



OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org August 2007

The Gilmour Sprayer: Great aid for orchid growers

By Rhonda Heide,
Jupiter/Tequesta Orchid Society in Florida

Often you read recommendations for products to help grow better orchids. It's hard to sort out what might be useful or what might be complete bunk. In South Florida brings special concerns and problems not often addressed in beginner books, one of these problems being the need to protect our plants from rot. A spring and fall month of rain, recurring afternoon thundershowers, or the occasional hurricane, we are always on the lookout for easy ways to battle insects, bacterial, and fungal diseases on our new growths.

I had read about the Gilmour Sprayer in gardening catalogs and asked a few folks about their impressions of the product. It sounded like something I might be interested in. Many of us, I've gone through my fair share of the pressure pump sprayers that often leave my arm sore, and I'm not sure they really do the trick. I also always dislike cleaning them after use—I think they are more trouble than they are worth. Hose end sprayers often sold with liquid fertilizer always appeal to me since they are so easy to use and clean, but I hesitate to use anything that doesn't measure accurately on my orchids.

After some debate, I decided to try the Gilmour All Purpose Sprayer, Model #362. It has a brass mixing head, 16 mixing ratios and a built-in anti-siphon to prevent backflow. It is guaranteed for the lifetime of the product with free replacement. Considering all the pressure pump sprayers I've discarded over the years, this



OSGKC's August 12th meeting is The Picnic

Where: Cindy Hobb's house, 5633 Cottonwood, Shawnee, KS 66216 [See below for directions.]

When: Starting at 1:00 and eating at 1:30.

What: Eats - Bring a side dish. [Meat is provided, as are plates, flatware, cups/glasses, iced tea, water and lemonade.]

Swim - Bring a bathing suit. [The pool is provided.]

Chair - Bring a lawn chair. [Ground is provided.]

We'd like to get a head count. So please rsvp Mark Prout by August 8th: mprout2@comcast.net or 816/478-7087.

Everyone welcome — the more the merrier!

*** Quick directions:** Navigate to the intersection of Johnson Drive and Pflumm. Go north on Pflumm to 57th. St. Take a left (west) on 57th. St. and follow the curve about a block where the street changes to Cottonwood.

sounded good to me. The box includes instructions to use liquid chemicals and how to set the sprayer for teaspoons per gallon or tablespoons per gallon. A very impressive and economical bonus is the ability to return any unused liquid into the original container as it isn't diluted in the

process! I could easily figure the dilution rates for wettable powders, but I asked my vendor who had them readily available via email. I would need to contact the manufacturer of the wettable powder to determine if remaining liquid form has any shelf life once mixed with water.

The individual pieces seem sturdy enough, and the box contains a deflector

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Dear Orchid Lover,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 12th annual Open House at Hilltop Orchids, to be held on Saturday August 11, from 11:00 a.m. to whenever you tire of talking orchids.

We realized that in all the years we have been hosting this Open House, there has always had a guest speaker, so this year we decided to stay close to home and Dick will be the featured speaker. His discussion will ... cover culture for all the most commonly grown orchids in the home, e.g. Phals, Cats, Paphs, Phrags, Onc., Dens, etc. He will also be conducting workshops on potting, dividing, and how to determine if your plant needs different care. There will also be an opportunity to learn about lab techniques for anyone who has an interest.

There is no charge for the Open House, and lunch will be provided by Marvins Restaurant of Greencastle, Indiana.

If you need directions to the greenhouse, or information about area motels, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Please come and enjoy the day!!

Sincerely,

Dick and Sandy

1151 E. County Rd. 800 S., Cloverdale, IN – Phone: 765-795-6016 – Fax: 765-795-4066 – e-mail: rwells@certc.com

Joyce Moulis reports that botanists have discovered a new orchid.

The discovery, *Platanthera yosemitensis*, the Yosemite bog-orchid's official name (photo on right), was announced on June 11 in *Madrono*, a journal of the California Botanical Society. The new orchid species lives only in the wet meadows of Yosemite National Park.

