

21. GLASS HOUSE 3.



This glass house has two large benches for potted plants and a very big rectangular raised bed in the middle. At present one of the benches is used for plants of *Mesembryanthemaceae* Family. There is a fairly representative collection of *Lithops*, and small representation of a few other species. The location of the bench in this glass house with practically an opaque roof has been a great deterrent in expanding this collection. Still there are a few plants *Faucaria*, *Delosperma*, *Pleiospilos*, *Cheiridopsis* and *Lampranthus*. Recently we have imported seeds of other succulent genera,

and some of the seedlings are showing robust growth. Due to bad light most of the plants show etiolating and are getting deformed. To overcome this difficulty a small glass house is under construction to house this collection.

The other large bench is used for mixed collection of smaller growing members of *Agavaceae* Family. There is a small collection of *Gasterias*. The remaining space is occupied by several other succulent species.

The large bed in the middle is used as a landscaped feature of various succulents and a few cacti. This space has been used to raise plants from cuttings of *Adenia globosa*, and *Adenia spinosa* as well.

22. Glass House 4, MAMMILARIA.



This glasshouse is used for botanical collection of Genus *Mammillaria*. This garden has a very comprehensive collection of this genus. During the earlier stages of the development of this garden, ALFRED LAU, famous explorer of Cacti of Mexico and South America

visited this garden twice. In Mexico he had done extensive field work. *Mammillaria* and *Echinocerei* plants were his special interest. We were lucky to procure field collected seeds of these genera from him. The plants grown from these seeds are now robust specimens. As a result of generous help from ALFRED LAU, the *Mammillaria* collection in this garden contains practically 75% of the described species. DAVID HUNT of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, has done monumental work to understand the concept of this large genus. His classification of this genus has been adopted in raising this botanical collection. In this glass house there is one large 6.5 meter x 1.5 m. bench for pot plants of this genus. There is a large 6m x 1.2m raised bed also for the bedded collection of this genus. At least two plants of each species are maintained, one as a pot plant and another in the raised bed. There is one large about 4.76m x 2.5 m central raised bed. Grafted plants of some of the difficult growing species, and surplus plants for our sales section are grown here. Plants of all Subgenera and Sections are very well represented in this collection. To maintain *Mammillaria candida* plants in the field collection is a problem due to attacks of white ants. Indoor in this glass house and elsewhere we have very large specimen plants. *Mammillaria beneckeii* and its forms do much better as field plants than indoors. Same holds good of sub-genus *Dolichothele*. Some good groups can be grown in cases which get plenty of sunlight.



Three species of *Cochemea* in this garden do quite well as indoor and outdoor landscaped plants. *Mammillaria senilis* growth has been a problem due to lack of light. The Series *Longiflorae* is well represented with the presence of all the described species. Glowering of plants on own roots has been a problem. As grafted plants some of these species flower profusely.

In Series *Ancistracanthae*, some of the species have been difficult to grow. We had no long-term success with *Mammillaria tetrancistra*, *Mammillaria barbata*, *Mammillaria viridiflora*, *Mammillaria zephyranthoides* and a few other species from very arid localities. Now we are growing them again from seed.

Section *Subhydrochylus* and Section *Mammillaria* have very good representation. Most of the plants under these sections do extremely well in the outdoor *Mammillaria* collection on Rockery No III, described earlier.

Every year we are trying to procure seeds of species not in our collection to enhance this collection. In all aspects, the *Mammillaria* collection in this garden is the best with some very good specimen plants.

