

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

*Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

[www.fresnocss.com](http://www.fresnocss.com)

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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July 2017

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno

## PROGRAM: Staging: The Art of Succulent Plant Presentation

By Peter Walkowiak

The art of staging succulent plants is like the Framing of an expensive or prized picture or painting. The frame is the pot, the matting is the top dressing, rocks and other accent pieces and the plant is the painting. There are many aspects to consider when staging a plant, among these is the plant color, form, growth habit, shape, texture. These all determine what pot size, shape and top dressing is best. Color and texture are important on all aspects of a successful framing of your plant. Often the goal is to make it look like it is still in habitat, a little bit of nature in a pot.



In this workshop, I will discuss the process of choosing the pot, top dressing and rocks. Included in this discussion will be the reasons for making the choices that were made. Why this color, texture versus another, why one works while another does not.

**Bio:** My interest in plants started as a child of five, amazed at the beauty of roses and the taste of blackberries right off the vine. As a teenager, I did yard work for neighbors to make some money and I had a vegetable garden. Went to Cal Poly Pomona in 1980 and graduated in 1985 with a degree in horticulture. Have worked for and ran a number of wholesale nurseries before starting a landscape and consultation business. Twelve years ago I started to propagate plants from the collection of plants that had been acquired in the previous 25 years, which led to the current business that has been a part of my lifelong dream, PW Plants, my own nursery.

My fascination with succulent plants started in college, when a friend had this amazing *Bombax ellipticum*. My collection has grown from those early days to well over 1,500 plants. Interests center on the fat plants, caudiciforms, cacti and euphorbias.

*(Continued on next page)*

I am the current President of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society, on the board of the San Diego CSS and CSSA. Show chair for the two shows for SDCSS and the one show for Palomar. Co-chair for the Intercity Show, the largest succulent show in the world. I participate in many other shows in the southwest from Phoenix to Los Angeles.

*Let's give Peter a warm welcome back to our club!*

**PLANTS: Peter will be bringing a nice selection of his plants for purchase.**

~ DINNER ~

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse**  
715 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno (559) 570-1900  
[bjsrestaurant.com/menu](http://bjsrestaurant.com/menu)

**Begins promptly at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Reservation under Fresno**  
**Cactus Club**  
**Members are invited to attend.**

**Contact Rosanna Rojas by**  
**Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> to make**  
**reservations. Phone: (559) 999-0017**  
**Email: [rfrojas@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas@gmail.com)**



**FROM THE PREZ ...**

**Hi, Everyone,**

I hope you and your plants survived the record-breaking heat wave of late June (just winding down as I write this.) It was an ordeal for all of us. Many of my leaf succulents have turned various shades of red or orange, indicating a bit too much sun exposure. A few plants show spots of sun scald. Most of them will green-up again, once the high temperatures abate and the sun's angle changes, but I'm not sure about the scald. That damage may be permanent.

Some club members have reported losing more plants this year than usual, no doubt due to the somewhat abnormal weather pattern we've had: heavy rain, lower than normal temps, then followed by a strong heat wave during which it really didn't cool off at night the way it should. It's easy to make watering mistakes under conditions like these. Live and learn, I guess.

We have a busy several months ahead of us, getting all our "ducks in a row", so to speak, with regard to our Sept. 9-10 Show and Sale. Ann and Robert have contributed information for this newsletter that we should all read and understand. We want you all to be a part of this event. For you newer members, there's no better way to get acquainted than to volunteer to help out in some way. You will have the opportunity to sign up at this meeting.

Our board members are working on Show and Sale details. I want to thank Jim Brummel for agreeing to serve out the rest of Don Winton's term on the board. Don had to resign for personal reasons, but I want to thank him for his service, as well.

Early in June I was notified that long-time (now former) member Larry Carlberg was selling his plants, as he is looking to find an assisted living situation. He told me that, when he moves, he wants the club to have his plants and pots. We will need several trucks, dollies and strong guys when that time comes.

