

Volume 19 Issue #9

CLUB NEWS



September Meeting by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 50 attendees. He then thanked Dianne, Dottie, Ann and Andrea for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed. Tom reminded all to bring any plant of concern to the next potting clinic at SE Branch Library on Sept. 7 at the SE Branch Library.

The Jacksonville Orchid Society's fall orchid show is Sept. 14-15 at the Mandarin Garden Club.

Club Business. Membership VP Linda Stewart welcomed our guests and new members Debbie Bryant and Jenni Holub. Linda announced that Maria Sands is on the Membership Committee and is our new Sunshine Coordinator. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let her know by emailing her at info@ staugorchidsociety.org. Linda then asked our members with September birthdays to raise their hands for a free raffle ticket.

Members Choice Voting. Christine asked members to vote for their favorite blooming orchid on the show table. The ballots should be dropped in the ballot box before the speaker program begins.

Virtual Show Table. Courtney Hackney will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Thursday, Sept.19. An email invitation will be sent with link and details.

Supplies. Supplies for growing orchids were available at the back table. Preorder ahead of time at info@staugorchidsociety.org.



Library. If you would like a book or magazine from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to info@ staugorchidsociety.org and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

Calendars. If you are interested in getting the 2025 SAOS calendar featuring the orchid photo of the month, there is a sign up sheet at the sales table to reserve your calendar, \$20 donation for each. They make great holiday gifts.



Show Table Review. Courtney (with Sue and Bob's helping hands) started the Show Table with the C. violacea v. semi-alba showing off a deep purplish lip. Lemon Drop had a plum red lip contrasting with the deep yellow petals. Suzuki's Yellow Flare also had a dominant lip matching the yellow petals. There were several coerulea varieties on the table including Lc. C.G. Roebling 'Sentinel' which was perfectly grown in a plastic net basket with minimal media. He has tried breeding for coeruleas with C. Dinard 'Blue Heaven' with mixed success; selfings will produce some true coeruleas. Next was C. Pinata Surprise with a cluster of 5-7 flowers. Courtney noted that this is a Keith Davis hybrid. A miniature, well grown Den. Misty Magic Pink was a surprise to all as this plant does not like our Florida heat. Turns out it is grown indoors with added humidity. Doritis pulcherrima var. champornensis 'Yellow & White' reminded Courtney of ones he didn't keep alive saying this plant was popular 20 years ago. The show table ended with two Habenarias, Steve's vigorous hybrid Jiaho's Yellow Bird and the species repens, which is a native perennial that grows from North Carolina to Florida in bogs and moist meadows, often near ditches along highways.

SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker from Orlando, Jeff Adkins. Jeff is a third generation orchid grower, following in the footsteps of his mother and

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



September

 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon Southeast Branch Library 6670 US-1 N, 32086

10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA Speaker TBA

14-15 Fall JOS Orchid Festival

Mandarin Garden Club, Jax 32223

14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

19 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

28-29 Ridge Orchid Society Show
United Women's Club, Lakeland

October

1 SAOS Meeting, Angraecoid Orchids, 6:30 Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids

5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon Southeast Branch Library

6670 US-1 N, 32086 5-6 Tampa Orchid Club Expo USF Botanical Gardens

8 JOS Meeting, Paphiopedilums James Arnold, JOS Member

10 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

12 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave

19-20 Gainesville Orchid Society Show Kanapaha Gardens

19-20 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show Fieldhouse at Old School Square

November

1-3 Fall Orchid Festival

Krull Smith Orchids, Apopka

2-3 Vanda and Slipper Symposium NW Orange Cty Improvement Assoc 4253 W. Ponkan Rd, Apopka 32798 5 SAOS Meeting, Orchid Bingo, 6:30 Join the Fun on Election Night

9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

12 JOS Meeting, Panel Discussion JOS Members

16-17 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show Safe Schools Institute

December

3 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm Memorial Lutheran Church

