

## Rooting *Sinningia* leaves 1

Hazel Taylor, the author of the article 'Propagation of *Sinningia* from leaf cuttings' which was featured in the last journal (*CactusWorld* 35(2): 109–110), wishes to point out that in her opinion regarding minimum temperatures, notwithstanding other reported views, below 10°C is risky and below 5°C is asking for trouble when growing this species in the UK.

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Terracotta pots feel cold to the touch when they are still damp. This is how potters know whether the pot is dry enough to put in the kiln. That could be an extra guide for people checking their plants for watering. Stoneware pots and glazed pots are non-porous so have the same problem as plastic pots. I use them mainly for decorative succulent 'gardens' so keep them shallow, therefore less water to dry out.

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## Rooting *Sinningia* leaves 2

Hazel Taylor (2017) documented the rooting of detached leaves of *Sinningia iarae* (Gesneraceae). While I have never previously seen documentation of rooting detached leaves of this species, this phenomenon has previously been documented in *Sinningia* and in many Brazilian members of the Gesneraceae (Kerner & Oliver, 1902 [1895], Naylor & Johnson, 1937, Gorelick, 2015). "The Gesneraceae from Brazil with their splendid flowers, are capable of being propagated with extreme facility and in immense numbers by means of their leaves." (Kerner & Oliver, 1902 [1895]: 41). Old literature contains lots of gems!

### LITERATURE:

Gorelick, R (2015) Why vegetative propagation of leaf cuttings is possible in succulent and semi-succulent plants. *Haseltonia* 20: 51–57.

Kerner von Marilaun, A & Oliver, F W (1902) [1895] *The natural history of plants: their forms, growth, reproduction, and distribution. Volume 2. The history of plants.* Blackie & Son, London.

Naylor, E & Johnson, B (1937) A histological study of vegetative reproduction in *Saintpaulia ionantha*. *American Journal of Botany* 24: 673–678.

Taylor, H V (2017) Propagation of *Sinningia* from leaf cuttings. *CactusWorld* 35(2): 109–110.

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## Killer grit – a response

I was most interested to read the short article on 'Killer grit' in the last journal, *CactusWorld* 35(2):129–130. I am fairly new to growing succulents and I agree that it is hard to tell when the compost is dry although I admit that I do like the appearance of some of the top dressings. I do not grow succulents primarily for the show bench but mainly as decorative plants that can be brought indoors or enhance a garden area in the summer months, and watering is just as important in order to grow the best plants I can.

I am a potter, and make my own pots from clay, some from terracotta that is porous and others from stoneware which is not. I am trying to link these two hobbies and hope to match the clay with the width and depth of the pot to be suitable for the plant it is made for. Quite a challenge!



Fig. 8 *Adromischus cooperi*



Fig. 9 *Echeveria* species with *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop'