



CLUB NEWS



Fred Keefer

July 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Sue Bottom,
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Welcome and Thanks. President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 24 members present. Linda Stewart reminded the July birthday folks to be sure and get their birthday raffle tickets at the August meeting since we do not have a raffle

table when we have our summer auction. Bob reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table.



Fred & Mary handled the auction

Keiki Club - The Keiki club will meet July 27 at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall building where we will discuss growing different types of orchids.

Orchid Events. The Fourth Annual Cattleya Symposium is going to be held at Fort Pierce this year on August 8 and 9. You can sign up at Odom's Orchids. The cost is \$150 for the two day event. There are no orchid shows in our area this month!

Program. Following a short break to allow everyone to snack and vote for their favorite on the show table, the meeting was turned over to our ace auctioneer, Fred Keefer. We had 29 absolutely gorgeous orchid plants from George Hausermann at EFG, Steve Hawkins of the Orchid Specialist and Fred Keefer of Orchids by Del-Rei. There was a lot of lively bidding that was enjoyed by all.

Meeting Conclusion. Following the auction, Art Russell announced that the Member's Choice plant on the show table was Mary Colee's Ctsm. Frilly Doris 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS, only because none of the six spikes on her Stanhopea Assidensis opened in time for the meeting.

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Fred being Fred



Club Business. Fertilizer and potting supplies are available on the side table
Ace Repotting - The repotting clinic at Hagan Ace Hardware on US 1 South will be this weekend on Saturday July 5 from 9 am to 1 pm.



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Upcoming Orchid Events

July

- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Paphs and Their Culture
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 27 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Growing Different Types of Orchids
St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 SR A1A S, St. Aug Beach 32080

August

- 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
Watering, Water Quality and Fertilizer
Sue Bottom, St. Augustine Orchid Society
- 8-9 Fourth Annual Cattleya Symposium
Indian River Research & Education Center,
Fort Pierce
- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
How to Care for Your Orchids
Roundtable Question and Answer
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Understanding Your Plant Label
Moultrie Oaks Clubhouse
245 Wildwood Drive, St. Aug 32086

September

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Fall Preparations
Mary and Louis Colee's home
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

October

- 3-5 South Florida Orchid Society Show
BankUnited Center, Univ of Miami
- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 4-5 Home and Garden Show
Agricultural Center, St. Aug
- 4-5 Florida West Coast Orchid Society
St. Pete Garden Club
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Spotted and Splashed Cattleyas
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 11-12 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



Art lends a helping hand



Mary Ann & Monica collected a few plants



Sue ran the slideshow and kept the plants organized



Yvonne & Bob added a few more plants



Bill kept the books



Jeanette provided a great table of drinks & snacks

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



CLUB NEWS



July 27 Keiki Club

Growing Different Types of Orchids

The Keiki Club for orchid beginners will be Sunday afternoon on July 27 from 1 to 3 pm. We'll be talking how to grow some of the commonly available orchids, like phalaenopsis, cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums and vandas. We'll talk about different places to grow these orchids outside during the summer, how often they like to be watered and what types of potting mix are suitable. Call Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee at 669-8760 if you have any questions.

Where: St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 SR A1A South, St. Aug Beach 32080

When: Sunday, July 27, 1 to 3 pm



August 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Watering, Water Quality and Fertilizer

Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society will discuss water, water quality and fertilizer. We'll talk about watering your orchids during each season of the year. Bring a sample of the water you use for your orchids to the meeting and we'll give you a quick analysis of the pH and alkalinity. This info will help you select the best fertilizer for your orchids. Fred Keefer and Sue Bottom will have plants for sale at the meeting and members are invited to bring plants to sell.

June 22 Keiki Club

How to Kill Your Phalaenopsis

About 20 members, guests and visitor participated in the June Keiki Club get together at the home of Sue and Terry Bottom. Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee channeled Milton Carpenter and gave a tutorial on how to kill your phalaenopsis. Here are some of her pointers:

- Phalaenopsis are like goldfish, they love to swim around in water. Given the choice, make sure to use a pot without drain holes for your phals.
- Phalaenopsis are related to the cactus family. When you water, just drop an ice cube on top of the potting mix or add a single jigger of water to the pot. They'll get used to it.
- Roots are roots. Use whatever dirt you have on hand for potting up your phalaenopsis. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger!
- Put your plant out in the sunlight. The more light it gets, the faster it will grow and bloom. You just ignore those scorch marks.