3 JOS Christmas Auction Timaquana Country Club

7 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President Tom Sullivan

tomjs91@gmail.com

Vice President Janis Croft

Communications <u>croftie1984@gmail.com</u>

Vice President Dianne Batchelder Events <u>ladydi9907@aol.com</u>

Vice President Linda Stewart

Membership <u>lindstew@hotmail.com</u>

Vice President Sue Bottom

Programs <u>sbottom15@hotmail.com</u>

Treasurer Cathy Mayo

allatoonalady@gmail.com

Directors Leslie Brickell, 2022

lesliewbrickell@gmail.com Charlie Bridgham, 2022 tech@burrindustries.com Jerry Fowler, 2023 jayinjville@gmail.com

Exhibit Committee Janis Croft

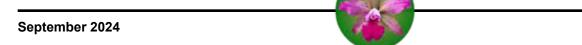
Chair <u>croftie1984@gmail.com</u>

Librarian Howard Cushnir

hscushnir@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors Sue and Terry Bottom
Webmasters <u>sbottom15@gmail.com</u>

bottom406@gmail.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

grandmother who both grew exceptional orchids. He began his professional career in orchids by working for the famous Jones and Scully Nursery in Miami. While there, he worked under Tony Bos, an expert grower. After Cattleya Jones and Scully closed from hurricane damage, he started his own business, Adkins Orchids. During this time, he also became an



AOS Judge, and has now been a grower and judge for over 30 years. Adkins Orchids specializes in the big, showy types of Cattleyas, Vanda and Dendrobiums. Jeff's topic was setting up your growing area. An engaging speaker, he talked about how to make your growing area the perfect orchid habitat.

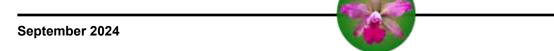
Jeff noted that whatever environment you have, given time your orchids will thrive in the space because orchids are highly adaptable to their environment. He noted that orchids grow everywhere except Antarctica and grow all the way up to the tree line on the other continents. Orchids are the 2nd largest plant family in the world with the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) being the largest. One needs to figure out the microclimates in your growing area and move plants into areas that closely match their native environment. He stated two basic growing rules. The first, orchids like small pots. He advised not putting your orchid in a bigger pot thinking it will save you repotting time. Just pot one size up, allowing space for one new growth. Second, know your orchid. Do your research ahead of time and continue researching after purchasing. Group your similar types of orchids together in your growing area. Then when it is time to repot, you will repot all of them at the same time. Be observant and watch your plant over time. If the plant is not thriving, try moving to another area of your growing space and watch for a month to see how the plant responds. Don't waste your time and effort on the languishing problem child. He told the story of how he spent too much time trying to get one orchid to be happy and bloom that he finally got frustrated and threw the plant like a football into his thick hedge. The following season, flowers were popping out of the bush. When you purchase an orchid, ask the seller this basic question: "What are the optimal conditions for growing this plant?" Those that know will answer you specifically. From this information, one can figure out how to add the plant into your growing area.

As to watering and fertilizing, Jeff coined the term we all use now, "water weekly, weakly." Look at your growing media and pots. Salt build up is poisonous to your plants. Orchids are acclimated to low nutrient levels and grow slowly so they don't need excessive fertilizer to bloom. If you start to see crusty residue from salts, then stop the fertilizer for one month. Flush the pot two days in a row and then water regularly without fertilizer until the month is over. As for other chemicals such as pesticides and fungicides, he spoke strongly against using anything that is not natural. He suggested using sprays made with spent coffee grounds and peppermint oil and dishwashing soap. For scale, he mixes vegetable oil with dishwashing soap and for fungus, he uses baking soda with dishwashing soap. He ended with several questions about mixing measurements for his natural remedies to treat our orchid problems.





Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice went to Jacob Moss for his Den. Misty Magic Pink. The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean the room and store the tables and chairs.



