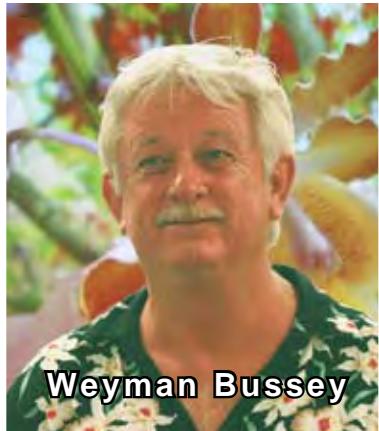


May 2012

Volume 7 Issue #5

CLUB NEWS



Weyman Bussey

May 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 56 people present, including 8 guests and welcoming new members Preston Kavanagh and Eileen Chrzanowski. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. Gail Marshall told us that all members were well and reminded those whose birthdays are in May to pick up an extra raffle ticket from Christie. Jeannette reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table, dropping your choice in the silver box so Dick Roth can announce the winner at the break.

SAOS Club Business. By mid-month, the membership list will be updated for the current membership so if you have not renewed your membership, your name will be taken off the membership list.

The Keiki Club met at Sue and Terry's house this past Sunday and had a wonderful time mounting all kinds of orchids. The next meeting of the Keiki club will be May 27 from 1-3 pm at Sue and Terry's. The program will be questions and answers from members. This is a grand time for new growers to learn and get to know the other members, never mind seeing Sue's gorgeous greenhouse!

We always have potting supplies and fertilizer on sale at meetings and at Hagan Ace from 9 am to 1 pm on the first Saturday of the month.

Fred Keefer is having his Spring Open House on Sunday, May 6 at his home. The cost of going is a donation of food goods for the Hastings food bank. Go and enjoy the camaraderie and orchids!



Penny Halyburton showed us a few books she had brought and suggested that members come over and see them.

Orchid Events. Events around the state can be found on the SAOS website. This month, Volusia County will be having their orchid show at the Volusia Fair Grounds and the Redlands International Orchid Festival will be held in Homestead, Florida.

Program. Our speaker for the evening was Weyman Bussey of Stuart, Florida. He brought wonderful plants for sale including many inexpensive seedlings. The seedlings were grown in plug trays with the floral substance oasis as a potting medium. This substance should be removed from around the roots before you pot up these seedlings.

He has lived in Mexico on and off for most of his adult life. He showed us that the top half of Mexico was not at all conducive to growing orchids, but the area below the Tropic of Cancer becomes quite tropical and is a wonderful place to grow all kinds of orchids. He showed us many species and genera of orchids, native to the region. His slides were outstanding.

His motto is "Orchids are people, too!" and describes the growing of orchids in a brochure which he passed out to everyone present. He feels that even orchids have WANTS and goes on to explain that the "W" stands for water! When you water your orchids, don't do it in 30 seconds. Do it slowly over a period of 30 minutes, like rainfall. If you water



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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

May

- 4-6 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Festival
Kiwanis Island Park Gym and Annex
5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
6 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House
Orchids, Food and Libations, 1 to 4 pm
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings
6 JOS Picnic
3611 Richmond St. Jax, 32205
12-13 Volusia County Orchid Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
18-20 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
27 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Questions and Answers
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

June

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids
Bifoliate Cattleyas
12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
24 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Repotting Phalaenopsis
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

July

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Summer Orchid Auction
7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



quickly, the plant does not have time to absorb as it should. Apply your fertilizer with the water, but not when you're just dumping the water in. He calls that "refreshing" your plants. Do not use house water with chlorine in it and never use distilled water as it adds nothing! When the weather is cooler, you should water less. You should water heavily in the spring as the plants start to grow again and maintain a high humidity.



"A" stands for air movement. All Mexican species need air movement to help them produce oxygen during the day and to do this, they require carbon dioxide. The exchange is continuous day and night and without air movement, it won't happen!

"N" stands for nutrition, feeding. He feeds once a week, but on bright, hot sunny summer days he may do it more often. He uses soluble fertilizer and adds Superthrive to every feeding from March to September. He recommends watering before fertilizing which will break the surface tension on the surface of the roots and leaves, and allows the fertilizer water to absorb more easily! You might consider using the bomb, a mixture of fertilizer Superthrive and grain alcohol, check out his handout for the formula.