Mary showed us some great results that have been achieved by following these simple rules. Mary talked about the potting mixes that work for those oddballs that want to keep their orchids alive and showed how to repot a phalaenopsis. She had about two trays of phalaenopsis she and Janet Skinner at Ace donated to the cause for attendees to adopt. Then the free for all began and everyone had a new orchid to bring home. If the skies hadn't of opened up, we'd have been there all afternoon. As it was, a good time was had by all!

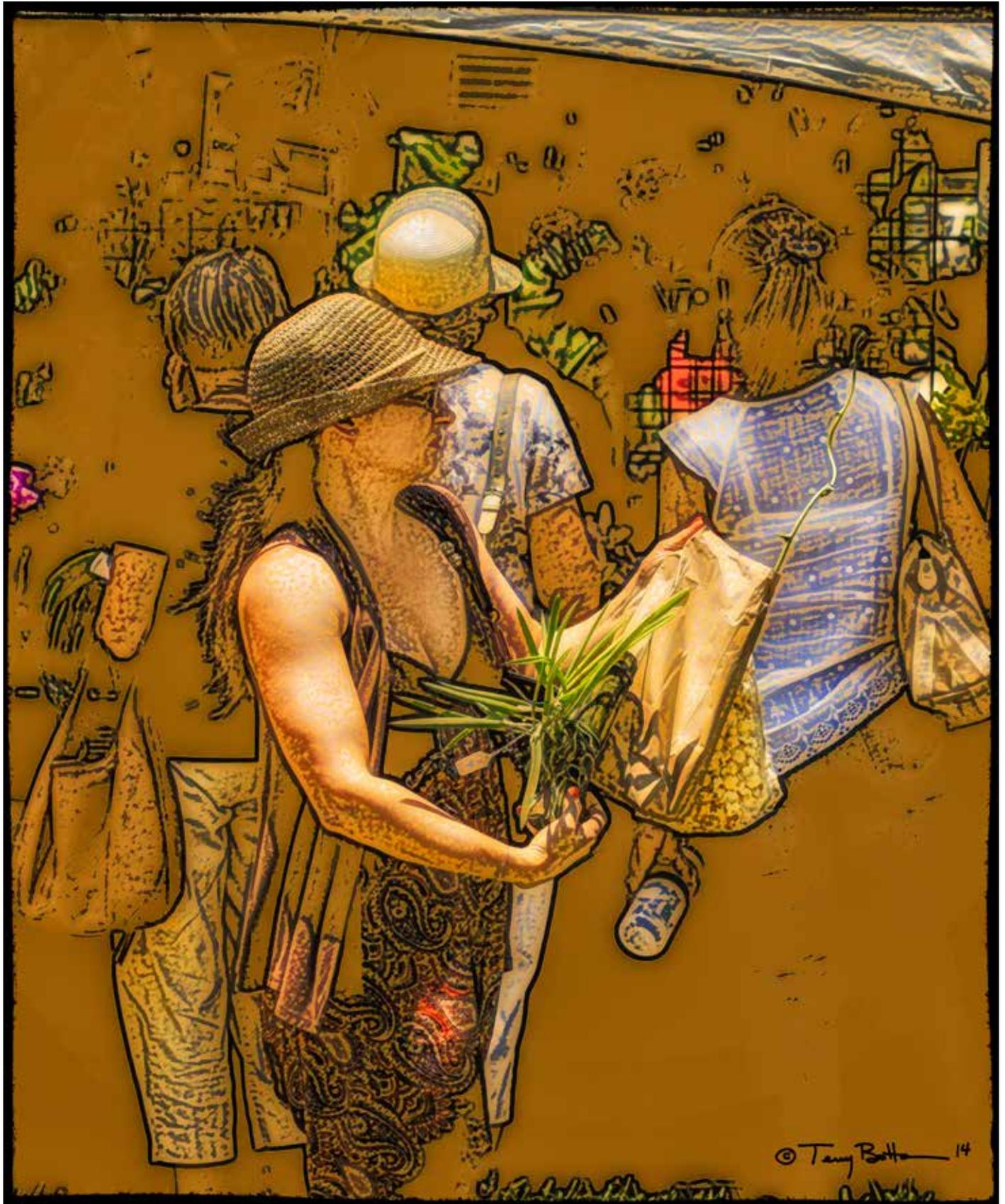
Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from February 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



