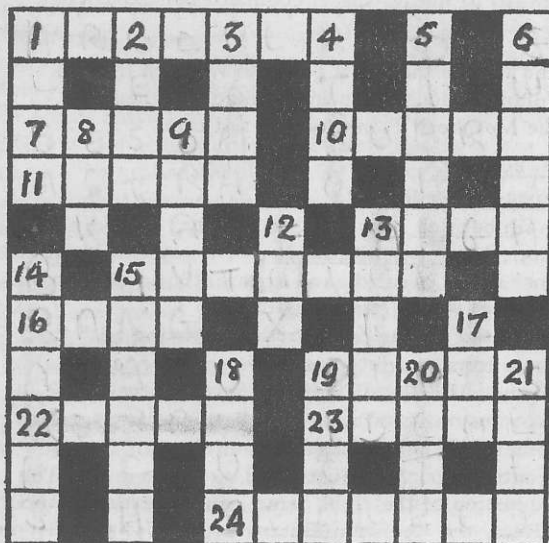


HEATHER CROSSWORD. Solution on Page 2.



ACROSS.

1. This tall heath has pale green foliage
7. Alias Scoparia
10. Penotes red flowers
11. Connected with stars, curtailed
13. Seaweed, singular
15. Freezing water (4,3,)
16. 9 Down, beheaded
19. A product of 1 across.
22. Sacred book of the Mogammedans.
23. E. Mediterranea superba is considered this as a specimen plant.

DOWN.

1. Could denote the colour of 1 across.
2. Definitely a choice heather.
3. Similar to "Mullion" in appearance
4. Prefix in the names of many E. cinreas.
5. Not the best tool for planting heathers
6. This hybrid sounds like a tropical fruit.
8. Anagram on the last 3 letters of the name of a well-known heather grower.
9. A queen without a letter.
12. Prefix to a variety of Calluna, E. camea and E. cinerea.
13. Omit the R. and you have ideal heather conditions.
14. Essential for cars and a good mulch for heathers.
15. Type of grafting.
17. Omit the water from this Tree Heath.
18. Latin for one.
19. Very little difference between this bird and a fir tree.
20. 13th century spelling of a heather requirement.
21. Might have a variety of Tetralix attached.

ACROSS (Cont'd)

24. If one believes in feeding Ericas this is useful.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By now you should have had your copy of the 1967 Year Book. We regret the delay which was unavoidable. With it I sent the A.G.M. and Harlow Car notices, and with this bulletin go the Statements of Income and Expenditure.

Having taken over from the Editor, Mrs. Harper, during her first visit to the U.S.A. Mr. Patrick and I found it necessary to hold over for the Bulletin one or two articles including the promised Crossword. As we propose to publish three Bulletins this year your comments and follow-on article in the 1967 Year Book will be able to appear in the June/July Bulletin. Please send them in to me as soon as you can. The third Bulletin will be

From the Secretary (Cont'd)

out in October/November in time for a last reminder for articles for the 1968 Year Book. This will be published at the end of March 1969 and the A.G.M. will be held early in May in that and the following years. We think this will be a better arrangement.

I would like to say now how very much I personally will miss the help Mrs. Harper has always given so willingly. We look forward to interesting accounts of her experience as a heather grower in the U.S.A.

A sufficient number of members applied to join the party going to Western Ireland at Easter. We go in search of that elusive plant variously known as "mediterranea" or "hibernica". Mr. McClintock's note in the Members' Forum tells a sad tale.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Erica "mediterranea"/"hibernica"

As some members may know, the name hibernica has, most miserably, proved not to be available for the plant everyone had been calling E. mediterranea. The regrettable fact is that under the Rules of Nomenclature, neither name is valid, and apparently no other name has ever been published for this plant as a species, which can be used.

But, is it a good species? It has been treated by various botanists, starting with the great systematist George Bentham in 1839, as a form, variety, or sub-species, occidentalis, of E. carnea. What supremely matters is - what ARE the differences between the two? Are they sufficient to consider each a good species on its own, or is it better to treat one as a sub-species, or even as a variety, of the other? It is here that the members of the Society can make a quite particularly worth-while contribution from first-hand experience. The information is wanted this year, so that the question of the right name can be settled without much more delay. It will go on to Mr. R. Ross, the Keeper of Botany at the Natural History Museum, who has to cope with the situation.

In assessing their status, the hybrids should be taken into account, the various x darley-ensis forms: in particular more information is wanted to what extent these are sterile. I know of only one which has been recorded as fertile, but it is very likely that most people have never tested this. Attempts to collect seed this summer and see how good it was would be an excellent start. Equally we should take into account some of the carneas, which have at one time or another been suspected of hybridity, such as 'Aurea', 'Eileen Porter', 'Loughrigg' and 'Pink Span gles' - or even 'W. T. Ratcliff'.