"T" stands for temperature. Orchids are sensitive to both cold and hot. A temperature below 50 can injure orchids causing a cessation in growth and adversely affect flowering.

"S" is for Sunlight. Vandals and Cymbidiums can tolerate 30-50% shade, Cattleyas will tolerate 55-73% shade. Phals and Paphs need 80-90% shade.

He recommends trying out several kinds of media before you decide what the plants you grow do best with. Each grower has different needs and your media will help you to grow the best plants for YOU.

Show Table and Raffle: Following the lecture and break, Dick announced that the Dendrobium aggregatum var. majus grown by Bill Gourley was chosen best on the show table.

Thanks to Watson Realty and Jeanette Smith for the use of their meeting space at 3505 US 1 South



CLUB NEWS

June 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Ruben Sauleda, Bifoliate Cattleyas

Ruben Sauleda of [Ruben in Orchids](#) will return to St. Augustine to talk about bifoliate cattleyas at the June 5 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Ruben's talk addresses the different species of bifoliate cattleyas, those cattleyas with two leaves that tend to bloom so well during the summer heat. Ruben will discuss these species, their color forms and specific culture.



Do You Have Your SAOS Window Decal Displayed?



If Not, Visit SAOS Website or Facebook for Installation Instructions.

Have You Paid Your 2012 Dues?

The membership renewal period is January through March. We'll be updating our 2012 SAOS roster in mid May to reflect current membership. You don't want to miss receiving the SAOS Happenings and Newsletter or any of the SAOS events. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. If you haven't renewed your membership, you can send your membership check to SAOS c/o Treasurer Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.



May 27 Keiki Club Questions and Answers

The Keiki Club meeting for orchid beginners will be on Sunday, May 27 from 1 to 3 pm. We'll have a question and answer session. SAOS members will be available to answer any orchid questions you may have. Feel free to bring any orchids you have questions about. Guests and visitors are always welcome. Bring a folding chair. We'll meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct. in St. Aug 32086](#). Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



CLUB NEWS

April 29 Keiki Club

Outside of the Pot



Lola Stark & her freshly mounted Cattleya

About 20 new and familiar faces came to the April Keiki Club meeting where we discussed growing orchids outside the pot. We grow orchids in pot to contain the plant and the roots as well as allow the plant to retain more water in the potting mix of choice. In nature, orchids are often epiphytic growing in trees with the roots searching out sources of water and attaching the plant to a fixed surface. Orchids can be grown outside the pot as long as you diligently provide enough water to the plant, which may require daily watering.

There are many ways to grow outside the pot. Baskets are an excellent choice, whether you use slotted wood baskets, wire baskets or plastic baskets, either with potting media or bare root. If you use potting media, a piece of screen or plastic fencing can be used to line the bottom to retain the potting mix. Orchids grown in baskets are halfway between growing in a pot and growing on a mount because they may not have to be watered daily if there is potting mix yet the additional air movement in the basket is great for the orchid roots.

Orchids can be grown on mounts with many choices of shape and material, all of which will help determine how frequently you will have to water your plant. Tree fern slabs will hold more water than a cedar slab and thus require less frequent watering. Most other mounted orchids will probably require daily watering, at least during the summer growth season.

Then we had a free for all where many cattleya cuttings and different types of orchid mounts were available. Terry Bottom was busy with the staple gun a la George Hausermann to attach the plant to the mount. New growth was oriented close to the mount so the new roots will grow directly onto the mount. A little sphagnum moss was placed over the roots and tied in place with nylon stockings to allow the plant to transition to life outside the pot. Everyone had fun selecting and attaching their new orchid to the mount, and we'll see who'll be the first to bloom their orchid and bring it to the Show Table!



Dick Roth & his newly mounted Cattleya

Redlands International Orchid Exhibit

May 18 through May 20

Hold onto your hats! The best orchid show of the year is coming up later this month: the Redlands International Orchid Exhibit held at the Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead. There are over 50 orchid vendors from all over the world who bring in the most unusual plants, plants you won't find in the big box stores or many other orchid shows. If you only go to one orchid show, this would be the one!



INSPIRATION

2012 Redland International ORCHID FESTIVAL



"America's
Favorite
Orchid
Festival"



Presented by
**REDLAND ORCHID
FESTIVALS, INC.**

May 18th-20th
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission \$10.00

www.redlandorchidfestival.org

REDLAND FRUIT & SPICE PARK

24801 S.W. 187th Avenue, Homestead, Florida

Featuring 60 Internationally Acclaimed Orchid Growers and Lecturers from around the World and the U.S.