INSPIRATION



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Your Orchids in July

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. The heat and humidity of summer are here. When day time temperatures rise above the 90 to 95F range, you'll see orchid growth start to slow. Water slightly less frequently than during the spring. Orchid plants require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. Consider spraying under benches or the planting area to lower temperatures a few degrees. Pests are most active during the warm months. Be vigilant in observing signs of damage and treat quickly if they appear. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

Cattleyas. Cattleyas can be watered and fertilized daily if mounted or every second or third day if in a coarse, freely draining medium. Applying adequate fertilizer is the best way to ensure the best blooming in that



the growths your plants are making now are the source of future blooms. Be careful to peel back the flower sheaths so the emerging buds don't rot. Also remove dried cataphylls to eliminate hiding places for scale. Higher temperatures and humidity may lead to fungal or bacterial rot. Watch for signs of pests or diseases and respond quickly.

Cymbidiums. Growths should be developing strongly now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Cool your plants in the early morning and late evening using a hose or automatic misting system.

Dendrobiums. It is almost impossible to overwater dendrobiums this time of year, assuming you have them either mounted or in a coarse, mostly inorganic medium. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.



Oncidiums. Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums (Odontocidium, Wilsonara, Colmanara, etc.) will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral displays. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.



Phalaenopsis. Most, if not all, repotting should be complete by now. Once root growth begins after repotting, you can continue watering with a dilute fertilizer solution every



week or so if your phals are in a soilless or coco type mix; the frequency might be every 2 weeks or so if your plants are potted in the more water retentive sphagnum moss. The summer growth phase is the source of energy for next spring's flower spikes. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for flower spiking will be realized. Don't let water accumulate in the crowns of plants, or crown rot can occur and quickly kill your plants. If grown outdoors, grow the plants with the pots tilted so rainwater will freely drain from the crown.

Vandas. Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days. Continue giving vandas what they want, light, water, fertilizer and air. Watch for signs of thrips that will mar the flowers and cause girdling on the roots. Respond promptly to any problems found.



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Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. Anonymous is an orchid I've had for two years, and in the past month it has started growing keikis at the top of the pseudobulbs. Is this a good

sign or the orchid doing its darn best to get the heck out of the broken down media? Is it already too late in the year to repot?



A1. It's fairly uncommon for cattleyas to form new plantlets at the apex of the pseudobulb, but apparently Anonymous hasn't been reading the orchid books. Whether the new plantlets formed because of its genetic background or as a last act of defiance, the new growth looks very healthy and happy. I'd pot up the new plantlets as they may be the future of this plant. There is still plenty of time left in the growing season for plants to reestablish themselves after repotting.



Q2. I thought this dendrobium orchid died about three years ago but over the last year it just began sprouting again. I recently found some white spots and a yellow



spot on some of the orchid leaves. I live in the Caribbean where it is usually hot and dry from the end of January to mid-May and from mid-May to January it is very rainy. The orchid is outdoors.

A2. Dendrobiums tend to like being in very small pots with a largely inorganic mix. I'd think about putting it in a much smaller pot in bright light with lots of air movement, someplace that is close to your hose so you can give it a drink during the droughty season. That leaf spotting looks pretty minor, I wouldn't worry about it.

Q3. I bought these two little Better-Gro orchids at Lowes: Sheherazade Cluster Red and Fire Dance x C. lawrenceana Orange. Are these miniatures or are they babies? Are they cattleyas?



A3. These are seedling cattleyas rather than miniatures. The first one might be C. (previously Slc.) Scheherazade, but it is more likely the much more commonly available Ct. (previously Slc.) Dark Waters 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS. The "cluster red" refers to the shape and color of the flowers. The second one is the unregistered cross Ct. (previously Lc.) Fire Dance x C. lawrenceana where the "orange" refers to the color of the flowers.



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Orchid Response to Disease Pathogens

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The best way to prevent orchid disease is to grow strong healthy plants that are able to use their natural defense mechanisms to protect themselves. Orchids don't have an immunological system like we do. They have a phloem that transports the sugars produced in the leaves by photosynthesis downward through the plant and a xylem that transports water and soluble mineral nutrients absorbed from the roots upwards throughout the plant, but they don't have a circulatory system carrying leukocytes, lymphocytes, antibodies and all the rest of our incredible infection fighters. So how does an orchid protect itself from disease?

The Natural Disease Response in Orchids – Wall Off the Invading Pathogens.



