

Desert Plants

A journal devoted to broadening knowledge of plants indigenous or adapted to arid and sub-arid regions, and to encouraging the appreciation of these plants.

Margaret A. Norem, editor

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Editorial

Desert Plants in Transition. *Desert Plants* was first published in August, 1979 by The University of Arizona in conjunction with the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Over the years the relationship between these two institutions has continued to prosper. The idea for this journal was first suggested by Dr. R.P. Upchurch who has been involved with the journal since its inception. Under Dr. Frank Crosswhite's editorship, *Desert Plants* has developed as a journal true to the objectives stated in his first editorial: "*Desert Plants* is intended to be a semi-technical journal of interest to layman and professional alike. It is hoped that it will faithfully chronicle the academic and research activities at the Arboretum while serving as an effective medium of information exchange among individuals and institutions with an interest in similar activities."

Time brings change and *Desert Plants* is undergoing transition beginning with this issue. After thirteen years as editor, Dr. Crosswhite has stepped down. As the new editor of *Desert Plants*, I would like to gratefully acknowledge Dr. Crosswhite's efforts in building this publication. In addition to editing this journal, Dr. Crosswhite contributed many fine articles. I hope that future issues will contain his writings as well. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Dr. Carol Crosswhite and thank her for all of her contributions to *Desert Plants*.

The main criteria for journal articles will still be their focus on some aspect of desert plants ecology, horticulture, landscape architecture, morphology, and physiology. Histories of desert regions and desert plant scientists will still be pertinent. The journal will continue to chronicle research and development at the Arboretum through contributions from Arboretum researchers.

The format of *Desert Plants* is expected to remain the same, although thanks to computer technology, the actual production of the journal will change significantly. I am indebted to Robert Casler for his assistance in indoctrinating me to desktop publishing. As the new editor of *Desert Plants*, my objective is to produce a high quality journal in a timely and cost effective manner. Due to funding constraints, *Desert Plants* will be published on a biannual basis in 1994. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume quarterly publication in 1995. I would like to thank the loyal subscribers for their support. With your continued support, I look forward to many years of producing *Desert Plants*.

A few words from Dr. William Feldman, Managing Director, Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. With this issue of *Desert Plants* the end of one proud era is signalled and the start of another begins. For thirteen years Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum Curator of Botany, Dr. Frank Crosswhite, served with great distinction as the editor of *Desert Plants*. Frank Crosswhite's services as editor have certainly been a labor of love.

With the help and support of his loyal life partner, Dr. Carol Crosswhite, Frank Crosswhite single-mindedly and almost single-handedly willed each issue of this unique journal into being. The body of work that has resulted represents a lasting personal and institutional legacy. To our retiring editor, a heartfelt thanks for a job well done. To our new editor, Dr. Margaret Norem, best wishes for a successful editorship of this fine journal.