



LC. CARDINAL

# *Orchids*

AND

## Tropical Foliage Plants

*Spring 1952*

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**ALBERTS and MERKEL BROS., Inc.**

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New orchid growers can profit from the experience of others by joining the American Orchid Society. This includes a subscription to the Bulletin and a copy of the Yearbook containing names and addresses of all members. (See page 40.)

More detailed information may be found in any one of a number of fine publications now available and every orchid grower should subscribe to as many as possible. They cover all phases of orchid growing around the world. It is advisable to obtain as many back issues of orchid publications as possible as they are a storehouse of knowledge that will save you many costly mistakes. We list a few of the publications on pages 39-40.

About the cost of the plants: They may now be purchased at very reasonable prices. We recommend and list standard varieties for the beginner for trial. (See "Collections" on p. 25.) A single flowering size Cattleya plant may be had for \$7.95 pp. east of the Mississippi (add 25c west of the Mississippi). A single flowering-size Phalaenopsis for \$7.95 pp. east of the Mississippi (add 25c west of the Mississippi). Phalaenopsis can be shipped with flower spike only from October through January.

The above information is intended for general culture of orchids in the home and especially for the Cattleya and allied genera, such as Lc. (Laeliocattleya), Bc. (Brassocattleya) and Blc. (Brassolaeliocattleya). Any special cultural information is given under the individual orchid.

## DECORATIVE AIR PLANTS

### (Bromeliads)

The BROMELIACEAE are one of the most diversified families of plants indigenous to the Americas. The luscious pineapple belongs to this group. Many genera are terrestrial, growing in soil as does the pineapple, while others are epiphytic like many orchids and grow on trees. The air plants, shaped like urns, hold a reservoir of water at the base of the leaves, which allows them to be used as flower vases.

Upon reaching maturity a flower spike will rise from the center of the plant and the inflorescence often lasts several months. Some types flower without a stem, the flowers forming a rosette in the center of the plant similar to an old-fashioned bouquet. After flowering, the main plant will die in about 2 years but new suckers are produced at the base of the plant. These can be potted up when sufficiently developed (3"-6" high).

All will grow in osmunda fibre. Some types will grow satisfactorily in a mixture of leaf mold, sharp sand and German peat. Cup-shaped plants must be filled with water all the time. The compost should also be watered when dry. They can be fed a nutrient solution, such as Wilson's Orchid Fertilizer, once a month. Occasionally shower plants in kitchen sink.





AECHMEA ORLANDIANA



NEOREGELIA HYBRID



AECHMEA FASCIATA



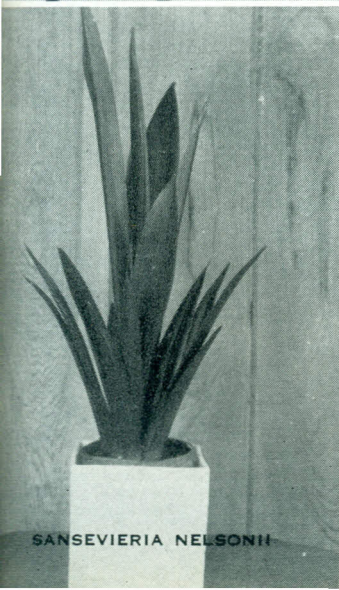
FOSTER'S FAVORITE



CRYPTANTHUS LACERDAE



VRIESIA MARIE



SANSEVIERIA NELSONII



SANSEVIERIA EHRENBURGII



SANSEVIERIA HAHNII



For additional information join The Bromeliad Society and receive their bulletins. \$3.50 a year. Write to Miss Victoria Padilla, 647 S. Saltair Ave., Los Angeles, California.

#### AECHMEA HYBRID "Foster's Favorite"

Striking, highly polished, wine-red leaves with green at base. Deep blue flowers in winter. Flower spike develops berries which last for months. Easily grown. (*See photograph.*)

3" pot size—1.25 each

4" pot size—2.50 each

5" pot size—flowering size (10"-14" high) — 3.50-4.50 each

#### AECHMEA FASCIATA (The Urn Plant)

The leaves are sea-green striated with frosty white. Edges toothed. The flower spike comes in late summer from center of urn with pink bracts interspersed with French blue flowers that turn purple and rose. The flowers last 3-5 months. (*See photograph.*)

3" pot size—1.50 each

4" pot size—3.50 each

#### AECHMEA ORLANDIANA

An exotic Brazilian species flowering in winter with orange flower spike and white flowers. The zigzag mottlings of dark chocolate against the pale green background of the leaf gives a smart effect. Edge of leaf has brown teeth. (*See photograph.*)

3" pot size—1.25 each

4" pot size—3.50 each

#### CRYPTANTHUS BIVITTATUS (ROSEA-PICTA)

A spectacular, star-shaped, prostrate plant with decided stripes and a salmon-rose color. Very attractive to liven up a table in the home.

3" pot size—75c each

#### CRYPTANTHUS LACERDAE (Silver Star)

This is a distinctly new star in plant oddities. The leaf is an emerald-green with a frosty band of white down the center. Being introduced for the first time. (*See photograph.*)

3" pot size—1.25 each

#### NEOREGELIA HYBRIDS (Painted Fingernail)

Green leaves of this rosette-type plant are tipped with red. Blue flowers, generally appearing in spring, remain low in the cup. Can serve as a natural vase when not in flower. (*See photograph.*)

4" pot size—small plants (6"-8" high) ..... 2.00-3.00 each

5" pot size—specimen (8"-10" high; 12"-15" across) ..... 4.50-6.50 each

#### VRIESIA CARINATA HYBRID MARIE (Painted Feather)

A conspicuous plant with its almost flat, feather-shaped spike of bright red and yellow bracts. Leaves solid green. Flowers during winter (six months). Order in early fall to have plant in flower for winter season. (*See photograph.*)

4" pot size—flowering size—7.50 each

Even when not in flower the varied colors and forms of bromeliad foliage make these plants highly prized for decorative purposes.