Thanks to everyone at the last meeting for picking up your chair after the program and bringing it to the storage room. It sure helps to get the room squared away, as we usually have to vacuum, as well. I want to thank Susan Cook for making the suggestion. It's a good one.

See you at the meeting,

**Sue**

**Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Board Meeting June 5, 2017**

Called to order at 6:00 by President Sue Haffner. Those present were: Fred Gaumer, Mary Drumheller, Cindy Duwe, Dennis Anderson, Ann Bierbower, Robert Scott, Michele & Craig Roberts, Jim Brummel and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent was Vice-President Rosanna Rojas.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Sue reported that previous long-time club member Larry Carlberg was moving and selling his plants. Those which are left over along with pots will be donated to the club. A pickup truck will be needed to retrieve these items when Larry is ready to give them to the club.

**Vice-President:** Rosanna was not present but Sue reported that the speaker for the July meeting will be Peter Walkowiak.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Affiliate Representative:** Fred discussed the upcoming CSSA Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington June 30-July 2, 2017 and the CSSA convention in Tempe, Arizona July 26-30, 2017 and encouraged members to attend and bring something to show if attending.

**Treasurer:** Robert reported that the club balance as of this date was \$5,772.04.

**Old Business:** Cindy reported on her research into the club obtaining a 501c3 status. There was discussion regarding doing the paperwork ourselves, using an attorney or the services of Legal Zoom.com. which would cost \$250. Cindy had the forms and all the IRS instructions for the group to see. A motion was made by Craig Roberts and seconded by Jim Brummel that Cindy proceed with assistance from Sue to obtain this designation with the option to use Legal Zoom.com if necessary. This motion was passed by acclamation.

**Bus Trip:** The bus trip to the Central Coast show and sale in SLO was successful and enjoyed by all who went. Michele had checks in the amount of \$1020 to present to the treasurer. The total cost of the bus trip was \$1248 with the cost to the club of \$248.

**2017 Show & Sale:**

**Budget:** Ann had a revised budget for members to see. Ann will order 40 tablecloths for the show.

**Advertising:** Robert is going to order a new banner for the club to use for this event and future Events.

**Room layouts:** Work in progress.

**Sales issues - check out procedures:** Robert discussed the use of iPads for check-out and that he would be obtaining an updated Square account which will be chip enabled and will be borrowing iPads to have a sufficient number for the sale.

**Judges:** Sue is in the process of contacting possible judges for the show but has had few responses to her requests so far. Other possible judges were discussed.

**Pots as prizes for show winners:** Ann has spoken with a local potter who will be making nice pots to be given to the show winners at a reasonable cost.

**Venue and dates for next year's show and sale:** Procedures were discussed for obtaining room reservations for next year's show and sale. A different and larger room was the only room available for out June dates and reservations for this room for the 2018 will be made by Ann and Sue.

**Next Board Meeting:** July 10th, same time and location.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 by President Sue Haffner.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**Laverne Cottet (12<sup>th</sup>);**  
**Linda Lopez (15<sup>th</sup>);**  
**Beth Teviotdgle (17<sup>th</sup>);**  
**Burna Gunther (18<sup>th</sup>);**  
**Rosanna Rojas (19<sup>th</sup>)**

#### SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Bud & Gayle Bond, Visalia  
 Jeannette Heinrichs, Fresno  
 Sarah D'Morias, Fresno  
 Denyce Butler, Fresno  
 Beth Teviotdale, Selma (*welcome back*)

**Visitors last month:** Luz Prel, Jourdain Solis,  
 Gloria Wall, Rita Gerard, Cori Aunger

#### COMING EVENTS

**June 30-July 2, CSSA Annual Show & Sale,**  
 Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA;  
 hours, 10-5 each day.

**June 20-22, Orange County C&SS Show & Sale,**  
 Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State  
 College Blvd; hours, 6-8 p.m. (Fri.); 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sat.)

