



Volume V Issue 2  
January-February 2024



**Orchid Society  
of Greater  
Kansas City**

**OSGKC.ORG**

*As a non-profit organization to...  
...Promote interest in and to  
disseminate information in culture,  
development, and hybridization of  
orchids....*

**The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and \$30 for Household.**

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## January-February News!

### Comments from Jean Rogers, President

Hello OSGKC!!

What a cold January it's been!! It was disappointing to **not** get to share the in-person comradery at the January meeting, but there are some nice things about Zoom too. Several logged on at 1:00 and were able to have a lively conversation that EVERYONE could listen to, partake in, and learn from. I've included a couple of the ideas in "**Ideas, Items, and Inquiries**", page 17 below.



I'm sure that if we had had the meeting at Merriam Community Center, attendance would have been very low and orchids to view minimal at best. Instead, we had 35 devices tuned in with several of those being households rather than singles, and there were 37 orchids submitted for judging plus others for Viewing Pleasure!! I'm glad so many members were able to participate on such a cold, windy day.

We have lots of opportunities to participate in **shows and events coming up. The first up for 2024 is St. Louis on January 26-28 – come help put in an exhibit (contact Crystal Remington if you've discovered you can help) [cdmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:cdmeyer@gmail.com)** or just come to enjoy!! March will have Arkansas, Powell Garden, Springfield, and Omaha, one weekend after the next. It's fun to peruse together with other orchid enthusiasts, the orchids for show and for sale– contact Crystal if you can join in!! I hope this is the year everyone gets involved in our fantastic Society!!

One more thing – **Cindy Hobbs is our new Mentor Chair.** If you would like a mentor, please contact her. She will pair you with someone experienced with the genre you are interested in or just basic care. [tincan1201@aol.com](mailto:tincan1201@aol.com)

I look forward to seeing you in person in February.

Happy Orchid Growing,  
Jean

**Comments from Jean Rogers, Editor**

Thanks to Mark Prout and Cassie Nagy and Susan Olsen for proofing!!!

I've added some names and emails on the 1<sup>st</sup> page to help members locate information for follow-up. Please check it out.

Please remember that we'd like to see your blooming orchids. Feel free to take pictures anytime during the month and then send them when I let you know I'm working on the newsletter. We love seeing each others' successes.

If you find a new product or potting information, have an inquiry, or any other thing you think other members might be interested in, please send it to me and I'll include it in the newsletter. [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) Check out "Ideas, Items, and Inquiries" after the pictures.

If you have questions/problems, remember to bring your plant or pictures of it to the meeting. If you don't want to wait till next meeting, you can always post to Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page and get help from other members. And if you don't do Facebook but you are an AOS member, you can send pictures to the Greenhouse Chat (see AOS Webinar Chart below) and experts will help you during the Webinar Chat AND follow up with you. If you are not an AOS member, please consider becoming one. You can do that at their website. <https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society.

Jean

P.S.: I've received communication from St. Louis regarding their show I'd like to share and also from The Orchid Society of the Ozarks:



**Cheers to Orchids**

Show and Sale  
January 27 & 28, 9am – 5pm

At the Missouri Botanical Garden

Presented by the  
Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis



**Schedule of Events**

Friday January 26	9:00 am – 5:00 pm Setup and registration
	Noon – 4:00 pm Garden member preview party, sales tables NOT OPEN
	6:00pm – 8:30 pm Garden Member Preview Party, sales tables OPEN
Saturday January 27	6:45 am Coffee and Donuts/Bagels
	7:00 am Ribbon Judging
	AOS judging following ribbon judging
	9:00 am – 5:00 pm Show open to public
Sunday January 28	9:00 am – 5:00 pm Show open to public
	5:00 pm Show teardown

# 13th annual Orchid Show & Sale

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks



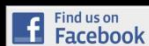
Friday,  
March 1  
5 pm-7:30 pm  
*(BGO members preview)*

Saturday,  
March 2  
9 am-5 pm

Sunday,  
March 3  
noon-4 pm

Botanical Garden  
of the Ozarks  
4703 N. Crossover Rd.  
Fayetteville

Hundreds of  
plants in bloom!  
Care classes!  
Look,  
photograph,  
learn, buy!



[www.oso-web.org](http://www.oso-web.org)  
[www.bgozarks.org](http://www.bgozarks.org)



Co-sponsored by the Orchid Society of the Ozarks  
and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

## Facebook Group

Our Facebook page, Orchid Growers of OSGKC, is a great place for us to communicate, share, learn from each other. All through the month we have orchids that bud and bloom and we get so excited and want to share it, and the meeting is sooooo far away!! Use the Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook Page. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/?ref=share> It is easy to post your precious orchids and get oooohhs and ahhhs from other members. Or something is going on and you want to ask someone – post it on this page. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy ([charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)). She'll be glad to help. **If you want to email us**, please contact Cindy Hobbs – Mentor Chair, [tincan1201@aol.com](mailto:tincan1201@aol.com)



## January Speaker Review by Crystal Remington

### Fred Clark: Becoming an 80th Percentile Grower

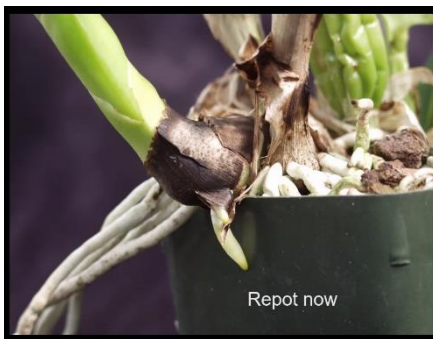
Fred Clark encouraged all of us to be the best possible growers.

All you need is: Water-Light-Temperature-Pot. Fred reminded us that Orchids have been around longer than humans! He advises that noting how plants grow in nature teaches us how to grow orchids successfully. Some tips to consider: Orchids need good drainage, every time a plant gets water in nature it gets a little bit of fertilizer, and remember orchids do best with filtered direct light.

Orchids are Art!! WE are Curators of Art! Please view a few screenshots of his talk.