CLUB NEWS



Culture Notes September in St. Augustine

Our orchids are just as tired of the heat as we are, but later this month the temperature and humidity will moderate and you'll notice new green root tips on your plants. If you have an overgrown plant, now is your chance to get it repotted while it has a month or so to recover from transplant shock before the winter rest season.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

September 5, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

September 10, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only Hybridizing at Longwood Gardens – Greg Griffis

Orchids Magazine this Month
Arundina graminifolia – Charles Wilson
Dendrobium section Calcarifera - Jim Cootes
Orchid Growing in a Nutshell - Ray Barkalow

October 1 Meeting Angraecoid Orchids, Edgar Shehli

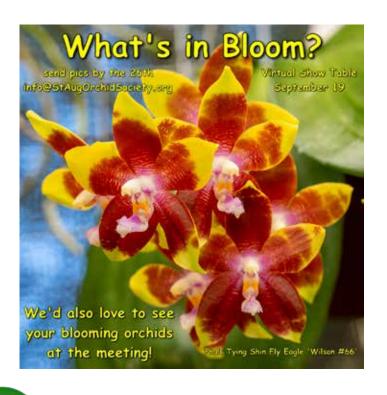
Edgar Stehli from Windswept in Time Orchids in Ohio will talk about Angraecoids, including Angraecum, Aerangis, Eurychone, and several other genera that are predominantly found in Africa and Madagascar. The flowers tend to be white and fragrant at night.



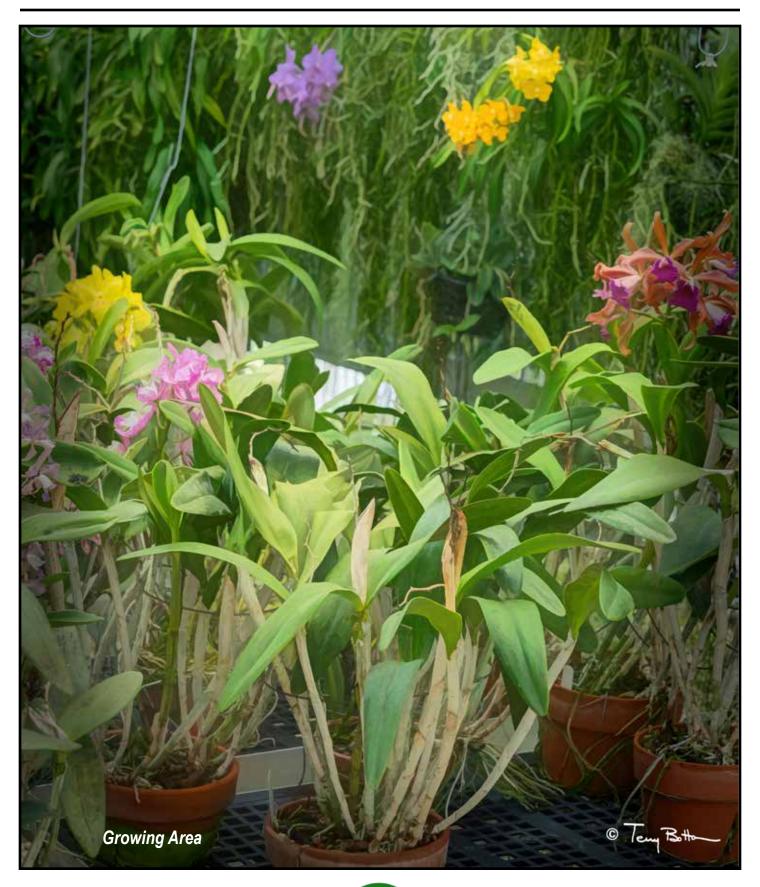
When Edgar Stehli was 8 years old, he found a native

Ohio orchid in a ditch near his home. His love for the species has only grown in the years since. Now, he and his wife, Kim, who shares his enthusiasm, tend to more than 8,000 rare orchid specimens in their Broadview Heights home and adjacent greenhouse business, Windswept in Time Orchids. The Stehlis travel across the Midwest displaying their orchids at 14 or 15 American Orchid Society-affiliated shows each year. AOS judges have bestowed upon them many awards for individual plants and outstanding exhibits.

