurseries could not meet this interest, as very few species were being grown outside of the Desert Park. To meet this demand, the Desert Park now operates a wholesale nursery and supplies local retail outlets.

Pictures of the plants, and particularly flowers, of central Australia are not uncommon. But until fairly recently their use in horticulture, even in central Australia, has been rare. It is hoped that the work of the Desert Park will not only provide the information needed to grow our arid zone plants but will encourage people to see them as the preferred alternative to the exotic species.

Floradata[©]

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Floradata is an information system that will help you grow Australian Native Plants. It collates plant species collection and propagation information on how to use thousands of Australian plants, including how to collect, store, germinate, and propagate seed, and much more. This publication will assist in distributing the results of research undertaken by organizations, companies, and individuals to improve biodiversity in revegetation and to increase the efficient use of native seed. Floradata promotes the sharing of knowledge that, up to this point, may have been hidden in obscure references and scientific literature, or known by relatively few people.

While the focus is on species used in rehabilitation, Floradata will be useful to anyone planting native species, whatever the purpose. It will allow those interested in native species to effectively plan seed regeneration programmes using best practice information.

Floradata is due to be released in 2001 as a CD-Rom. The major contributors to this project are: Australian Centre for Mining Environmental Research, Bush care, Natural Heritage Trust, Greening Australia, Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.