Genus	Foot Candles	Temperatures	
		High	Low
Phalaenopsis	1000-1200	75 - 82	68 - 72
Paphiopedilum	1200-1500	75 - 85	60 - 68
Bulbophyllum	1500-2000	75 - 85	60 - 68
Catasetinae	2500-3500	75 - 85	55 - 65
Cattleya	2500-3500	75 - 85	55 - 65
Dendrobium	2500-3500	75 - 85	55 - 65
Oncidium	2500-3500	75 - 80	55 - 65
Zygopetalum	2500-3500	70 - 80	45 - 55
Cymbidiums	3500-4500	70 - 80	40 - 55
Vanda	3500-4500	85 - 95	68 - 75

We anxiously await warmer temperatures to put a group order in from Fred Clarke!



#### Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

- April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.
- November: reduce light schedule hour = 14 hrs.
- December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.
- January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.
- February: add one hour = 13 hrs.
- March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.
- April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

- ◆ Pure water sources like de-ionized, reverse osmosis, and rain water:

- ◆ Use fertilizers like a 15-5-15 cal/mag
  - Nitrogen is mostly in a nitrate form
  - Proper phosphorous for the plants
  - Calcium and magnesium added

#### Fertilizer Rate

- ◆ Fertilization rate for 100 ppm nitrogen solution:
  - 1/2 teaspoon per gallon of water
  - 1:15 Siphon injector: *Dramm Syphonject, Hozon Injector, Brass Siphon Mixer*
    - ◆ use 1.5 oz. of fertilizer in 1 gallon of water

## Meetings Upcoming meeting(s) and Events - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:

February 11, 2024, Doug Martin

The February 11 program will feature Dr. Doug Martin on pollination: “The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids: Orchid Pollination” Doug will explain how orchid pollination works, then discuss the various rewards and deceptions that orchids use to induce birds, bees and other beasts to take the place of toothpicks. He will also describe some of the tricks orchids have developed to prevent self pollination and hybridization.

Doug was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He went to college and graduate school at Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY where he earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. In 1988, he moved to St. Louis, and sold genetic research equipment and supplies. In St. Louis Doug met Beth and discovered orchids. His life hasn't been the same since. He remembers being at the Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show and thinking “These are much more interesting than African Violets!” Beth and Doug were married in 1990, and in 1991 Beth, bowing to the inevitable, bought Doug an orchid (from Orchids by ViCli) for Valentine's Day. Doug immediately bought himself a second orchid and a week later, they bought three more.

In 1992 Doug opened Biosource Orchid Lab to do seed flasking and stem propagation for orchid growers. For five years people sent him orchid seed and paid him to play with it. In 1997 Beth took a position with State Street Bank in Kansas City. They moved from St. Louis to Kansas City, Doug closed the lab and started teaching Chemistry at Penn Valley Community College.

Today, Doug and Beth are retired from their day jobs, and are now AOS Judges and members of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City.

## Project Plant Update by Kristy Charland

There have been a few inquiries as to what are we growing next? My thoughts are perhaps one of Fred Clarke's catasetum type hybrids, or perhaps, if I can find a supplier, a Bulbophyllum. Please let me know what you prefer on the Facebook page.

Please report your progress on any of our many Project Plants to the Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page. The link is noted above. Or if you don't participate on Facebook, please let me know and send photos so that I can keep track of our flowers.

charland.ek@outlook.com Growing questions are always welcome. News from the Paph growing is two more flowers from our group. Below are, L to R,



Ariel Paulson's Paph Desert Realm and

Katerina Jenkins' Paph Memoria Harry Truman.



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## Judging Notes...

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### Upcoming Shows & AOS Judging Around Our Region

If you have an orchid blooming that you think is FANTASTIC – Contact Mark Prout. If it is time for a meeting at the Judging Center – they could take your plant to be evaluated for an award (and/or give you their best opinion if it indeed should be looked at). There are Judging Centers all-across America. The one closest to us is the MidAmerica Judging Center in St. Louis, MO. It holds monthly judging on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. The mission of the Judging Centers is to provide orchid growers in the region with the opportunity to have their plants evaluated and judged for AOS awards. These include HCC, AM, FCC, JC, AQ, CBR, CHM, CCM, and CCE.

#### January 27-28, 2024

**Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis, "Cheers to Orchids"**, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO

#### February 10, 2024

**Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging**, noon, Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

#### February 17, 2024

**Great Plains Judging Center monthly judging**, 10:30 am, Beech Science Center, 100 College St., Winfield, KS

#### March 1-3, 2024

**Orchid Society of the Ozarks "13th Annual Orchids in the Garden"**, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, 4703 N. Crossover Rd, Fayetteville, AR 72764

#### March 3, 2024

American Orchid Society 5<sup>th</sup> Culture Day – "Orchids for Enjoyment" – <https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/news/2024/orchid-culture-day.aspx>

#### March 16-17, 2024

**Springfield Orchid Society Show**, Springfield Greene County Botanical center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO.

#### March 23--25, 2024

**Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show & Sale**, Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE

#### April 3, 2024

**AOS Spring Member's Meeting** in conjunction with the Apopka International Orchid Festival and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Krull-Smith, 2800 W Ponkan Rd, Apopka, FL 32712

#### April 13, 2024

**Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging**, noon, Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

April 26-28, 2024

Tulsa Orchid Society Show & Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa, OK

May 4-5, 2024

Oklahoma Orchid Society Show & Sale, Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK

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## OSGKC Judging

Ribbon judging at our meetings at the Merriam Community Center are not official AOS judging events, but are an introduction to the judging process and a way for members to share and learn more. Any plant you enter, you should have owned and cared for, for at least 3 months (not just bought recently and brought in. Also, bring the same flowers in for judging only once. For example, if you enter a Paph. one month and the next month it is still in bloom, please do NOT enter it again. Seeing orchids in flower is one of the greatest joys of our meetings and we are so happy to be able to do this again. Please bring in your blooming orchids, even if you don't think they are "award quality". You will always learn something by bringing plants in to discuss and share with other members. And, ribbons count for points which build through the year for our year-end award presentation each December.