To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance) call 305-735-7848.



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for May

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
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Dept. Biology, Univ. North
Florida

Paphs and phrags are largely terrestrial plants, which require more constant moisture. They have roots that do not have the hard protective covering found on epiphytes.

Let these orchids sit bare-root for any length of time and the roots dry up and die. You can imagine my surprise when an experiment with a paph planted in lava rock yielded fantastic growth and flowers. Admittedly, the experiment was initially done because I am lazy and did not want to repot my paphs every year. Most paphs are grown in some kind of bark mix that holds more moisture, which is ideal for their fine roots. As terrestrial plants, they do not need roots that will survive the drying that epiphytes experience. Unlike some orchid groups, paphs and phrags can grow very fast under the right conditions, i.e. good light and nutrients.



It is the acidity that comes from decomposing bark that causes problems for paphs and phrags. The slow release type of dolomite lime lasts longer, but needs to be added every month or so depending on the pH of your water. Most paph species naturally grow in limestone outcrops or soils derived from limestone, so the addition of the extra calcium and magnesium found in dolomite lime is beneficial to the paph as well as a pH buffer.

Being basically lazy, my approach is to avoid organic media and use lava rock. Lava rock holds water and grows paphs and even phrags well as long as adequate fertilizer is applied. I put larger lava rocks in the bottom of the pot, $\frac{1}{2}$ -1" and smaller ones on top, depending on the pot size. My large paphs are in 6" deep plastic pots where 1-2" lava rock goes on the bottom. Even here in Florida where water is very basic, it is necessary to add dolomite lime. If you use an organic medium, follow the same procedure, except use plastic peanuts for drainage at the bottom and be aware that organic media can sour quickly. The only modification I have made since I began using lava rock 8 or 9 years ago is the addition of 10% or so of lime rock to the lava rock. I try to match the size of the lava rock when I add lime rock.

The only issue that results from growing large paphs in lava rock is that old growths and their roots eventually decay, producing the acid conditions around roots that can cause problems. Sometimes, a sterile cutting tool can be used to simply cut the old growth from new growths. If done when the orchid is wet the old roots will come out with the old growth, removing a source of decaying organic matter. A jet of water directed at the hole where the old growth was removed will get most of the decaying roots out. I also put a teaspoon of dolomite lime in the hole and cover it with new lava rock.

The only other issue so far with lava rock medium is the plant pushing up and out of the pot. As new roots fill the pot they seem to push the whole plant out and up. It does make it easy to move the whole plant, roots rocks and all into a new pot, but my goal is to not repot.



Most expert paph growers repot these orchids at least annually, but there are ways of extending the time between repotting besides growing them in some rock mixture. If your paphs are potted in an organic mix, a simple approach that will extend the time between repotting is to spray a fine jet of water into the top of each pot to wash away the fine products of decay. Often, what are left are larger particles of bark, perlite and charcoal. Once all of the fine material is washed out, add some additional bark on the top and dress with pelletized dolomite lime on the surface to raise the pH of the medium. If the paph just falls from the pot at this time, it needed repotting anyway.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

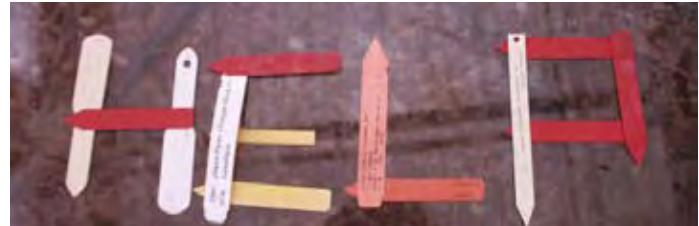
by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I acquired a zygotepetalum from a co-worker. I have no idea what the roots looks like. The mix appears to be super fine almost like soil and I do not know when it was re-potted last. Anyway, my thoughts are to re-pot this orchid ASAP into a new mix.