Black Rot on Cattleya

Barrier to Entry. Orchids have an epidermis with an outer layer called a cuticle that consists of a wax-like substance that provides protection against water loss as well as a barrier to entry, acting as the first line of defense against pathogens. Some fungi can pierce this barrier by secreting an enzyme that degrades the cuticle. Bacteria and some fungi circumvent the barrier by entering tissues through open stomata or wound sites.

Hypersensitive Response. When an attack by a pathogen begins, plants respond with a rapid series of events at the site of the infection that culminates in the hypersensitive response. The hypersensitive response is

a localized death of cells at the site of infection as a result of the plant cells recognizing the invading pathogen and committing suicide to thwart the pathogen. The dead cells wall off the pathogen and this necrotic barrier prevents the transmission of the pathogen through the plant. These dead cells may also become hard and unattractive to other pathogens by producing toxic compounds.

Systemic Acquired Resistance. The initial Hypersensitive Response is commonly followed by a slower response that leads to Systemic Acquired Resistance. Systemic Acquired Resistance occurs when a chemical travels from the infection site to nearby tissues via the phloem and primes the rest of the plant to protect itself against further challenges from the invading pathogen. The plant's response to the infection in one leaf causes the plant to become more resistant to a secondary attack in a different part of the plant.

Substances that May Induce a Plant's Response to Disease – Artificial Stimulation of the Plant's Response Mechanism.



Paphiopedilum with bacterial infection from Erwinia

Aspirin. Salicylic acid (a chemical related to aspirin) is one of several chemicals that can transmit the signal of the defense response throughout the plant. Studies have shown that applying salicylic acid to plants can induce resistance to pathogens, environmental stresses and some insects. Well known Ft. Lauderdale orchid grower Dot Henley wrote about her experience applying aspirin to her orchids in the October 2001 edition of the AOS Bulletin. She reported that her plants had more flowers, bigger growths and fewer fungal problems after weekly spraying with a fertilizer solution to which aspirin was added (3/4 of a 325 mg aspirin in a gallon of water). She later added



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two caveats: do not exceed the recommended amount and do not skip adding aspirin to your fertilizer regimen for more than a couple of weeks because the orchids seem to become addicted to aspirin and fungal and bacterial problems may occur without their weekly fix.

Harpin Proteins. A naturally occurring protein isolated from bacterial plant pathogens has been shown to initiate the protective response in plants when applied to leaves. Plants can detect the presence of these Harpin proteins and their early warning system is activated. The plant thinks it is under attack and signals other parts of the plant to activate defensive and growth responses. Rx Green Solutions markets Axiom, the Harpin Alpha Beta Protein, and recommends it be applied every 2 to 3 weeks at a rate of a 2 gram packet per gallon as a foliar application via a light mist. The potential effectiveness of Harpin proteins for orchids is currently under evaluation in the scientific community.

Biological Agents. Biological control agents are introduced or resident living organisms that suppress the activities and populations of plant pathogens. Biological control agents may work by killing the pathogen, producing an antibiotic that is toxic to the pathogen or secreting a metabolite that interferes with pathogen growth.

Wound Management and Protective Sprays – Kill Pathogens in the Environment Before They Infect Your Plant. There are a raft of chemicals available to treat bacterial and fungal infections, if they arise. There are some precautionary treatments you might incorporate into your growing regimen. Many orchid growers dust open wounds on their plants with cinnamon or fungicide to prevent infection. After repotting, I pour a protective drench of Banrot through the fresh potting mix to ward off infection, plus some seaweed extract to encourage root growth. Some spray specific types of plants for a specific potential problem, like monthly sprays with thiophanate methyl to control Guignardia in vandas and a post repotting and fall spray of copper compounds to help prevent Erwinia in phals and paphs.

Good Cultural Practices – Your Best Defense Against Orchid Disease is a Vibrantly Growing Plant that Can Resist Infection. Your best defense against orchid disease is to optimize your culture so your orchids are healthy and happy and able to resist diseases naturally. This means you must provide your plants with enough of the right kinds of light, water, nutrients, warmth and air movement and make sure your potting media is fresh. The importance of fresh air bathing your plants cannot be overemphasized. Fresh air will only work its wonders if there is sufficient spacing between plants. Sanitation is vitally important to eliminate the source of pathogens in your growing area.