**July 26-30, CSSA Convention, Tempe, AZ.**

**August 12-13, 32<sup>nd</sup> InterCity Show and Sale,**  
 Los Angeles, County Arboretum, Arcadia.

#### BOARD MEETING

**Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>; 6:00 p.m.,**  
**3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno.**

**Any member is invited to attend.**

**We will be discussing show and sale issues.**



#### IRIS SALE

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30 am to 6:30 pm  
 July 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 am to 12:30 pm

Ramona Speer's  
 2626 E. Sierra Avenue, Fresno

Rhizomes: \$5 (ask for free member's rhizome)  
 Potted Iris \$8 (Wide variety)

**JUNE BRAG TABLE:** The following brought plants for display on the Brag Table last month: Fred Gaumer (*Opuntia basilaris*, *Haworthia springbokvlakensis*); Bill Gale (*Sarcocaulon herrei*, *Pelargonium mirabile*, a variegated *Adenium* he grew from seed); Eddie Etheridge (double red *Adenium obesum*); Robert Scott (*Aloe castilloniae*); Dan Gale (*Aloe dichotoma*, *Ariocarpus retusus*, an *Astrophytum*, and what Fred calls "Dan's Box O' Plants", usually showing a number of plants of the same genus—always educational.)

Thanks to all of the above. Don't hesitate to bring in a plant or two that you would like to show off.

**JUNE WORKSHOP:** Hats off to the hardy souls who braved the murderous heat and showed up for the workshop. Bringing plants for show and tell were, Mary Drumheller, Bill Gale, Jack Fleming, Cindy Duwe, Ann Bierbower, Sue Haffner, Dennis Anderson, Eddie Etheridge and Dan Gale. They and others looked at plants in genera beginning with J-K-L (*Jatropha*, *Kedrostis*, *Leuchtenbergia*, *Ledebouria*, *Lithops*, *Lepismium*, *Lobivia*). Also on display were haworthias, euphorbias, mammillarias, a gonolobus, a eulophia in bloom (succulent orchid), *Fockea edulis*, *Dioscorea elephantipes* and others. Jack showed a Fogg-It™ nozzle which sprays a very fine mist, useful for washing spider mites off your plants. He also told us that a hen and her chicks had gotten into his yard and wrecked a bed of *Selaginella* that his wife had spent years in getting established. He chased them out of the yard in one direction but they were soon back. Then he shoed them out the other way and that seemed to work. Dan brought a display of young ariocarpus plants—a tray of seedlings, a box of community pots of clumps of small plants, and a selection of plants potted up in individual pots. He also brought adenium seedlings to give away, as well as Fresno State corn. The July workshop will be Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Betty Rodriguez Library, 3040 N. Cedar; 6 p.m. Plants: those in genera beginning with M and N. Bring any possible show plants for I.D. The rest of us will help you with them.

**The Big Fresno Fair 2017 (Oct 4-15)** is around the corner and club members are urged to show their cacti and succulent collection, be it one or more plants. The first step is acquire the Exhibits Handbook, which will also have the Entry Form, to be mailed to you. This can be done by mailing your request to The Big Fresno Fair, 1121 Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702, or call them at 559-650-3213 or email them at [www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com)

Secondly, members wishing to show their plants should start getting your plants by checking for infestation and having the proper name and classification for your plants; if you don't know bring them to the club meeting (check out our club library) or club workshop to have someone give you the proper name and proper classification, which will be needed on the Entry Form. Lastly, judging scale for your plants are: cultural perfection - 60%, nomenclature - 10%; degree of maturity - 10%, staging - 10%, and difficulty of culture - 10%.

**Rudy Rulloda, Chair**

**2017 FCSS Annual Sale:** The opportunity to be invited to be one of the many club vendors at our annual sale is a benefit of being a FCSS member. Details of being a vendor will be addressed at the next club meeting.

Because there is a selection process involved, you must notify me by email or at the July meeting, July 6 if you want to be a club vendor at this year's sale. You will receive the official invitation to participate by July 17, if there is room for you this year. That will give you plenty of time to prepare your sale items and show plants.