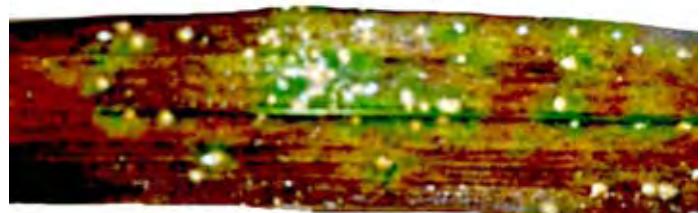
A. Trust your instincts Luke! Most definitely the plant need to be repotted, that bark is rotting and turning into 'soil' and when the potting mix rots, the roots will rot. Knock it out of the pot, if the roots are dark and soft, they're rotting. You can try to revive the plant by potting it in a small pot in sphagnum moss until the root growth resumes, then you can move it into a larger pot with your mix of choice.

Q. Is the Doctor in? What is wrong with this plant and what do I do about it? Poor old thing, it flowers again and again but the leaves look bad.



A. That is sunburn on your phal. You can cut off the damaged part of the leaf with a sterile razor blade and move it into a shadier spot.

Q. My orchid plant has developed small, round, fuzzy spots on the leaves and then the leaves turn brown and die. Could this be an insect even though it has been kept inside? Is it treatable?



A. That is scale in the crawler or juvenile stage. You can physically remove them with a hose end spray set to flat and water blast them off or put a spray nozzle in an isopropyl alcohol bottle and spray the leaves to kill the scale. Contact insecticides like Malathion or Orthene can be used but probably require 2 or 3 treatments. The Bayer imidacloprid products can be used as a spray or a drench (water the plant with the insecticide solution) and they are systemic so will have a longer lasting impact. This [spreadsheet](#) contains application rates.

Q. How can I easily mix up my water soluble fertilizer to apply to my orchids?

A. Use an Ortho sprayer to apply fertilizer, pesticide or fungicide to your orchids. It's simple to use if you remember that the total number of ounces in the sprayer



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CULTIVATION

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divided by the application rate in oz/gallon will equal the total number of gallons that you will make. Say you want to make 2 gallons of pesticide to spray on your orchids. You will add the pesticide from the label instructions for 2 gallons of water. Then use the highest dilution rate, say 8 oz per gallon, set by turning the red dial to 8 oz. You'll spray 8 oz/gal for a total of 2 gallons, so you'll fill with water to the 16 oz line on the side of the sprayer (8 ounces/gallon times 2 gallons equals 16 ounces). If you use a dedicated sprayer for fertilizer application, you can just make up the solution and spray until the solution is gone. Say you want to fill the solution up to the 32 oz line in the sprayer and you want to use an application rate of 4 oz per gallon. You will add the fertilizer for 8 gallons of solution (32 oz divided by 4 oz/gal equals 8 gallons). If you apply fertilizer at $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp/gallon, you would add 2 tsp of fertilizer, fill with water to the 32 oz line, turn the dial to 4 oz/gal and then go feed your orchids!

Q. My orchid sends up a stem and the tip end develops this sticky dew that eventually causes the stem to rot and die. The last time it happened, it killed the whole plant. What am I doing wrong?



A. The dew is simply plant sap, the sugary liquid the plant uses as fuel. Sometimes an exuberantly growing plant will exude the honey dew. Sometimes, however, there is some insect that has pierced the plant to suck the dew from it, like scale or mealybugs. Look closely at your plant to see if you see any white blobs anywhere, on the flower stem, between leaves, etc. If you find any, you can wipe them away with a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol. The exudation of dew in and of itself should not harm your plant, but insects feeding on it will.

Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from March through November, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug, 9 am until 1 pm.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in May

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants. Recycle your clay or plastic pots; first soak in a water-detergent mix and scrub away salts and algae then soak in a 10% bleach solution (with Physan or 10% pool algaecide at 2 tsp/gal). Heat sterilize clay pots in a 350F oven for an hour or two to eliminate virus particles. Sterilize wire products too. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

Cattleyas. Get a head start on dividing cattleyas by severing the rhizome in whole or in part (at a point where you will have 3 to 5 pseudobulbs per division) with a sterile tool while the plant is still in the original pot. The new growths will emerge weeks later at which point you can finish repotting using a rhizome clip to secure the divisions. Continue feeding cattleyas with a dilute fertilizer solution with each watering and flush with fresh water monthly.



Cymbidiums. Finish repotting these elegant orchids if they are bursting out of the pot. If the medium is in good condition, you may be able to move the plant from one container to another with the addition of a small amount of medium and not disturb the roots. Keep the pots moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plant into brighter light.



