

# *Cephalotus Follicularis*

## Albany Pitcher Plant

The Albany Pitcher plant is a native to the southern part of Western Australia where it grows on exposed areas of ground or in moderate vegetation. The traps are pitfall type and they specialise in capturing small and mostly ground dwelling insects. The plant has two phases of growth. In the spring non-carnivorous leaves are produced. Later in the season the plant will switch to pitcher production. It is thought that this is an adaptation to local conditions when insects only appear later in the growing season.

The plant will flower producing a tall flower scape bearing small white flowers. If pollinated the plant will produce seed which can be sown to produce new plants.

Although plants can be grown from seed they can take many years to reach maturity. The preferred methods of propagation are leaf cuttings or to split a mature plant. The non-



*Cephalotus follicularis* Walpole, Western Australia  
Copyright Allen Lowrie



*Cephalotus follicularis* – Showing inflorescence  
Copyright Allen Lowrie

carnivorous leaves can be partially inserted into a pot of suitable compost and kept moist. The leaves will eventually produce roots and then new leaves and pitchers. It can take quite a long time before you get new growth but good sized plants can be produced in a couple of years—less with artificial heat and light.

Cultivation is relatively straightforward in a mixture of two parts by volume peat to one part sharp sand or perlite. Coir may be a potential alternative or part substitute to peat for *Cephalotus*, but as yet is unproven (see “Growing without Peat” Care Sheet). A range of other more complex mixes appear to work equally well and their recipes can be found in cultivation books available to growers.

Watering should be done by the tray system with the pots standing in a few centimetres of water during the growing season. In winter the plants enter a state of dormancy so watering should be reduced, keeping the compost only slightly moist.

The Albany Pitcher grows well in sun or bright shade. Pitchers tend to be larger in shade grown plants but are more colourful when grown in full sun. A minimum temperature of 5°C is recommended and some glasshouse heating is required to keep them frost free.