

TELEPHONE: B 0657
(14 LINES)

NEWS DEPT.: FA 7701
(10 LINES)

CABLE AND TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ABCOM," SYDNEY.

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
"BROADNEWS," SYDNEY.

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION

264 PITT STREET,

SYDNEY.

G.P.O. BOX 487. SYDNEY.

REFERENCE 517/218/278.

27th April, 1961.

Mr. G. Reber,
c/o C.S.I.R.O.,
Stowell Avenue,
HOBART, TASMANIA.

Dear Mr. Reber,

Thank you for your letter to "We're Asking You". I have much pleasure in enclosing a copy of the answer given by Mr. R. H. Anderson. The answer was to the question: Do vines always climb round trees in an anti-clockwise direction?

Yours sincerely,



C. V. J. MASON,
Acting Director of Talks.

Most vines move in an anti-clockwise direction, but some turn clockwise. Many people think that vines in the southern hemisphere have the opposite movement to vines in the northern hemisphere, but this is incorrect.

Incidentally some people even maintain that the tails of pigs have the same characteristic. I can't comment on that one.

Accurate observers have established the point that the movements of vines do not change according to the hemisphere in which they grow. Once anti-clockwise always anti-clockwise is the general rule, although like most rules there are some exceptions.

One species of *Polygonum* often changes its direction.

A botanist in New Zealand studying the movement of vines found that the various species of beans had the same movement as in the northern hemisphere.

The majority of vines move anti-clockwise, but some such as Hops, Honeysuckle and Wisteria favour the clockwise movement.

Although the one species always - or almost always - twines the one way different species in the same genus may have different movements. There is a tropical genus - *Dioscorea* - which contains one group of species which climb clockwise and another group which favours the anti-clockwise movement. This character is so constant that it is used as a basis for the separation of the species into two groups.
