

# THE HERALD

Brugmansia Growers International  
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## Once Bitten...

By Teresa Myszkowski



I got the bug in 2004 when I purchased my first Brugmansia 'Sunset'. I drove home with this 5 foot plant in my little car... fearing, all the way, that a flower may fall off. It was a stressful drive. I took this plant home and

positioned it about a hundred different ways on my back deck to be sure I had the right angle to display its blooms. I was definitely in love with it.

Now I have well over 100 Brugmansia in various stages... seedlings, cuttings and plants. Miss Caylie x Gennevie was my very first seedling that produced something lovely, but lacked colour. Volker's seeds produced this lovely little bloom, but again, it lacked colour. Who knows... maybe it'll happen this year.

## I Hate to Nag....

By Joelle Dewhurst



But remember to tag, tag, tag, your plants. They say the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, well if that's true it is also littered with lost tags!

How many times have you said you would tag your plant later? Only to forget and end up with another beautiful NOID! I don't know why I procrastinate on this one very important step...laziness...busy....DISORGANIZED,

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Once Bitten	1
I Hate to Nag...	1
The Traveling Seed Box	2
New Brugmansia Cultivar Names	2
Fungus Gnats	4
Pollinating the Cold Group	5

Winters are tough, as my plants are over-wintered in the hallway, living room, garage, spare bedroom and anywhere that I can slip in a plant or two. One can be pretty creative in finding spots to overwinter these lovelies. Inca Sun is blooming now and I find it to be a very desirable plant. It seems to be pest-free and very hardy for me here.

I've been encouraging people that express an interest in Brugmansia to join BGI. I also mention the trial membership. A very happy 2011 Brugmansia growing season to everyone!

or all of the above! It is so important to get good quality tags, a permanent marker and to keep strict records of your plants and hybridized crosses. I know many people that also write right on the larger plants trunks, wish I could remember to do that too! Is it too late for a New Years resolution? I say no.... and I PROMISE to stake and label every plant this year. Last year I went off my diet January sixth, I hope this years commitment lasts a little longer.

## The Traveling Seed Box

By Mary Voss

On 12/13/2006 the seed box post was started and it really took off. The box has traveled for almost 5 years now. It started out as a small box with a few seed packs and has grown to quite a sizable traveler.

There are many BGI members participating in the Seed Box Travel. Maggidew was our first recipient of the seed box. The box has traveled through the group numerous times and is still traveling.

When it is your turn, you take what you want out of the box, then put in your contributions. You



then pack and ship to the next person on the list. This has been one of the oldest traveling boxes. It is exciting to think just how long it will continue to travel.

Let's get some new ideas for other traveling boxes and start a new one. Let's keep it traveling.

## New Brugmansia Cultivar Names

Brugmansia Growers International would like to announce the following new cultivar names for new cultivars in the genus Brugmansia.

New Cultivar Name: *Brugmansia* 'Hurstwood Hannah'

- \* Color: Very Dark Pink/Red/Burgundy
- \* Flower Position: Nodding
- \* Flower Form: Single
- \* Pod Parent: Rosa Lila x Wildfire 7
- \* Pollen Parent: Mystic Fire
- \* Species/Breeding History Set: arbovulsa
- \* Hybridizer or Introducer: Alan Ashworth
- \* Seedling Parent: Alan Ashworth
- \* Noteworthy Characteristics: Incredible colour. Perfect form. Blooms on a short stem. Easy to root. Fast grower.



*Hurstwood Hannah*

New Cultivar Name: *Brugmansia* 'Sister Bertrille'

- \* Color: White/Cream
- \* Flower Position: Nodding
- \* Flower Form: Single
- \* Pod Parent: Pink Panther
- \* Pollen Parent: unknown
- \* Species/Breeding History Set: cubensis
- \* Hybridizer or Introducer: Wayne Carter
- \* Seedling Parent: Wayne Carter
- \* Noteworthy Characteristics: Large, single pure white blooms, long upward facing tendrils, strong healthy tall upright grower.