When: Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 til 9 pm Where: Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



INSPIRATION





Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. This cattleya is potted in a small bark mix and is growing outside. Do I need to apply fungicide?

A1. You've got something really nasty coming up from

the rhizome into the pseudobulbs. Your best treatment will be your shears. Knock that plant out of the pot, and cut away all the discolored bulbs. Look at the base of each bulb, and if you see a yellow, creamy coloration, or if it has progressed to brown/black, start cutting. Sterilize between cuts until you only see green tissue. I'd probably leave it out to dry on some newspaper for a couple days and reinspect to make sure that none of the remaining plant has discolored tissue. After that, you can repot. If the plant is pretty small after surgery, you can try dropping it into a clay pot and misting it daily until roots start growing, and then pot it up.



Q2. This is a nobile den. This black spot has been present for a while but now it's on other leaves.





A2. I would guess that is bacterial blighting, with the sunken spot and you can see the yellowing around the sunken spot where the bacteria is dissolving cell walls in its advance. This problem is probably related to all the rain causing excessive leaf wetness. You can just remove the affected leaves. You may want to consider some preventative spraying during the hot and wet summer months, weekly with something like consan or pool algaecide.

Q3. Only one habenaria corm has life. I checked for roots today only to discover there are no roots. What I thought was a root is actually the plant growing straight down into the spaghnum moss. Now what?



A3. It looks like you had the tuberoid turned upside down when you potted it, it happens to the best of us! Use a tall pot, put 1/2 to 1 inch of perlite in the bottom of the pot followed by some sphagnum. Situate the tuberoid so the top of the tuberoid where then plant is emerging is about 1/2 inch or a little more below the top of the pot. Then fill with sphagnum around the tuberoid to just below where the leaves are forming. Wait for roots to emerge from the top of the tuberoid and for the first rosette of leaves to open before watering. As the plant continues to grow, you may be able to place a little more sphagnum around the top for stability and to protect the roots that grow from the top of the tuberoid. Here's an article: If You Can Grow Potatoes, You Can Grow Habenarias.





Calcium

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

For many years, the only water available to me for my orchids was too salty and getting even worse from salt water intrusion into the aquifer. A concrete cistern was constructed to collect and hold rainwater. Rainwater contains almost no dissolved solids, so you can imagine my surprise when an analysis of my

water showed high levels of dissolved solids. Concrete cisterns are made of lime and some of that is lost to the water through leaching. Fortunately, other than making the water basic and leaving a white film on leaves, there was never a problem using this water. My orchids thrived with this calcium laden rainwater. After 4 or 5 years, water from the cistern was just slightly higher in solids than rainwater.

I often recommend keeping a log book indicating when various pesticides were sprayed, fertilizers used, etc. This is important in diagnosing the cause of problems that arise from time to time. An orchid growing friend had been using some of the bench in my greenhouse when I installed the cistern and was amazed at the incredible growth of his paphs under my care. After obtaining a few paphs of my own and studying the natural habitat it was clear why paphs had grown so well. It was the extra calcium and magnesium leaching from my cistern. To compensate for the slow change in water as my cistern reached equilibrium, I began adding dolomite lime to pots containing paphs and they thrived. I also began using Peters Cal Mag, which provided even more calcium and magnesium each time fertilizer was applied. My cattleyas and other orchids grew well under these conditions, except in the summer when I would experience new growths that rotted. I would also lose seed pods from rot.

Every orchid hobbyist knows that moving to a new greenhouse requires a reexamination of culture, and my move to Florida four years ago has been no exception. The one big surprise was an issue that had occurred before, always in the summer, that was never resolved to my satisfaction. During very warm summers there would be the occasional rotting of new growths on cattleyas as well as on new leaves of phalaenopsis. Most surprising was that the issue occurred on both species and hybrids that should have been fine under high heat and temperatures based on their countries of origin. On these occasions, various anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents were used.