Maintain a clean growing area free of weeds that often harbor disease. Remove spent flowers and fallen leaves from the growing area to a sealed container to remove the source of infection. Sterilize cutting tools, pots, wire products, etc. before reuse so problems aren't transferred from one plant to another. Always use new or sterile potting medium. Don't allow water to drip from one plant to another and never dunk plants in a common bucket. Make sure your new orchids are healthy, happy and disease free before introducing them to your growing area. When you water, look at each plant for any signs of stress, particularly as seasonal changes in temperature, light and moisture occur. This may be a very opportune time for preventative applications of fungicides or bactericides.



Botrytis infection on cattleya

Many disease problems can be prevented with attention to sanitation and good cultural practices. Occasionally you may find you have a genetic weakling that is prone to problems. I tend to discard these unless the flower is extraordinary. All growers will find disease in their collections from time to time and have to resort to the use of fungicides and bactericides to control a problem. If you have a recurring disease problem, there may be some aspect of your cultural practices that should be changed or perhaps you are trying to grow a plant not well suited to your growing conditions. Your plants will be happiest if you focus on improving your culture rather than reflexively spraying chemicals on them whenever you notice a new leaf spot.



Cercospora damage on cattleya



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New Orchid Care

By www.repotme.com, 302-855-5859
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Acquiring a new orchid is a pleasure. If it is in bloom, we can expect to enjoy the bloom for many weeks. A new orchid is also an unknown. Here are some things to keep in mind:

Keep the new orchid isolated from the rest of the collection for a few days on the off chance that it has something wrong with it that could harm the other plants. Sometimes bugs or disease travel on new orchids and before we know it the entire collection is affected. Simply keeping a new orchid away from the others for a bit will guard against this.

We don't really know what may have happened to an orchid before we acquire it. If the plant was mailed to us it may have been subjected to very high or low temperatures in transit. If the plant is coming from a grocery or hardware store it may have other stresses from being dried out or indoors away from sun or left out in the truck too long in cold weather before being unpacked and moved indoors. Orchids left in a car while shopping can be exposed to temperature extremes as well. Orchids can be slow to exhibit signs of damage so it is possible to buy a plant that looks healthy one day and starts dropping leaves like crazy the next. Bud blast, where new flower buds dry up and drop off without opening, is also seen in new acquisitions often through no fault of the new owner.

Even in the best of conditions, new orchids need time to adjust to their new home. Invariably the light, humidity, water, etc. is different than the greenhouse where they were grown. They may not rebloom at the same time the following year due to the different conditions. In some cases, if an orchid was acquired in bloom, the next bloom may not be the same exact color (though it will be close) as bloom color can be affected by light and temperature in some orchids.

After a new orchid blooms we like to repot it. This accomplishes a few goals. First, we can get a good look at the roots and assess the general health of the plant. Second we can move it into an orchid mix that is consistent with our other orchids. Finally we can put it in a larger pot if appropriate.

An orchid comes potted in the media or mix that works best for the grower and not necessarily the one that will work best in the orchid's new home. For example, a new orchid may come potted in very tightly packed sphagnum moss. This may be because the grower has very hot, arid conditions with a lot of air movement and the tightly packed sphagnum allows the plant to hold enough moisture between waterings in their greenhouse. Sphagnum is very light to ship and plants potted in it often do well in transit as the sphagnum doesn't become too dry or spill out of the pot. Unfortunately, in some cases this same orchid if moved into a windowsill with limited air movement, ample water and moderate temperatures may become sodden and then the roots rot. Simply blaming sphagnum isn't the answer, if it were packed lightly the plant would likely have done just fine. The answer is that the orchid needs to be potted in a way that is consistent with its new environment, not its former environment.

Moving a new orchid from one type of mix to another can be stressful for the plant as the roots may take a little time to adapt. In our experience an orchid can usually be moved between various media with good results. There is one exception to this rule which involves moving an orchid from sphagnum to fir bark. We believe better results can be obtained if the first repotting is 50/50 sphagnum and fir mix before moving to an exclusively fir mix. The other direction, moving an orchid from fir to sphagnum doesn't seem to be an issue.

In some cases a newly acquired orchid is in a fresh mix that is suitable for its new environment and it is not growing out of its pot and the orchid will be just fine in the same mix for another season. Orchids cannot stay in the same mix indefinitely, however, eventually the mix breaks down and smothers the roots.



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Common Orchid Growing Mistakes

by Courtney Hackney,
Hackneau's Art & Orchids
September 2006 Tips
Column
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"Do no harm" is a basic tenant of the medical profession that many orchid hobbyists would be wise to adopt. A large number of orchids I see in my travels

suffered premature deaths or injury, largely because of a misinformed attempt to help the orchid grow. The following is a list assembled from my experience with other growers and from my own mistakes.