Would as many members as possible be good enough to send me their observations and opinions on this important, and now urgent, matter. Even a single note would be welcome, but it would be clearest if contrasting details were set out e.g. stem ridges, length of calyx, corolla and style, how far the stamens protrude (which may vary as the flower develops), corolla shape, number of flowers on a short shoot, length of flowering spikes, good seed and so on. Please do not be daunted by this list, which is only an indication because, as I say, a single observation could prove to be the telling one. Habit, height, flowering period and natural distribution are of course well-known, but do also send in any fresh comments on these.

The fuller the response, the sounder will be the basis for settling this unhappy problem - for ever I hope!

Bracken Hill, Platt, Kent.

David McClintock.

P.S. Perhaps you could kindly make a note in your diaries to let me have at least an interim reply by the 1st July?

Solution to Crossword Puzzle: ACROSS: 1. arborea. 7. besom. 10. rubra. 11. astra. 13. alga. 15. into ice. 16. rang. 19 pipes. 22 Koran. 23. idea. 24. seaweed. DOWN: 1. alba 2. best. 3. Roma. 4. atro. 5. dibble. 6. Gwavas. 8. esk (J.W. Sparkes) 9. Orange Queen. 12. Fox. 13. acrid. 14. brakes. 15. inarch. 17. lea (E. arborea Riverslea) 18. unus. 19. Pica (latin name for the magpie) 20. pete. 21. sled. (E. Tet. Silver Bells)

HEATHERS IN A PEAT BED

David J.T. Rose, Plymouth

I am one of those unfortunate gardeners who love heathers but garden on a soil with a high pH. This limits me to *E. carnea*, *E. hibernica*, and a few other hybrids and species.

Although my high and exposed garden faces the heather-clad slopes of Dartmoor to the east, which become a sheet of purple in late summer, it is on a ridge of high grade limestone and the average pH of my soil is 7.8. This prohibits the use of summer varieties to any degree, and naturally once a keen gardener is forbidden a certain joy he or she immediately wants to fulfil that desire.

I have solved my problem of growing lime-hating heathers on unsuitable soil in a way which might commend itself to others in a similar situation. Sequestrene can be a way around the difficulty but my method is, I feel, a useful alternative. My experiment has now been successful for three years so I think I am safe in my commendations.

Using a mixture of four parts by bulk of a coarse rhododendron peat, one part of my own soil, and one part of river sand, I constructed a "peat bed" about 15 inches above ground level, using peat blocks for the walls, interplanted with suitable mat forming alpines to help bolster the walling and retain the soil. The blocks were laid in bonded style (i.e. no vertical crevices lying over one another) and the wall was sloped back gradually into the soil behind it. The soil mixture was analysed by a representative from Devon County Council's horticultural department and found to have a pH of 6.3. I was told that the mixture would become more acid as time went on with the reaction of the peat.

Almost without exception the heathers have grown lustily. They are generally clipped over in early Spring except foliage varieties which are left until later in the Spring. They are fed with hoof and horn and mulched with peat and, occasionally, pine needles. They were planted in groups of three, with the emphasis on dwarf compact forms including *Callunas* 'Foxii Nana', 'Nana Compacta', 'Tenis', 'Ruth Sparkes', *Erica Tetralix* 'Alba Mollis', 'L.E. Underwood' and the *Tetralix* x *Mac-kaiiana* hybrid 'Praegeri'; *Erica vagans* 'Nana', and hybrids *Williamsii* and 'Ciliaris Hybrid'. Their foliage and flowers are now an admired part of my garden.

HEATHS AND HYACINTHS

Last Christmas when giving bowls of hyacinths - instead of the usual fern in the centre I placed four-inch pots of heather:

Erica 'Darleyensis' with blue hyacinths

Erica x 'Darleyensis Arthur Johnson' with white hyacinths

E. carnea 'Springwood White' with red hyacinths.

They proved a great success and flowered on long after the hyacinths had gone. In fact one friend had the little pot of *Erica* still in bloom when I called at the end of March.

I am now trying to work out a "Four Seasons" bowl for the reception room of an office. (Any other member care to make helpful suggestions - direct to Miss Cameron?

Miss E.K. Cameron, Scotland.

Ed)

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP LIST: Oct. 1967 - March 1st 1968

Omitted (late payments)

Allan, J.R. Courtill Rozel, Mount Durand, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I.

Ball, G.V. Heatherways, 14, Manor Rd., Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.

Townsend, D.W. 6, Manor Rd., East Grinstead, Sussex.

J.I. Williams, 9, Pedmore Court Rd., Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcs.