## January Meeting Judging Results and pictures by Anh Rongish

Thanks to all who brought orchids to enter and show: Jeanne Smith, Kristy Charland, Scott Howell III, Cindy Hobbs, Philip Kinney, Annie Heath, Mike Rafferty, Nancy Kasparch, Susie Hanna and Al Clinton

### **White Ribbon Winners**

Oncidium: Oncidium Gower Ramsey 'Orange' by Scott Howell III  
Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS (C. guttata x Gur. aurantiaca) by Jennifer McAroy  
Phalaenopsis: Phal. NOID by Jeanne Smith  
Dendrobium: Den. Lucky Girl by Justin Jenkins  
Other: Jewel Orchid NOID #1 by Annie Heath  
Other: Jewel Orchid NOID #2 by Annie Heath

### **Red Ribbon Winners**

Cattleya: Hausermann's Gala x Hausermann's Jade 'Lake View' by Mike Rafferty  
Cattleya: Lc. Spring fires 'Lenette #3' X LC. Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS by Scott Howell III  
Cattleya: Slc. Beau's Apricot Gem 'SVO Little Giant' x Slc. Seagulls Apricot 'Neon Orange' by Crystal Remington  
Cattleya: Rth. Sunrise Passion #22 by Justin Jenkins  
Oncidium: Vyulstekeara Melissa Brianne "Dark" (Miltonia X Oncidium) by Katerina Jenkins  
Oncidium: Twinkle 'Sweet Fragrance' by Heidi Stoker  
Oncidium: Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Quail Eggs' by Jeanne Smith  
Phalaenopsis: NOID by Merri Archibald  
Phalaenopsis: NOID by Bart Wahlgren  
Phalaenopsis: NOID by Scott Howell III  
Phalaenopsis: NOID #1 by Jeanne Smith  
Phalaenopsis: NOID #2 by Jeanne Smith  
Phalaenopsis: NOID #3 by Jeanne Smith  
Phalaenopsis: NOID #4 by Jeanne Smith  
Dendrobium: Piper Red by Merri Archibald  
Dendrobium: Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga by Justin Jenkins

Paphiopedium: Paph. Desert Realm (Paph Desert Rain 'Ringo' x Paph Thunder Bay 'Flash' AM/AOS) by Ariel Paulson  
Other: Ludisia discolor by Mike Rafferty  
Other: Barkeria Purple Dragon Flies by Crystal Remington

### **Blue Ribbon Winners**

Cattleya: Cattleya Purple Cascade 'Sweet Beauty' by Katerina Jenkins  
Cattleya: Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' by Katerina Jenkins  
Phalaenopsis: Phal. NOID by Merri Archibald  
Phalaenopsis: Phal. Tetraglyph by Kristy Charland  
Paphiopedium: Paph. Paphiopedilum Memoria Harry Truman by Katerina Jenkins  
Paphiopedium: Paph. (Hysing Citron x Maudie's) '#1' X Paph. Hysing Madalyn '#7' by Merri Archibald  
Oncidium: Bllra. Tropic Lily 'Hilo Space Ship' by Amanda Spicer  
Oncidium: Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Red Spread' by Jeanne Smith  
Vanda 'Bigness x Korb Fah' by Justin Jenkins  
Dendrobium: Den. Dendrobium Doralba Mesa Rodriguez (blue twinkle x stratiotes) by Justin Jenkins  
Other: Gptm (Galeopetalum) Arlene Armour 'Conching' by Ariel Paulson



## **January**

# **Orchid of the Month**

**Dendrobium Doralba Mesa  
Rodriguez  
(blue twinkle x stratiotes)  
by Justin Jenkins**

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***For Fun and Learning!!***

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***Orchid Growing Tidbits (How I Grow It.....)***

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**January Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids and –" How I grow It":**





**Paphiopedilum (Paph.) (Hysing Citron x Maudie's) '#1' X Paph. Hysing Madalyn '#7' By Merri Archibald**

This orchid is on a wide windowsill that faces West in my Kitchen. I have two rows of plants on this sill, and this Paph. is always on the inner most row so it gets filtered indirect light. I water with tap water every week to 10 days that includes a light fertilizer. It's in a bark mixture with some moss mixed in. The temperature in the winter can get down to about 64 or 65 when it is very cold out. Otherwise it stays around 68 degrees.



**Cattleya: Purple Cascade 'Sweet Beauty' by Katerina Jenkins**

I grow it in the dining room next to a large window (west) from October till May. I also use grow lights (4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the evening). It is about 64 degrees at night and about 68 degrees during the day. I water it every 14 days and use MSU orchid food by Repot Me and time release orchid fertilizer. I use purified water and rain water. It is outside from May till October in a shade. It grows in a mix of bark and moss (layers). It usually blooms twice a year for me. I will make a division from this one and it will be available at our silent auction in August!



**Cattleya: Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' by Katerina Jenkins**

I grow it in the dining room next to a large window (west) from October till May. I also use grow lights (4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the evening). It is about 64 degrees at night and about 68 degrees during the day. I water it every 14 days and use MSU orchid food by Repot Me and time release orchid fertilizer. I use purified water and rain water. It is outside from May till October in a shade. It grows in a mix of bark and moss (layers). It usually blooms in February around Valentines' Day. I will also make a division from this one and it will be available at our silent auction in August!



**Paphiopedilum (Paph.) (1<sup>st</sup> Bloom Category) Paphiopedilum Memoria Harry Truman (project plant 2023) by Katerina Jenkins**

I grow it in the kitchen next to a northern window. From October till May it is about 64 degrees at night and about 68 degrees during the day. From May till October the temperatures are about 68 degrees at night and about 73 degrees during the day. I water it every 10-14 days and use MSU orchid food by Repot Me and time release orchid fertilizer. I use purified water and rain water. It grows in bark. It is still in its original mix.





### **Phalaenopsis (Phal.) NOID by Merri Archibald**

This plant is on a top corner shelf between two windows. One faces south and the other mostly east. There is a fairly wide overhang which mitigates the direct south light especially in the summer. I water using tap water every week to 10 days with a light fertilizer. It's potted in a coarse bark mixture for Phals.



