

In My Garden

Norm Hulands

A SEED SOWING SAGA

While traveling in W. A. in 2017 we came across a very interesting plant *Crotalaria cunninghamii* the green birdflower. There was no seed to be had there or in any shops so when I saw some seed advertised by **Australian Seeds** in late 2019 I thought I should buy some.

The seed arrived with these instructions, pre-treatment: Scarify in hot water. Sow: Depth of seed width. Germination, 10-21 days: @ 18-22 C.

So on the 5th Dec. 2019 I prepared a pot, got some hot water and put in 11 seeds, and when the water was cold I put the seeds on top of the mix and covered with sand to the required depth. After 1 month I dug out a seed and checked its condition. The seed was in perfect condition so it was returned and checked 1 month later and the result was the same. Near the end of April I thought it was time to see what was going on and dug all the seeds out. The seed looked even better than when I planted them, except there were only 5 seeds so it was time for drastic measures .

I got some fine sand paper and got to work trying to get some shine off the seed. Then got some boiling water and put the seed in, and in just 2 hours 2 seeds had more than doubled in size, so these were extracted and placed on the mix and covered with sand. The next morning the other 3 seeds had swollen so they were planted and in 3 days the first 2 started to emerge followed 2 days later by the others. I now have 4 healthy seedlings growing nicely. Now it's wait and see how they go during winter, after which they will be planted out.



Image from Botanic Gardens and Parks WA

Norm has also been having some success with

Telopea speciosissima seed sown directly into the sand base of his heat bed, rather than into pots. The seed is simply buried into the sand in rows, and the sand is kept moist by misting which is used to assist with cuttings. When the seed germinates, and the first true leaf develops, the seedlings are carefully removed and potted. This process avoids damaging other seedlings as can happen in a community pot, and also means that ungerminated seed is not disturbed. **Good thinking Norm.**

Maybe you also have a tale to tell about propagation successes, or failures that others can learn from. Why not put pen to paper, or fingertips to keys, and tell your story.