Based on the premise that most horticultural issues are caused by culture, various attempts were made including altering fertilizers, increasing air movements, etc, with no real clear success. The problem typically disappeared once temperatures cooled in fall. Most frustrating was the loss of countless seed pods of some potentially great hybrids. They would begin rotting from the tip and the rot would eventually progress, destroying the seed pod.

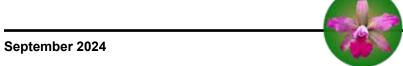
I have finally discovered as the cause of this problem, blossom-end rot; the same malady that causes tomatoes to rot from the old bloom tip, which is low calcium and magnesium. Orchids are "cold-blooded" and when it gets warm they are capable of growing at a very fast rate. To do this, they must take up nutrients at an accelerated rate, too. Calcium and magnesium are required for proper cell development in new leaves and other tissues, e.g. seed pods. That was what was missing from my culture during the heat of summer.

During summer's high temperatures, many orchid hobbyists report loss of new leaves especially when growing outdoors. Heavy rains flush nutrients, especially calcium and magnesium, from media, and at the same time, high temperatures and humidity foster very rapid growth. It did not occur to me to increase the calcium and magnesium content of the water I am now using since it comes from a limestone aquifer and is loaded with minerals, including calcium. My fertilizer now is fish emulsion instead of the cal-mag fertilizer I have used in the past. Essentially, I am now providing more of the essential growth nutrients, mainly nitrogen, but not enough calcium for my orchids in this high growth time of the year.

When I first realized what was causing the increased loss of new growths and seed pods, I hand spread dolomite limestone powder all over the plants in the greenhouse. My orchids looked like it had snowed. I also placed a couple of pounds in the reservoir from which my Dosatron draws water after I have applied fertilizer. Within a week, there ceased to be an issue of rots despite the highest summer temperatures of the year.

Even some of what I consider intermediate temperature orchids have responded to the extra calcium and magnesium by growing extremely well in the heat. Most orchid growing advice suggests acidifying water. Adding dolomite raises pH, but has not had any negative effects so far. I still flush regularly and fertilize with fish emulsion and this keeps the pH of the medium at the right level for growth.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from September 2011.



Growing Notes for September

by James Rose and Ned Nash



C. labiata 'September Mist' AM/AOS, grown and photographed by Leslie Brickell

September is a month growers either love or hate. As summer slowly comes to an end one should take advantage of the last bit of good growing conditions. Those in the northern latitudes will begin to notice a dramatic shortening of day length with plants adjusting to the lower light conditions. Southern areas will not see the advance of autumn for another month, but it is just around the corner.

Even though most growers do not want to think about it, if autumn is here then winter is fast approaching. This is a time when growers must make sure that they have done everything possible to promote good culture. One of the most noticeable problems is the continuation of hot temperatures. In California. September is thought of as the most dangerous month because little of the ocean influence (fog) is enjoyed in June and July.

Dealing with these high temperatures depends a lot on the growing conditions. Suggestions that will help in the battle against the heat might be to readjust your cooling system to get the maximum benefits from it, add extra shade cloth or shading compound on the roof, or raise the humidity some. Humidity is already high in most areas at this time, but if you are growing inside with air conditioning, you would be shocked to find out how dry the air is in this setting.

For plants outside, light levels should be watched carefully. The angle of the sun will be changing and a plant that was protected only a few months ago may now become fully exposed and at risk of being sunburned.

Once temperatures start to decline, some last-minute potting can be taken care of if necessary as there is still a little time left to allow your plant to establish new roots before winter. Do not pot autumn-flowering plants; it is difficult for them to flower and grow new roots simultaneously.

Some growers advocate changing to a fertilizer that is slightly higher in phosphorus and potassium (the second and third numbers in the N-P-K ratio). These two are responsible for good inflorescence development and root growth, too. The plants' stored nitrogen should be depleted somewhat as it is not essential during the winter months. Feeding with this in mind coupled with the lower night temperatures facilitates higher bud counts.