The club is providing a club sales table this year that will have two purposes. The first to offer plants that have been donated to the club by the membership. Members who have extra quality plants or cuttings to donate are highly welcome. As 100% of the profit from these donations go back to the club.

The next purpose is to give an opportunity for club members who are not invited to be vendors a chance to sell a few extra plants. Members will only be allowed to sell up to 10 plants at a time depending on table space and must share the space with other members. All plants, cuttings, planters, or dish gardens must be of reasonable size and are subject to all rules that vendors must adhere to.

If you have any questions about the FCSS annual sale, please contact me. Robert Scott, [rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_scott85@yahoo.com)



Photo: Wikipedia

**HESPERALOE:** As a perennial plant native to the desert Southwest, hesperaloe is a promising new industrial crop for dry areas. Its fiber can be used to replace imported fiber material which is used in the production of high-quality paper, tissue, towel, and napkin products. It can be pulped at one half the cost of imported products. The soils in central Arizona are sandy to sandy loam and subject to wind and water erosion. As a perennial crop providing year-round soil cover, hesperaloe will substantially reduce both wind and water erosion. It is excellent for dry areas because it requires little moisture, thus saving water.

**HYDROGEN PEROXIDE IN THE GARDEN.** Hydrogen peroxide has for a long time been recommended to growers as a means of combating such pests as mealy bugs and fungus gnats. Use 4 parts of water to 1 part of 3% hydrogen peroxide as a spray for mealies, or as a drench for fungus gnats. For more uses see the URL below: [www.using-hydrogen-peroxide.com/peroxide-garden.html](http://www.using-hydrogen-peroxide.com/peroxide-garden.html)

**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu) ; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com) ; Treasurer, Robert Scott, 960-3665, [Rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:Rob_scott85@yahoo.com); Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu) ; Refreshments, Marian Orvis, 226-0145, [mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net) ; Librarian, Madeleine Mitchell, 638-2784, [madeleine43@comcast.net](mailto:madeleine43@comcast.net) ; Webmaster, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com) ; Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net) .

## What Happens At the Show?

by Ann Bierbower

Many of us have been to a plant show, but few have participated. So many questions! Here's some FAQ's to help understand what goes on.

What category am I in? Since this is the first judged show the club has held, almost every member qualifies as a Novice – someone who has shown in a CSSA affiliate show for less than five years. The exception: vendors – who are nursery professionals or who make a substantial amount of their income from plants. One or two members fit this category, and all of our outside professionals will show as Open. Next year, when some members have taken a “Best” award this year, those members will be moved up to Advanced. Members who want to show as Advanced may do, but once Advanced, never a Novice again. The Fresno Fair is not a CSSA affiliate show.

Who does the judging? What happens? Four persons recognized as knowledgeable experts in cacti and succulents have accepted our offer to judge the show. Although they are not “paid”, they do receive an honorarium to compensate them for their travel and meals. There will be a two-person team for cacti classes and another for succulent classes. Each team will have two club member clerks assisting the judges with paperwork and awards. Judging will take place from 8 to 10 am Saturday. During this time, the show room will be closed to everyone except necessary personnel. You may recognize some of our judges: Rob Skillin, Nick Deinhart, David Tufenkian, and Barbara Coelho.

Will my plants be safe? Security for our plants was a prime concern for show management. The show room itself will be kept locked by CVMD except during show hours. Only two members of show management are authorized to have the room locked or unlocked by CVMD. One of the two or more club members who will always be in the room when it is open will be circulating throughout the visitors to make sure posted “Hands Off!” guidelines are followed. Although both doors in the room must be unlocked during use for safety reasons, only one door will be used for entering and leaving the room. Visitors will pass a manned table as they enter and leave, and no purchased plants will be allowed in, or show plants allowed out. When you bring your plant for exhibit (Friday between 4 and 7 pm), you will be only person handling your plant. Immediately after judging, the member clerks will place “Best” winners on the Awards Table, and adjust plant staging on the tables. No one else will move your plant until you pick it up to go home on Sunday between 4 and 6 pm.