To learn more about the orchid, visit Earthlink's website:

http://my.earthlink.net/article/top?guid=20070716/469aed40_3ca6_1552620070716822888593.



Platanthera yosemitensis

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Member Profile:
Michael G. Wheeler -
Q and A

Q. How many years have you been growing orchids?:

A. I've been in the habit for about three years, I think. (I bet you could get a more accurate dating by asking the membership committee when I joined. That is when I began caring for orchids.)

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:

A. Too many plants after going to Vivian's sale. G-d bless her. I'll go count. Just a moment. (Elevator music, please.) ...I have 21 Phalaenopsis, 21 mini cattleyas alliance, 29 dendrobiums, three oncidiums, and a plant with a faded tag in a coconut husk basket liner. (Nothing like a pear tree.) In

addition, I have some species plants as well, but it's too hot to cull them out.

Q. Briefly describe your growing environment?:

A. My growing environment depends on the season. Hot enough to go out? Under and around a tree in the center of my patio. The sunnier loving ones at the edge on a Mike-rigged, L-shaped two shelf stand on the east side. Did I say they are suspended on steel fence posts? (Got to see to believe.) With my bonsais. The others are on a privacy fence at the other end. (Lots of tree shade on the west.)



As for when it's too cold? All over the house. Some in sun and others under lights. Whoops! This was to be brief.

Q. Name one to three in your collection that is a/are particular favorite(s) and why:

A. I like the dendrobiums for the fact that they look like nice house plants when not in bloom, which is most of the time for me. I also like the long stem of the inflorescence. Can't give a specific plant though because my limited success hasn't presented one yet.

Q. Name one to three in your collection that, despite your best efforts, has/have proven particularly difficult to grow:

A. The most grief? All the dead ones. Especially the paphs and phrags.

Q. Share with readers your best orchid culture tip(s):

A. Best tip? Hummm? You know the old ceiling hooks we all have?

I use the sets of hooks in three rooms. One has a grow light, but on the other two I have a broom handle suspended from them that I then hang plants from. It creates a curtain of plants.

And another tip is that if you don't redo your plant's medium before you bring them in for the winter, expect ants. Lots of them. LOL. Funny now but wasn't then.

Q. What do/did (if retired) you do in life to support your orchid addiction?:

A. I work two jobs. My primary work is Youth Services Programmer at the J.C.C. Then weekends

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to aid in projecting the stream. It was easy to fill and attach to my water hose. sprayer is combined with a traditional squeeze-handle hose and watering device that is zinc. Unlike the fertilizer hose-end sprayers, I really felt I had complete control over the amount of chemicals applied to the plants.

For its debut, I chose to apply Cleary's 3336—a systemic wettable powder. I premixed the appropriate amount in 12 oz. of water and shook well. concentrate goes into the sprayer bottle. was easy to fill and attach to the hose. There are measuring gauges on the side of the bottle, so I could tell how much of the formula was being mixed with the water from the hose. was very pleased with the flexibility of being able to move around my collection without lugging a tank and pumping the handle. stream was easy to manage with the deflector attached. kept the deflector so the stream was pointed 'down' to help keep it from spraying back on me, and despite a slight breeze, I saw very little (if any) mist on my safety goggles.

Taking the sprayer apart was as simple as could be, and there were just a few pieces to rinse and clean. I rinsed each piece and loaded the bottle with water and ran it through for several minutes to thoroughly clean. in all, this sprayer was more convenient to use than anything I've tried before. a master gardener. I'm always growing something new and this product will be great for a variety of applications and plants. (I'm always wary of products that can only be used for one thing.)

As time passes, I'll certainly keep in mind the lifetime replacement guarantee. For what it's worth, I'd give this product FIVE STARS.

and holidays I work as a Security Officer. My college study was in Art. I still keep that up in my spare time.