Continued from page 8



C. labiata 'Sherwood Forest' AM/AOS, grown and photographed by Leslie Brickell

One problem associated with summer is the insect population that has enjoyed grazing on your orchids while they were outside. When moving plants indoors, check for any hitchhikers and treat accordingly. Treatment of adults may not be enough. As eggs begin to hatch, a second treatment will be required. Follow directions on the pesticide container.

Autumn is one of the nicest times of the year and also serves to initiate the autumn bloom season, springtime's rival. Enjoy orchids as they open and brighten the growing area with color.

• Cattleya. Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun. September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom. This is the month for purples derived from Cattleya labiata breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They

are easy to grow too.

- Dendrobium. This is a good season for hybrids of the Dendrobium phalaenopsis and Dendrobium canaliculatam types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. Dendrobium phalaenopsis can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be, although proportionately small, appropriate for this type.
- Phalaenopsis. The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Extracted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in September 1996 (Vol. 65:9, pp 974-976), reprinted with permission.



The Species Behind Standard Cattleyas, Part 5, C. schroederae, by Don Herman

Cattleya schroderae is closely related to Cattleya trianaei but is distinguished by its fragrance, the substance of its petals and lip and by the orange center to the throat. Its habitat is in the eastern mountains of Colombia. Introduction of this plant to Europe was around 1885. The colors of C. schroderae are soft or muted and seem to be recessive in hybridizing. Its shape is good, as is that of C. trianaei. There have been several albas, creamcolored forms, very soft pinks and coeruleas. It produces large flowers that are well presented on strong stems, two qualities that are highly desirable to the hybridizer. It blooms in the spring when flowers are in biggest demand.



Cattleya schroederae, grown and photographed by Leasa Codner



Lc. (syn. C.) G. S. Ball (schroederae x cinnabarina) Grown by Sue Bottom and photographed by Terry Bottom



C. Schroeder's Catt 'St. Augustine' (Ruth Gee x schroederae)
Grown by Sue Bottom and photographed by Terry Bottom

Extracted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in March 1997 (Vol. 66:3, pp 234-243), reprinted with permission.

Continued on page 11





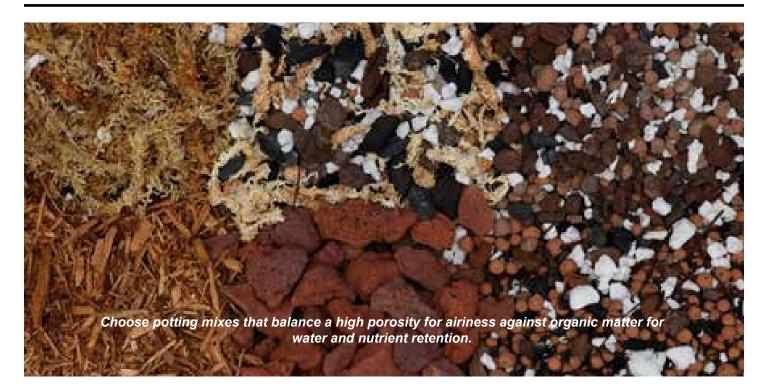
Water early in the morning so your leaves are dry by nighttime, but if you find your plants look dehydrated during the low humidity, warm spring months, you might consider watering at sunset.

Trust, but Verify by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Everybody's got an opinion, and orchid growers are no different. When you read or hear orchid cultural advice, you can assume that the recommendations work for that individual. Before adopting those tips as your own, you should reflect on how your growing conditions may differ, and whether those differences suggest the advice may or may not work for you.

An obvious example is when an orchid society speaker recommends a certain fertilizer. If you have similar water quality, that recommendation might be worth following. But, irrigation water can vary widely in quality, from the amount of soluble salts present, the availability of calcium and magnesium, the potential toxicity from too much sodium, chlorides, iron or sulfates, etc. If the speaker is irrigating with rainwater and you are using well water with lots of dissolved lime, the speaker's fertilizer may not be the magic potion you were hoping for. If you are using a pure water source, you'll want a Michigan State formula type fertilizer containing calcium and magnesium. If you have well water that has lots of lime salts, you'll want an acid generating formula like 20-20-20 and also add Epsom salts for supplemental magnesium. The water you use to irrigate, potting mix you grow in and fertilizer all interact to create a root zone environment where water and nutrients are absorbed by the plant.