I have this nice plant, but I don't know what it is... Bring your unknown plants to next month's workshop where knowledgeable members will help with identification. Knowledgeable members will also be present to help during plant receipt (Friday between 4 and 7 pm). Plants may be submitted under the genera only, as in *gymnocalycium* sp. if the species name is unknown.

My plants aren't in fancy expensive pots... It isn't necessary to have fancy pots. Condition, cultural perfection, size, and maturity are of the most importance, while staging is a minor component of the judging criteria. Plain clay and plastic are acceptable if clean and undamaged. Scrub clay pots with a brush to removed mineral deposits and dirt. The day before the show, wiping the pots with a lightly oiled rag or WD40 will darken the clay and camouflage stains. Scrub plastic pots as well. Vinyl furniture cleaner or 409 will help give a like-new shine.

(Continued on next page)

How should my pots be staged? Choose a pot appropriate to the plant's size and color. Pots should be big enough to fit your thumb between the plant and rim. The soil line should be 1/4"-3/4" below the rim. Use fresh top dressing filled to the rim top. Bigger plants look better with bigger top dressing. Add a rock or three (buried in the top dressing) if you must, but don't add ornaments except in dish gardens. Pick off all spiderwebs and leaves. Absolutely no bugs or disease – your plant will not be accepted for the show. Don't water your plant during the week preceding the show to prevent water stains on the tables.

Can my 12-yr-old son enter the Allied Interests Division? Yes! This is a family class, meaning that any or all members of your family can submit a project. It's a perfect opportunity to do a science project in advance, or explore a topic of interest. Take photos, enter art, make an applied vest or apron. Enter both your name and the family member's so proper credit is given.

Remember, you can submit more than one entry in each class!

### Show and Sale Announcements

We will need about 15 volunteers in the show and sale rooms and kitchen during show hours, plus crews for set-up and take-down. Please sign up or contact Ann Bierbower 907-6861 (shows) or Robert Scott 960-3665 (sale).

Member shopping will be Friday from 7-8 pm. Credit cards only. All purchased plants should go home that evening.

Special deals between club members and vendors are strongly discouraged. Vendors will be asked not to discount and sell plants outside the club's checkout system. Doing so cheats the club, compromises the integrity of our vendors, and devalues the work of all our other members. Don't ask vendors to buy plants outside the checkout system!

Boxes. Shoppers buy more when they have a sturdy box to hold their plants. The ideal box is at least 4" high and 10" long on the short side. No flimsy shoe boxes or milk cartons! Bring your boxes to the July, August, or September meetings or to CVMD during set-up on Friday.

Food. This year we have a real kitchen complete with counters, a huge refrigerator and oven. To keep down club expenses, help us fill them with snacks, entrees, and drinks. Rosanna Rojas is the food chair, and will have a signup sheet at a future meeting. We aim to provide nourishment for all our hardworking volunteers during all the hours we are in the building.

Parking. There is public parking west of the building and across the street. Another CVMD lot is north of the building and has solar covered parking for over 100 cars!

Other events. CVMD has other event rooms that may be use during our show and sale. Please respect the needs of these other users.

Photo of San Luis Obispo Show & Sale.

The pic was from the Succulent Fanatics Facebook page. photographer unknown.



**Can you find 4 FCSS members in this picture?**



### ECHEVERIA DIFFRACTENS

In April of 1978, Dr Alfred Lau set out from his home in Fortin de Las Flores, Veracruz, Mexico, on a seed-collecting trip through the area northeast of Jalapa. On a dirt toll-road near Plan de Las Hayas, he found a deep, chigger-infested canyon to explore. It contained an extensive epiphytic flora, including many orchids and tillandsias. Along the north facing cliffs at the bottom were palms, large colonies of mammillarias, a begonia, an insectivorous plant, a peperomia and an attractive, pink-leaved echeveria. Two years later, Myron Kinnach and Dr Lau returned to the same locality, which had changed drastically. Myron writes, “[F]armers had cleared the land, cutting back or destroying cycads (*Dioon edule*), the palms, trees filled with orchids and bromeliads, even the mammillarias. The echeverias were still there, though less numerous. This activity is continuing rapidly throughout eastern Mexico, with African Kikuyu grass often being planted for pasture in place of natural vegetation, a process sometimes referred to as the Africanization of Mexico. Unfortunately, Kikuyu grass is rampant and invasive and, once established, most difficult to eradicate.