### **Dendrobium (Den.) Doralba Mesa Rodriguez (blue twinkle x stratiotes) by Justin Jenkins**

this 'Spatulata' or antelope type dendrobium prefers temperatures above 65, but tolerates lower temperatures, preferring high humidity also. this orchid is grown in a shallow, non-vented clay pot; the media consists of coco chips, chunky perlite, fir bark, lava rock and charcoal - the chunkier the better.

in the winter, it grows under LED lights for 12 hours each day, also close to an eastern window. air movement is crucial, as are 'wet-dry' cycles. in the summer, it grows under a 60% shade cloth in my backyard, getting full afternoon sun. it gets watered 4-5 times a week, depending on the temperature that day.

My fertilizer recipe consists of: Better Gro Orchid Fertilizer, 'CAL-MAGic', Epsom Salt, and seaweed extract (less seaweed in the winter for hormone regulation.) it also gets weekly foliar feedings (the leaves get sprayed with fertilizer,) it doubles as cleansing the leaves off.



### **Phalaenopsis (Phal.) Phal. tetraglyph by Kristy Charland**

Novelty Phal care. Medium light. Potted in sphagnum moss in a clear pot. I water when the roots appear white through the pot. I use Norman's nutrients fertilizer weakly as needed when watering. I have been turning this and other novelty phals on their sides if possible in my grow room. This avoids water being caught in the crown.



### **Vanda 'Bigness x Korb Fah' by Justin Jenkins**

This complex vanda hybrid is very forgiving, granted you give it enough humidity. this vanda has been grown in a wooden basket, held together inside the basket by media composed of - coco chips, fir bark, charcoal, lava rock, and chunky perlite. it gets watered every day in the summer time, sometimes twice if the temperatures gets above 90 degrees f; the temperatures in the winter gets down to 60 degrees f, having about a 15 degree difference between day and night - it gets watered, two-three times a week, allowing it to dry out almost completely between waterings in the winter (wet-dry cycles.) Air movement is crucial year-round.

It stays within a south window in the winter, supplemented with LED grow lights with a 12-13 hour timer, while getting full sun all day. When going outside in the summertime, it goes under a 60% shade sail in my backyard, getting morning and afternoon sun.

I use harvested rainwater to flush once a month with no fertilizer. When fertilizing, be sure to keep the fertilizer levels under 300ppm, though Vandas are tolerant of higher concentrations. My fertilizer recipe consists of: Better Gro

Orchid Fertilizer, 'CAL-MAGic', Epsom Salt, and seaweed extract (less seaweed in the winter for hormone regulation.) it also gets weekly foliar feedings (the leaves get sprayed with fertilizer.)



### **Bllra. Tropic Lily 'Hilo Space Ship' (Oncidium Category by Amanda Spicer**

If you have questions about how to raise this or Oncidium types, you can check with Amanda. [spicera@live.com](mailto:spicera@live.com)



### **Galeopetalum (Gptm.) Arlene Armour 'Conching' (Other Category) by Ariel Paulson**

Light: 1000 Lumen LED bar about 6" away

Temp: varies from ~65 in winter to ~80 in summer

Humidity: 30-50%

Water/fertilizer: weekly, tap w/ 1/4-conc all-purpose MiracleGro

Media: from grower, appears to be medium bark mix



### **Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Red Spread' (Oncidium Category) by Jeanne Smith**

Summer Light: I take it outside for the summer. It is placed on the top shelf and under a dog pen shade cover. I add a second dog pen shade cover when the temperatures once the temperatures reach near 90. It stayed on last summer until I took the plants in at the beginning of October.

Winter Light: It is under MiracleLED full spectrum grow lights during the winter set for 13 hours per day.

Summer temperature: It depends on Mother Nature.

Winter temperature: During the day the room reaches around 83. At night it drops to 70.

Water: I use rainwater collected in summer & melted snow during the winter.

Summer Watering: It is misted about first thing in the morning every day during the summer especially when it reached 85. It would be misted in the afternoon when the temperatures were over 90.



Winter Watering: It is misted about every 4 days during the winter.

Summer Humidity: I use an Ego Misting fan with a 5-gallon bucket with 1 gallon of rainwater on the medium setting when the temperatures were close to 90. Two gallons were used when the temperatures were closer to 100. I also had an oscillating fan out every day the temperature was over 85. It ran all from 8:00 AM until sunset. It would run until 10:00 PM on extremely hot evenings.

Winter Humidity: I have several saucers of water in the room. I have 2 fans moving the air in the room.

Fertilizer: I have been using Orchid Premium Food. I have the 20-20-20 and 20-10-20. I generally use the 20-10-20 twice a month. I use plain rainwater on the other days.

Potting Mix: It does not have any. It is in the round plastic net pot I purchased it in

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## Blooming Orchids for Show

**For your VIEWING PLEASURE!** Thanks to members who donated!!

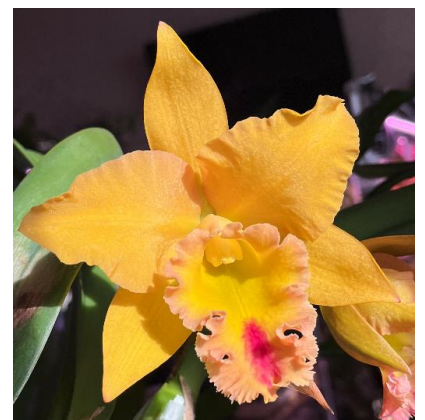
Did you know we now have an amazing 137 members in our membership??? Yes, 137!!! It would be beyond my wildest dream if even  $\frac{3}{4}$  of you sent a picture for 'Viewing Pleasure'!!! Share your beauties!!! Become involved in the Society as much as you can. It is so fun and rewarding associating with all of you!!!