"My orchids get the best water money can buy." My first question of the novice holding a shriveled, dead orchid is about their water. One person even admitted that she had a water softener installed for her orchid because she knew her water was "hard". Hard or mineral laden water may not be ideal, but softened water introduces salts that are toxic to orchids and typically lethal within a few weeks.

Another common mistake is to over-fertilize based on the conclusion that a poorly growing orchid needs more fertilizer. If overwatering is the number one killer of orchid plants, over fertilizing is number two. Fertilizers are nutrient salts that plants require along with water and light to grow. Recently purchased orchid that have a good root system do not require much in the way of fertilizer. Often, these plants have been grown quickly in commercial nurseries by maximizing light, water, and fertilizer. In the home environment, light is typically limiting and the medium contains all the nutrients the orchid needs in the short term. More often, the orchid pot needs to be flushed thoroughly with water occasionally to remove nutrients and to keep roots healthy.

Some pesticide and fungicide warning labels seem to state the obvious, e.g. "do not drink this product". Who would do such a thing? After fielding questions about pests, pesticides and orchids, I realize that no warning is too simple. Read the warning label carefully for both your own safety and the health of your orchids. The most common orchid-related pest problem seems to be overdosing and under dosing with pesticides. If the label calls for one teaspoon per gallon, use exactly that amount. Just because a scale infestation was "really bad" does not mean the

concentration should be higher unless the label tells you to use a higher dosage. Some of the hormonal pesticides do prescribe lower concentrations after an initial treatment.

Another sometimes fatal error orchid hobbyists make is to change growing media because they see well grown orchids in some new medium. This often happens to relatively new hobbyists after purchasing plants from a commercial nursery or a visiting speaker. The mistake is to immediately repot every orchid into this "new medium". In most cases, the results are disastrous. There is much to learn by examining the growing medium of a commercial grower or very successful amateur. But remember that their success is specific to a set of growing conditions that may be very different from yours. In some cases, plants growing poorly at commercial nurseries are discarded, leaving the impression that all orchids grow well in this new medium. Some groups of orchids grow well in one medium, but not in another.

There is nothing wrong with experimenting with a medium and evaluating how well your plants grow in that medium, but avoid a wholesale conversion to a new medium. The most surprised individual is the novice grower that brings their plant in and asks what they should do to their orchid. Typically, their "problem" orchid has outgrown the pot, has roots going everywhere, and shows signs of having bloomed repeatedly. There is also usually an admission by the grower that they have neglected this "poor" orchid, but are determined to take better care of it next year. In other words, they have "done no harm" and the orchid has thrived.



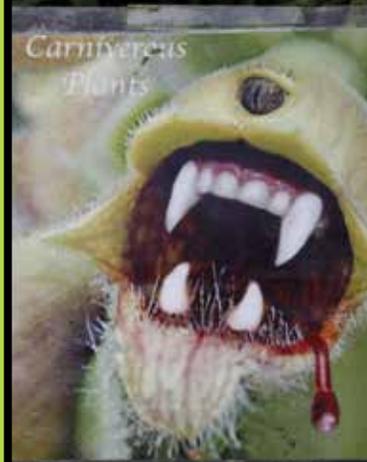
ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Shopping for Orchids at EFG

We went shopping for orchids for our summer auction at EFG in Deland, where George Hausermann operates a large nursery for exotic tropicals. We found lots of unusual orchids that we brought back for the auction including several that George donated to the cause, thanks George! He has become expert at finding the weird and the wild, the incredible black and white bat plants, pink flowered Medinilla, many varieties of carnivorous plants, colorful Rex begonias, bonsai arrangements, a raft of epiphyllums and more. George also offers monthly classes on a variety of topics. Take a trip, you'll enjoy your visit to the nursery.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Milt. Shelob 'Red Spider'



Grower Mary Colee
Den. unicum



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. Jumbo Egg



Grower Sue Bottom
Paph. Gina



Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel
Wils. Golden Afternoon



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Brsdm. Shooting Star 'Black Gold' HCC/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
Dtps. I-Hsin Sunflower



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
L. Pacavia



Grower Mary Colee
Ctsm. Frilly Doris 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS



Grower Linda Stewart
Neofinetia falcata



Grower George Hausermann
Pot. Mem. Shirley Moore 'Newberry'



Grower Sue Bottom
L. tenebrosa



Grower Mary Colee
Stan. Assidensis