“Our new species, *Echeveria diffractens* (“the shattering echeveria”) is named for its easily detached bracts that fall at the slightest touch.”

The rosette of *E. diffractens* is usually solitary although in cultivation it may form clumps; rosettes are 3 ½ to 4 inches in diameter, 1 ½ inches tall, with 30 to 40 leaves on a stem. Leaves are oblanceolate, light pinkish-gray-violet. Two to six bloom stalks are produced on each rosette, each bearing about 20 orange-yellow flowers.

I grew this plant years ago and found that, yes, the leaves and bloom stalk bracts are very easily detached, rooting wherever they land. In that sense, it’s easy to propagate. Cultivation is not a problem as long as good drainage is provided, though I found *E. diffractens* to be subject to mealy bugs. My main plant grew and bloomed well for several years, then seemed to fall apart. I still have a few pieces of it growing where they fell, in pots with haworthias and gasterias. *Sue*

Reference: Kinnach, M. & Alfred Lau (1981), “*Echeveria diffractens* sp. nov.” *Cactus & succulent journal (U.S.)*53(1), 4-7. (The species name was misspelled in publication; Kinnach subsequently corrected it to *diffractens*.)

Photo: “The Genus Echeveria” (2008), by John Pilbeam.

### THE UPSIDE DOWN CACTUS



If you’ve ever visited the Desert Conservatory at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, you probably remember seeing the upside down cactus, growing through a hole in the bottom of the pot. Here it is, photo-graphed by John Trager in the latest issue of *Cactus & Succulent Journal*. In the background you can see two more, each with its ring of purple-red flowers. Rooted cuttings of the Huntington plant are being offered with this year’s ISI Succulent Introductions.

<http://www.huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/ISI2017/catalogintro.html>

The plant is *Mammillaria spinosissima* ssp *pilcayensis*. It differs from the typical red-spined form of *spinosissima* by having a narrow stem and a sprawling habit. It is native to the state of Guerrero, Mexico, specifically to the Barranca de Pilcaya which extends into the state of Mexico where it is called Barranca de Malinaltenango. Plants hang from cliffs in association with the typical *spinosissima* and display all inter-gradations between the two forms.

John Trager writes: “The subspecies *pilcayensis* is slightly thinner-stemmed but not enough to explain its tendency to sprawl. There is more at play here, namely an apparent lack of negative geotropism that makes more plants grow upward. However, the precise mechanisms that control this phenomenon remain to be researched. The form offered here is particularly reluctant to stand up straight and will soon arch over the edge of the pot and grow horizontally along the greenhouse bench. Louise Bustard, a former horticulturist at Kew and now Education Officer at the Glasgow Botanical Garden, suggested the solution of planting it upside-down through an enlarged hole in the bottom of a hanging pot. This works well when the plant is small and single stemmed with enough of a root ball to hang on, much as it would in its cliff-side habitat. As the plant starts to branch, repotting can present more of a challenge requiring a pot cut in two then wired back together. We had such a branched specimen reach of length of more than a meter with several side branches. It finally collapsed under its own weight when the roots could no longer hold on resulting in the mauling of an unsuspecting and unarmed variegated *Agave attenuata* growing beneath it. It was sentenced to be cut and propagated for future distribution ... “

My own plant, which hangs sharply over the edge of a large clay pot, is about 16 inches long. Its head turns slightly. It appears to be about to pull itself out of the pot, so I think I need to support it at its growing end. *Sue*