Cat. Hausermann's Gala x Hausermann's Jade 'Lake View' by Mike Rafferty



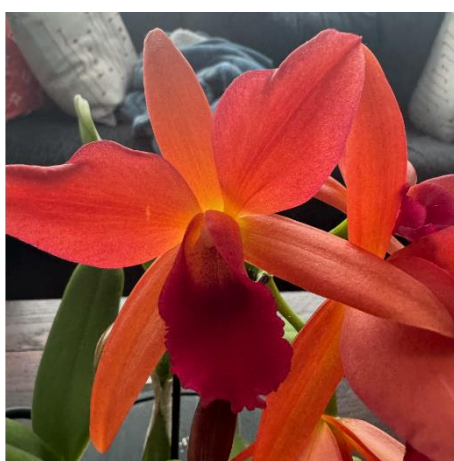
Barkeria Purple Dragon Flies by Crystal Remington



Rth. Sunrise Passion #22 by Justin Jenkins



Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS (C. guttata x Gur. aurantiaca) by Jennifer McArroy



LC. Spring fires 'Lenette #3' X LC. Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS by Scott Howell III



Slc. Beau's Apricot Gem 'SVO Little Giant' x Slc. Seagulls Apricot 'Neon Orange' by Crystal Remington





Dendrobium Lucky Girl by Justin Jenkins



Dendrobium Piper Red by Merri Archibald



Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga by Justin Jenkins



Oncidium Gower Ramsey 'Orange' by Scott Howell III



Onc. Twinkle 'Sweet Fragrance' by Heidi Stoker



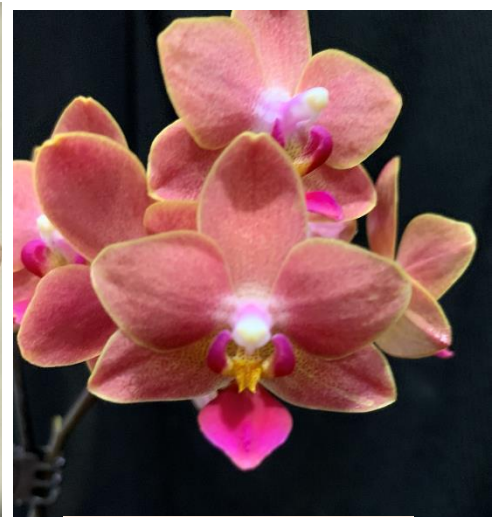
Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Quail Eggs' by Jeanne Smith



Vyulstekeara Melissa Brianne 'Dark' by Katerina Jenkins

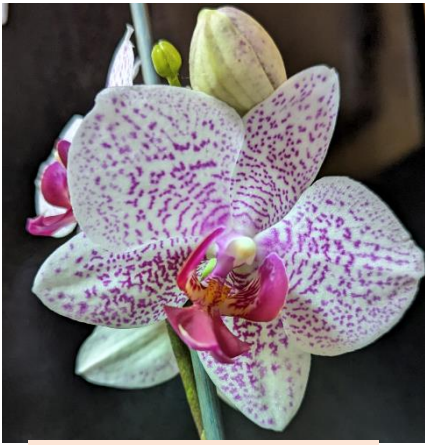


Phal. NO ID by Jeanne Smith



Phal. NO ID by Merri Archibald





Phal. NO ID by Bart Wahlgren



Phal. NO ID by Scott Howell III



Phal. NO ID by Jeanne Smith



Phal. NO ID by Jeanne Smith



Phal. NO ID by Jeanne Smith



Jewel Orchid No ID #2 by Annie Heath



Jewel Orchid No ID #1 by Annie Heath



Ludisia discolor by Mike Rafferty

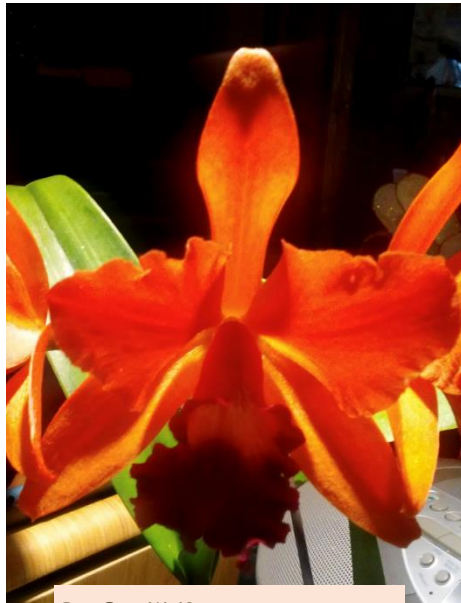


Paph Desert Realm (Paph Desert Rain 'Ringo' x Paph Thunder Bay 'Flash' AM/AOS) by Ariel Paulson

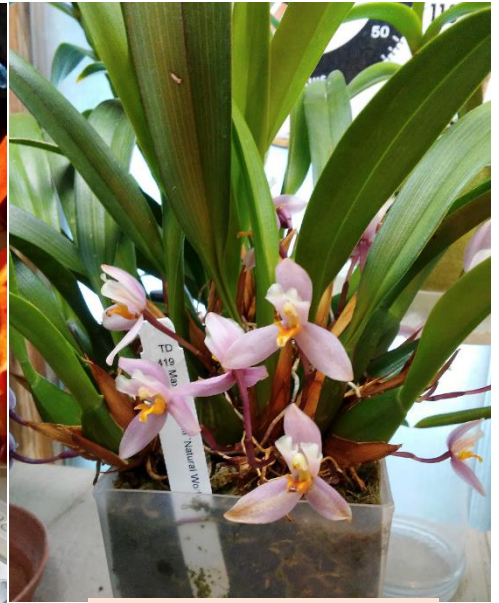




Den. Thongchai Gold by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



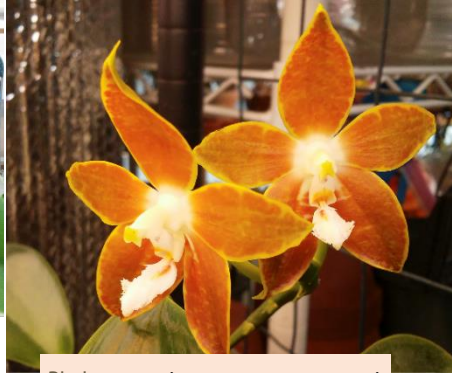
Pot. Sara Wolf by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



Max. Richie 'Natural Wonder' by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



C. Mario Lanza by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



Phal. venosa by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



Trt. Ollie Palmer by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



Phal. NO ID by Jeanne Smith



Masd. Magenta ZingerHanna by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