*Sister Bertrille*

New Cultivar Name: *Brugmansia* 'Mea Culpa'

- \* Color: Orange
- \* Flower Position: Nodding
- \* Flower Form: Single
- \* Pod Parent: Pink Panther
- \* Pollen Parent: unknown
- \* Species/Breeding History Set: cubensis
- \* Hybridizer or Introducer: Wayne Carter
- \* Seedling Parent: Wayne Carter
- \* Noteworthy Characteristics: Large single deep orange blooms, Long upward facing tendrils, Strong, healthy, tall, upright grower



*Mea Culpa*



New Cultivar Name: *Brugmansia* 'Hurstwood SaFire'

- \* Color: Lilac/Purple
- \* Flower Position: Nodding
- \* Flower Form: Single
- \* Pod Parent: Sanguinea
- \* Pollen Parent: Mystic Fire
- \* Species/Breeding History Set: vulsa
- \* Hybridizer or Introducer: Alan Ashworth
- \* Seedling Parent: Alan Ashworth



*Hurstwood SaFire*

## Fungus Gnats

By JT Sessions

Fungus gnats are those tiny flies we sometimes see flying around our potted plants. They are a nuisance but not a serious threat to mature plants. The larval stage feed primarily on fungi, decaying organic matter and plant roots so keep plants clean of fallen leaves and debris. Their main damage is to immature plant roots and feeder roots. This can be deadly to small seedlings and seeds as they are sprouting.

The life cycle is as follows;

eggs.....4-6 days  
 larvae.....12-14 days  
 pupa .....3-6 days  
 adult.....7-10 days

This information is an important aid in controlling the pests for we must kill the adults and interrupt the cycle of the other stages. The easiest way to do this is to dust the surface with an insecticide that will last for several days. Couple that with some yellow sticky cards and you can get both adults and the emerging young. Yellow sticky cards are attractive to adults and can be purchased at most garden supply houses. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (bT) is an organic control that will kill the larval stage. Any insecticide with pyrethrins will kill all stages except the eggs. These are organic controls and are safe to use around pets and children. For non organic control Sevin dust, on the soil surface, works well. It gets the emerging adults and prevents the existing adults from laying eggs. For practical purposes fungus gnats are a threat only to young plants and seedlings. Control is important but they are much less a threat than mites, grasshoppers and caterpillars.

## Pollinating The Cold Group

By Dana Thompson

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Since I have so much fun pollinating flowers, I thought I would share what works the best for me for successful pods on the cold group. First, pick the flower you're going to pollinate and decide what you want to cross it with. I think plant health, color, tendril length, scent and "wow, that might be weird" when making my selection. Have all of your tools for pollinating ready before you begin. A wooden cracker barrel cheese crate is what I have used to keep my tools all rounded up. I get out a pollen collection tube, small scissors, a label for the flower I am pollinating, a toothpick, a cotton swab and the pollen I am going to pollinate with.

Before you pollinate the flower, remove the anthers if you are going to. This way you won't get any of the pollen you are going to use combined with the pollen you are harvesting. This is an excellent time to gather up much appreciated pollen for our pollen bank! To remove the anthers, slide your pollen collection tube up over the anthers. I use micro centrifuge tubes, which are easy to obtain online. Then use small scissors to cut the anthers off, being very careful not to cut the style or the stigma. Once you've removed the anthers, mark the pollen container with the name of the plant it was taken from. It needs to be dried before you close it up so that it doesn't mold or mildew. Since the humidity here usually runs a little high, I use a dehumidifier for a boat called Dri-Z-Air to dry my pollen. The crystals are calcium chloride, which is a non-toxic inorganic salt product. I keep that inside a large tupperware-type container that keep additional moisture (and cats) out while the pollen dries. I leave it to dry for at least a week, but usually closer to two weeks.

Now you are ready to pollinate. You can use a number of means to put the pollen on the stigma, but I like to cut the side off a toothpick which gives me a flat surface to pick up and distribute the pollen. Wipe the pollen gently across the stigma – you can see the pollen grains which stick. If you have bees or birds which might carry pollen from other flowers to the one you've just pollinated, wrap a piece of tape or a rubber band around the bottom of the flower to protect the stigma from further introduction of other pollens. Always mark the flower you've just pollinated with a tag. I forget quickly what cross I've just made, so I make sure I do that immediately before I move on to the next flower. I like to repeat the pollen application at least two to three times in two days – usually in the evening and then again the next morning and evening.