Paphiopedilums. This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers. Prepare a fresh terrestrial mix (say 85% bark, 10% peat and 5% charcoal). Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. The single flowered types should be in shade though the multiflorals like more light. Keep root zone moisture levels high (though Brachypetalum types generally like drier conditions).

Phalaenopsis. Repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots and cut the roots back to about 2/3 the depth of the new pot. Remove also the dried bottom section of the old crown until you reach fresh tissue. Resume fertilizing when new roots become visible. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.

Vandas. Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a wooden basket, simply drop it into a larger size basket. If your plant has become top heavy and unsightly, cut away the top part of the plant as long as this section has three roots to sustain it and rebasket it being careful to secure it so roots will not be damaged in the wind. Keep the bottom section of the plant in the old basket as it will usually sprout keikis at the base and be well established by the end of the summer.



CULTIVATION

Visit Your Cymbidium Often

Harry McElroy, cymbidiuman@msn.com



My favorite way to spend the morning is with a cup of coffee in my cymbidium shade house. There are many things to look for. Some are good news and some are bad news.

The good news is easy, growing plants, healthy new growth, new flower spikes that need a stake or opening flowers. Plants seem to be getting enough water and seem happy and healthy.

The bad news comes in the form of brown or black leaf tips indicating salt buildup in the pots. An occasional black tip is not of concern but many black tips indicate a need to flush the salt buildup out of the pots and determine the cause. Am I using too much fertilizer without enough water? Does my water contain too much salt? Did I test my water to determine what the dissolved solid levels are? If it is high

I need to flush the pots more often. This makes a good case for that water test I had done. Sometimes when low pressure storms come from the east here in North Florida, my plants look droopy. The development of the storm over the ocean may pick up some salt. The plants perk back up with a good flushing of the pots and yes in this case I flush even if the plants are wet.

Another bad news item is the dying and dropping of too many leaves. It is normal for cymbidiums to drop leaves but if plants are dropping many then it is time to look for the cause. The basic cause is that the plant is not taking up nutrients. I need to determine why. The most common cause is that the roots have rotted because the potting media has gone bad or rotted. Of course I must repot the plant right away. Then the pH may be too low or too high. Either would interfere with the plants ability to take up nutrients. My cymbidiums get a lot of rain water which is usually low pH and I have found that to be a factor. The dolomite lime and seashell the plants get at the rate of 1 tablespoon for each gallon pot each year keeps the plant in the pH range I want (6.5 to 7). It also is a good source of magnesium and adds a little calcium for the plant as well.

Bugs, worms, scale and mites are all looked for. If I wait until I have a major infestation then it will be more difficult to eliminate and control. The best way to control the big Lubber Grasshoppers is to catch the slow moving rascals and squash them. It would be better to put them in a can of kerosene. The Wooly Worms have destroyed some of the flowers on my nice show quality cymbidiums. I have found that a mix of Horticultural oil and Bifferin controls them nicely but Bifferin is a hazardous chemical to be used according to directions.

Cymbidiums love sun and should be spaced so the each plant gets an equal share. Next seasons blooms may depend on it. My space has had to expand several times for this reason alone. That's part of the good news – Cymbidiums grow!



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

EPIC Flower and Garden Expo
by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The EPIC Flower and Garden Expo at the Ag Center in St. Augustine is an annual treat. There are flower exhibits and displays, gardening lectures and plenty of vendors selling plants and gardening supplies. Lots of our members enter plants and floral arrangements and lots brought home ribbons, including Rosemary Comtois for her phal that won the Horticultural Award for Excellence and Flo Powers who won the Award of Distinction and Designer's Choice Award.

This year the St. Augustine Orchid Society had a booth where SAOS members were available to talk about orchids to anyone interested. We had brochures outlining the benefits of the SAOS, free bookmarks with orchid growing information, and potting mixes and fertilizers for sale.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Aerth. Grandiose 'Shooting Stars'
AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Phal. H. P. Norton



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Paph. Saint Swithin



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Paph. Golddollar



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Asctm. miniatum



Grower Lola Stark
C. lueddemiana



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. dolosa var. coerulea



SHOW TABLE



Grower Bill Gourley
C. intermedia var. orlata



Grower Bill Gurley
Den. aggregatum var. majus



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Phal. Kirsten Touve



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phrag. After-Glo



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Den. wasselli



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Mrclm. trinasutum var. album