Holcostylis Pink Yawi by Susie Hanna and Al Clinton





Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' by Jean Rogers



Phal. NOID by Jean Rogers



Lc. Betty Ford 'York' by Jean Rogers



Den. Edfran's Gem 'Snow White' by Jean Rogers



Paph. (Jenna Marie 'Sparkle' AM/AOS x Mary's Little Leopard) by Jean Rogers



Ludisia discolor by Jean Rogers





Lc. Fire Island 'Fiery' by Cindy Hobbs



Blx. Carolina Orange D'or 'Lenette' #2 AM/AOS x Pot Rubescence 'SVI' AM/AOS by Pat Bridgford



Bulbophyllum medusae by Laila Scherer



Robiquetia aberrans by Laila Scherer



Sophronitis wittigana (rosea) by Justin Jenkins



Vanda lamellata 'Okinawa' by Justin Jenkins



Phalaenopsis sanderiana by Justin Jenkins



Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi by Justin Jenkins



Stanhopea reichenbachiana by Justin Jenkins



Phaiocalanthe-kryptonite  
'Parkside' by Barbara Hadel



Dtps. Sogo Yenlin by Bart  
Wahlgren

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## Ideas, Items and Inquiries (If you know of something for this section, please send to [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) for inclusion)

Before the January Zoom meeting started, several members logged on early and a lively discussion commenced about treating bugs and fungus. (Goes to show, there's not **just one** answer.)

### Insects

**Susie Hanna** – Bonide, Systemic Houseplant Insect Control. If really bad or hard to get rid of – you can use Safari (Ebay). Neem oil (DynaGro) can also be used for insects and mites - available online from orchid supply companies but some leaves are sensitive to it.

**Ariel Paulson** – Avid (for hatched mites) and Tetrasan (for mite eggs). These are systemic not foliar spray. Treat and leave the room for hours or treat outside. BioAdvanced product line for imidacloprid active ingredient (for mealie bugs/scale) (Bio Advanced Complete Insect Killer example-available at Ace Hardware – he uses double strength (2T/gal.) to hit hard one time). Insecticidal soap coats mites or other pests but need systemic for the eggs or treat every 7-10 days for 3-4 weeks

**Mark Prout** – Says you can find multiple DIY treatments on First Rays site. Homemade insect spray – 1:1:2 parts alcohol, 409 cleaner, water.

**Kristy Charland** – Homemade insect spray – says Alan Koch uses 1:1:1 parts alcohol, 409, water. Dragon Blood

### Fungus

**Mark Prout** – Cinnamon Tea (Note from Jean - See below for the free-information from the First Rays site. Ray also has recipes for 1)Soft-bodied bugs, such as aphids & mealie bugs, 2)Insects that have hard shells, such as scale, and thrips, 3)General-purpose insect spray, 4)Ant eliminator, 5)Insect Repellant, 6)Mildewcide, 7)slug & snail treatments, 8)algaeicide, 9)herbicide, 10)general-purpose disinfectant, 11)leaf shine, 11) “do everything”spray, and 12)crown rot treatment)



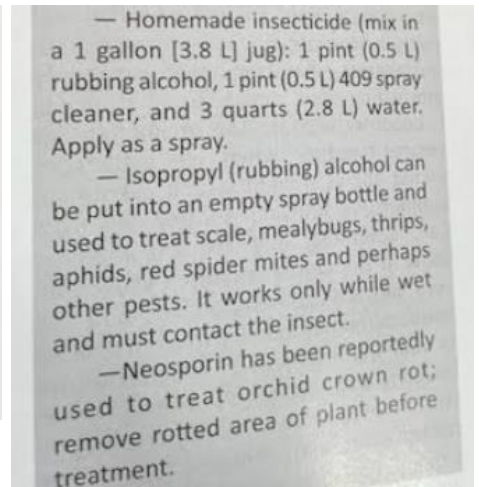
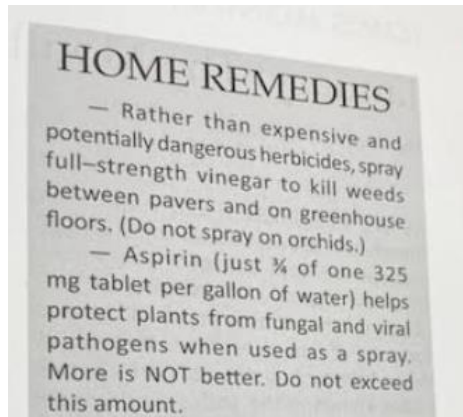
**Kristy Charland** – Dragon Blood for Crown Rot – Kristy says “Dragon’s blood is an extract from plant that works as fungicide, similar to cinnamon powder but easier to work with. Not as messy. You can target rot with it. A drop or two on the affected area. I have saved a novelty phaleanopsis with this.”

**Susie Hanna** – Physan for antifungal. If need stronger Thiomyl, Phyton27. But remember no copper on Dendrobiums. There was discussion if this is real. However, even Sue Bottom who writes a lot of articles for AOS and the St. Augustine Orchid Society says not to use copper products on Dendrobiums.

**Ariel Paulson** – Dragon’s Blood extract I use: [https://www.amazon.com/Luna-Sundara-Dragons-Lechleri-Ethically/dp/B07WJX93JM/ref=mp\\_s\\_a\\_1\\_1\\_sspa?crd=2MYVQ682WMMGU&keywords=luna+sundara+dragons+blood&qid=1705558900&srefix=luna+sundara+dragons+blood%2Caps%2C128&sr=8-1-spons&sp\\_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9waG9uZV9zZWZyY2hfYXRm&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Luna-Sundara-Dragons-Lechleri-Ethically/dp/B07WJX93JM/ref=mp_s_a_1_1_sspa?crd=2MYVQ682WMMGU&keywords=luna+sundara+dragons+blood&qid=1705558900&srefix=luna+sundara+dragons+blood%2Caps%2C128&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9waG9uZV9zZWZyY2hfYXRm&psc=1)

Remember to have good ventilation when you use this stuff – especially the “big guns” -Safari and Thiomyl- that Susie mentioned

Thanks to **Katerina Jenkins** - Here is a Clip she found from the AOS providing ideas for Home Remedies.