Wyatt, R.N. Heath Mount, Rake, Liss, Hants.

Transferred subscription

Howell, Mrs. M. 7, Alphin Park Lane, Greenfield, Nr. Oldham, Lancs.

Change of Address

Corran, A. 34, Cooper Dean Drive, Queen's Park, Bournemouth

The Library, Canada Agriculture, Sir John Carling Building, Ottawa.

+ Moss, Wm. Nurseryman, Maes Yr Esgob, Afonwen, nr. Mold, Flintshire

New Members (Alphabetically and in order of joining)

Adam Smith, Mrs. J. Little Landens, Meath Green Lane, Horley, Surrey

Astley, P., 33, Royleth Ave., Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

Austin, W. G. L. Trewithiel, Russells Crescent, Horley, Surrey

Bonner, K. A. 16, Prehen Park, Waterside, Londonderry, N. Ir. Ireland

+ Bond, S. W. Land of Nod Nurseries, Thuya Cottage, Petersfield Rd., Whitehill, Bordon, Hants.

Bailey, H. Brackenlea, 396, Sandon Rd., Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Cross, J. E. Box 824, Cutchoque, N. Y. 11935, U. S. A.

Collins, Mrs. M. Inverchapel, by Dunoon, Argyll

Clark, F. W. The Haven, Bridgnorth Rd., Stourton, Nr. Stourbridge, Worcs.

Chumleigh & Dist. Garden Lovers' Society, (Sec. Miss E. L. Chappell, Birds Close, Chawleigh, Chumleigh, N. Devon)

Dudley, H. Windon Birches, Old Woking Rd., Pyrford, Woking, Sy.

Dool van den W. L., Laag-Bozkoop 65, Boskoop, Holland

Edwards, H. J. Cae-Wat, Kiln Lane, Hope Village, nr. Wrexham, Denbighshire, Wales

Evans, T. 382, Clydach Rd., Ynsforan, Swansea, Wales.

Finch, Mrs. M. M. The Long Room, Spaxton, Nr. Bridgwater, Som.

Goff, Col. R. E. C. Heath Cottage, Piltdown, Uckfield, Sussex.

Hahn, C. R., 4400 Walsh St., Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015, U. S. A.

Holmes, Miss J., Iron Latch, The Great Quarry, Guildford, Surrey

Hornung, H. 2223, Meldorf, Bruttstr II, Germany

Heddon, S. 74, Cedar Way, Penarth, Glam. Wales.

Ireson, F. Editor, Garden News, High St., Stamford, Lincs.

Lomax, Miss K. L. The Old Forge, Nash, Presteigne, Radnorshire.

+ Morley, D. A. White Heather Farm, Kames, Tignabruaich, Argyll, Scotland

Martin, R. H. 158, Broadfields Ave., Edgware, Middx.

Maiale Miss J., 251 So. Henderson Rd., King of Prussia, 19406, Penna., U. S. A.

+ Nangle, D. L., c/o Nangles Nurseries, Carrigrohane, Co. Cork, Eire.

Northridge, W. H., New Lodge, Anslow, Nr. Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

Rolland, A. D. Broadoak Coppice, Little Common Rd., Bexhill on Sea, Sx.

Richards, D. A. Rydal Mount, Eskdale, Holmrook, Cumbs.

Robe, Mrs. B. 68, Beatty Ave., Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland

+ Rawinsky, G. B. Primrose Hill Nursery, Haslemere, Surrey

Rawcliffe, J. C. 988, Tyburn Rd., Pye Hayes, Birmingham 24.

Smith, Miss M. E. 16, Hillside, Findern, Derby

Suter, Mrs. M. Ison, Coxtie House, Nr. Brentwood, Essex.

Sanderson, L. 18, Marshall Crescent, Morley, Nr. Leeds

Seppen, G. Burg. R., Nepveulaan II, Putten, Holland

Steele, Capt. R. M. Box 10, Saclant H. Q. Norfolk, Virginia 23511, U. S. A.

Traill, J. M. 17, Campbell St., Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.

Thompson, M. A. 62, Housley Park, Chapelton, Sheffield, 530 4Ue.

Vale T. C. 15, Bankfield Drive, Spondon, Derby

Vigrass, B. W. 41, Newmans Way, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts

Wood, Mrs. S. E. 73, Cheltondale Rd., Solihull, Warks.

Whitaker, W. 6, Highfield Rd., Cowes, I. O. W.

Whicher, L. S. 10, Chanctonbury Chase, Redhill, Surrey.

Wijnhoven, A. L. J. Hoogstraat 65, Wageningen, Holland.

Wilson, G. H., Rallt, Ceunant, Caernarvon, Wales.

89/11/2