One of the most repeated orchid proclamations is that overwatering is the number one reason why orchids die in cultivation. A more correct statement would be that the lack of sufficient air around the roots can cause orchids to die. Many people enjoying mounting their orchids because they can water them with wild abandon and the roots are always open to the atmosphere. But if you prefer growing your orchids in a pot, you have to be cognizant of how the components of your potting mix age. For those that pot in bark, the bark is initially very hydrophobic repelling water, so the mix tends to be airier and drier encouraging root growth on newly repotted plants. But, with regular watering and fertilizing, the bark softens and ultimately begins to degrade over time, much like the mulch that you place around your outdoor plants. When it degrades, the bark compacts and less and less air is available to the roots, which can smother them unless the plant is repotted before the mix adversely affects the roots. Conversely, those that only use clay pebbles or other inorganic components in their potting mix may not have to worry about the bark rotting and compacting but they don't enjoy the organic matter benefits of retaining moisture and nutrients for ultimate uptake by the plant. The SAOS coarse mix attempts to strike a balance between the nutrient and water holding capacity of bark, and the porosity and airiness afforded by substances like sponge rock, charcoal and clay pebbles.



Orchid growers seem to have a love/hate relationship with sphagnum moss. Some individuals advise others to remove all the sphagnum moss from around the roots the moment you bring a plant home, because they say it will kill your plant. Of course, the plants they bring home may be growing and blooming perfectly well in the moss under the care of the commercial orchid grower, who is growing under cover and might only be watering every 3 weeks. When you bring that plant home and let it grow outdoors with rain provided at the whim of Mother Nature, there can be problems with root rot because keeping the moss too wet ends up smothering the roots. So it is the watering habits and growing conditions of the new plant owner that create the problem rather than the sphagnum moss itself.

Another rule you hear is you should water early in the morning so the leaves are dry at night. That is probably good advice during the cooler months when excess leaf wetness, rots and fungal infections go hand in hand. But,

during the low humidity months when the pots dry out so rapidly, you might follow Courtney's advice and try watering at sunset in order to hydrate your plants, after all it does rain at night in nature. You just wouldn't add fertilizer to your nighttime watering regime because that fertilizer is also food for bacteria and fungus on the wet vegetation, so you would water at night to hydrate and then feed in the morning.

Many of these oft repeated adages are probably good starting points for the new orchid grower. Once you become more confident in your growing skills, you will have observed your orchids under different conditions, and come to understand some of the reasons you have failed and killed plants, as well as succeeded and had glorious blooms. That's when you start to sort through the whys and the wherefores, and learn what works best for you and your growing conditions. Don't be afraid to bend the rules if it seems like the right thing to do.



Only use high quality long fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss (seen to the left), that has both air and moisture holding capacity, and learn to water only as the moss approaches dryness.

SHOW TABLE



Grower Leasa Codner Blc. Dewy Forest 'Kudos'



Grower Steve Dorsey Habenaria rhodocheila 'Orange'



Grower Joe Sayers Ctsm. Dentigrianum



Grower Mary Cash
C. White Wedding Recepion



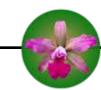
Grower Suzanne Susko Iana. Aka's Aloha 'Dream Dust'



Grower Kathleen Summa V. Prao Sky Blue



Grower Sue Bottom Ddc. magnum



SHOW TABLE



Grower Allen Black Bl. Virginia Earthquake



Grower Joe Sayers Paph. Jim Krull



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Leoloddiglossa 'Exotic Orchids' AM/AOS



Grower Steve Dorsey Den. lamyaiae



Photographer Karen Ford Platanthera ciliaris



Grower Suzanne Susko Gastrochilus japonicus



Link to all Submissions: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBFsCF

September 2024 Page 14