The following is copied From “Free Information”, **First Rays** website (Mark Prout mentioned this site):

#### FUNGICIDE:

- Those of you who frequent the internet orchid forums know of my “crusade” for the use of cinnamon as a fungicide. I’ve done a lot of digging, and it turns out that the chemicals in the bark have all sorts of medicinal applications (I’ve even cured athlete’s foot with my alcohol extract!) Choose the consistency that is best for your situation:
- Powder: Apply normal, household cinnamon powder directly to the affected part of the plant by dusting heavily. This has proven to be a good way to control slime mold and mushrooms in the mulch in my outdoor flower beds, too!
- Poultice: Mix cinnamon powder with sufficient casein-based glue (Elmer’s) to make a thick, brown paste. Apply to the wound and let dry. The Elmer’s Glue is water soluble, but resists washing-off quite well. This is the preference for mounted plants that get watered or misted frequently. An alternative to the Elmer’s Glue, but just as waterproof and long-lasting is made by mixing cinnamon powder and cooking oil to form a thick paste.
- Spray: You can prepare a cinnamon spray using either alcohol or water as your solvent. The alcohol infusion is faster to prepare, and offers some insecticidal properties as well. This is my preferred method, and has been effective at eliminating all sorts of fungus problems, including damping-off of deflasked seedlings.
  - Put 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of cinnamon powder in a pint (500 ml) of isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Shake well and let stand overnight. Filter the solution to remove the sediment (coffee filters work well), and use the brown liquid as a spray. (While it’s not a big problem for most orchid growers, I’ve heard that this is good for powdery mildew, as well.) or...
  - Put the cinnamon powder in hot water. Shake well and let stand for several days. Filter and use as above. (Some feel that the alcohol can be too desiccating when used on seedlings.)
- Here’s another alternative – Ground Corn Meal. Place one cup of whole ground corn meal in an old sock or panty hose leg and immerse in a gallon of water. Let stand for a couple of days, then use the liquid as a spray.

- Hydrogen Peroxide – If your phals look like they’re starting to get crown rot, sometimes simply pouring some straight-from-the-drug store hydrogen peroxide on the wound can stop the process. Just be sure to tilt the plant and drain the grown after about five minutes so it can dry.
- General Purpose Spray: Put one cup of the alcohol cinnamon-extract in a pint bottle, add two tablespoons of liquid dishwashing detergent, and top up with water. Use as a spray. The soap and alcohol are good insecticides, while the cinnamon is a fungicide.

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At the picnic this summer, we plan to have a “division” silent auction. That being the case, I’ve been on a hunt to help with ideas for doing the dividing. Several years ago, I watched a video that showed growing new plants from back bulbs. The grower severed the back bulbs, at least 3 but preferably 4 or 5 that have at least an eye or two. He then put them in a plastic grocery bag with a little wet spaghnum and he said “hang them under the bench in the greenhouse and forget them till they put on roots and growth.” He did this with Cattleyas. The article below is about applying the method to Cymbidiums. I have **BOLD** printed the section below about this method. I’ve also tried a version of this by putting rocks or leca or glass marbles in the bottom of tall cut-flower vases and kept water in the rocks for the humidity. Plastic wrap can cover the top if desired.

I cannot find the video I watched but Thank Brian Milligan and the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. for putting this in print.

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For the benefit of novice growers I should explain that a back-bulb is a bulb that has lost all its leaves, hopefully because of age rather than disease. When a cymbidium is repotted, it’s desirable to remove these leafless bulbs, preferably by severing the rhizome linking them to the rest of the plant. It’s best to use a sterile knife or scissors, but some growers simply twist the connecting rhizome by hand until it breaks. Having removed the back-bulbs, how do you ‘strike’ them and why? ‘Striking’ is jargon for encouraging the back-bulb to produce new growth from incipient leaf nodes, which are mostly located near the base of the bulb.

To prepare a back-bulb for ‘striking’ first remove any old leaf husks, as these may harbor scale and other insect pests. Then cut any residual roots back to their junction with the back-bulb and trim the break if the bulb was removed by twisting. To minimize infection by any of the organisms responsible for rot the cut surfaces should be sealed, either with Steri-Prune® (or similar sealing paste) or by leaving the bulb lying in the shade for a few days for the cut surfaces to form a scab or callus. Alternatively, the cut surfaces can be dusted with a fungicide. Leaving the back-bulbs to dry for a few days is the simplest option.

There are many different ways of striking back-bulbs. I’ve used several different methods, each with a fair measure of success. The simplest method, involving least effort, is simply to bury the back-bulb to two thirds of its depth in the same potting medium that you use for the rest of your collection. If you use a 4-in pot then no attention will be needed for two years except regular watering and the addition of a little slow release fertilizer in spring.

Some back-bulbs strike more rapidly than others. If a leaf growth appears within three months you’re doing well, while six months would be average. If there’s no sign of growth within twelve months all but



the super-optimist should give up (there are always a few back-bulbs each year that fail to strike). Generally, roots do not appear until the leaf growth is several inches tall, and there is no point in applying slow-release fertilizer until this stage is reached. If you're keen, there may be some benefit in applying liquid fertilizer to the foliage at an earlier stage as liquid fertilizers are absorbed by leaves as well as by roots.

In recent years I've struck back-bulbs of my more highly valued cymbidiums using Sphagnum moss as the potting medium. This method seems to produce more rapid growth, but that's probably because I place the pots in my heated glass-house during winter. After about a year the moss is removed and replaced with conventional cymbidium mix. A modified version of this method has been used by some growers for many years. **The back-bulbs are placed in a plastic bag with a little very wet Sphagnum moss and the bag is then sealed and hung in the shade-house.** The struck back-bulbs are potted in cymbidium mix when the leaves and roots are a few inches long.

The old back-bulb eventually rots and it should be removed from the new plant as soon as rot is detected. While the bulb is in good condition it provides the plant with nutrients, so it's best to leave it attached as long as possible. However, some growers remove the old back-bulb as soon as the new plant appears able to support itself and then attempt to make it strike a second time. This often works, particularly with large back-bulbs, although the chances of the bulb rotting during its second year are much greater, of course.

So, novice grower, now you know how to increase your cymbidium collection. But be warned – it takes four years on average for the new plant to reach flowering size and if you strike all your back-bulbs you will soon have to move to larger premises!

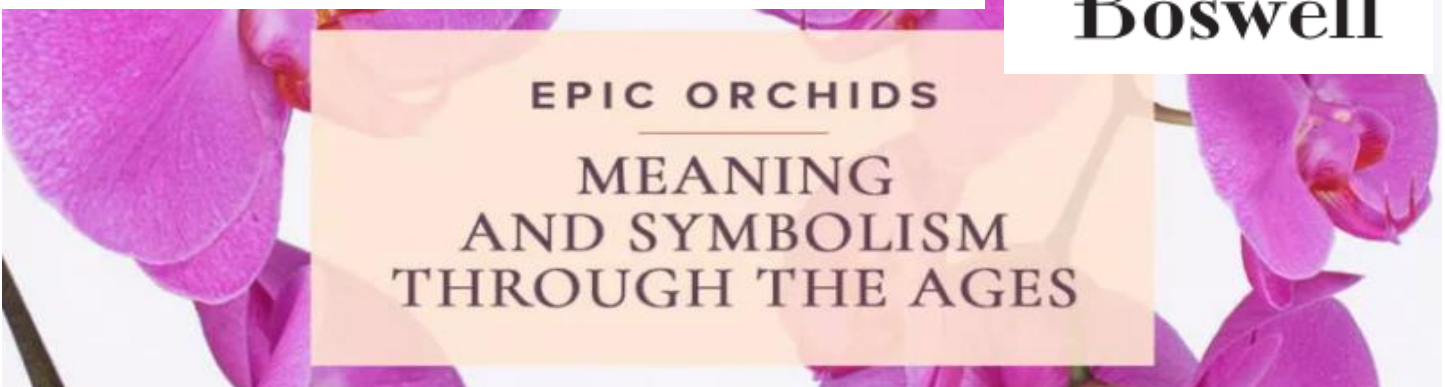


Cymbidium Do Wop 'Woopie'  
HCC/OSCOV



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Thanks to **Alishia Cole** for finding this item. If you are interested in history at all, you'll love reading about Orchids meaning and symbolism through the past 26-110 million years – Japanese, Aztec, Chinese, Greek, and the Victorian Era. Enjoy!! We thank Gordon Boswell for this enlightenment.



## THE EVOLUTION OF ORCHID MEANING AND SYMBOLISM

Orchids have had a noteworthy impact on a wide variety of cultures and eras, from ancient Greece to modern-day Japan. Throughout the past 26 to 110 million years, the meaning of [orchids](#) has flourished between its cultural significances and special utilizations. Discover more as our floral experts here at [Gordon Boswell, the best florist in Fort Worth](#), dive into the history and symbolism of the wondrous orchid.

The Greeks are credited for officially giving orchids their name, including the Cymbidium Orchid (from the Greek word “kymbos”) and Dendrobium Orchid (meaning “life in tree”). However, when it comes to the Phalaenopsis Orchid, Swedish Naturalist, Peter Osbeck is credited for its nickname. As he gazed out his window in the mid-1750s, he believed he saw a cluster of moths in a field, but what he actually saw was the rare Phalaenopsis. Still today, the nickname “moth orchid” remains.

[Shop Orchids](#)

## HISTORICAL MEANING AND SYMBOLISM OF ORCHIDS



### Ancient Greece

In ancient Greece, a strong connection was made between orchids and fertility. As the word “orchid” translates to “testicle” in the Greek language, it describes the orchid’s tuberous roots. Aside from its physical appearance, this symbol of fertility was used by the ancient Greeks to control the gender of babies. If men consumed a large tuberous orchid root, it was believed they would have a son. If the women consumed a smaller tuberous root, they were expected to give birth to a daughter. Pink orchids are still the perfect gift for expecting mothers and growing families today.

### Aztec Civilization

To the ancient Aztec culture, orchids strength. Since the Aztecs believed in beautiful blooms so much, vanilla mixed with chocolate in an elixir and strength. Did becoming a Mesoamerica have much to do with plant?



were a sign of power and the “magic” of these orchids would often be thought to promote power powerful empire in this wonderful flowering





### **Victorian Era**

In Victorian times, upper-class families could not obtain enough orchids to adorn their homes and accessorize with. As a result, these magnificent and rare flowering plants became a symbol of refinement, luxury, opulence, and elegance. Many give credit to Charles Darwin's 1862 book "Fertilisation of Orchids," for sparking this obsession known as "Orchidelirium." Today, the meaning of orchids and the symbolism of purple orchids, are incomplete without this connection to refined taste, luxury, elegance, beauty, and royalty.



### **Ancient China**

Ancient Chinese medical practitioners often selected orchids to help treat lung diseases and brutal coughing. In addition, these flowering plants were utilized in treatments for things like eye diseases, stomach deficiencies, and kidney diseases. While there are thousands of orchid types, the one most often used in Chinese medicine is the Dendrobium Orchid, also known as the "bamboo orchid." Today, good health is still symbolized by vivid green orchids in many cultures.



### **Japanese Culture**

While orchids are a symbol of fertility, power, strength, luxury, and good fortune in Japanese culture, this isn't due to elixirs concocted by the Aztecs or a widespread orchid obsession in the Victorian Ages. Orchids are a rare bloom with the ability to survive and thrive in habitats that range from exotic places to the plains and mountains. In Japan, this is a representation of a rich and luxurious life as well as power and strength. You'll find orchids in many homes and offices in Japan as they believe this wondrous flower is sure to bring fertility, or good fortune, in their everyday and business lives.

In modern America, orchids are no longer a popular medicinal ingredient or used as an elixir for power and strength, but a lovely fragrance in candles and beauty products. This uniquely beautiful bloom also proves to be fitting for a variety of celebrations and occasions, from Mother's Day and baby showers to weddings and "just because." Find this symbol of love, luxury, charm, thoughtfulness, beauty, fertility, strength, and thoughtfulness here at [Gordon Boswell](#).

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## Community Service

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If you have knowledge of an upcoming event, or something you think others might like to know of, please let me know and I can put it 'HERE' in the newsletter – [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)



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### Where to Find Us Selling:

- St. Louis Orchid Show, January 27th & 28th
- Pinners Conference, Overland Park Kansas, February 2nd & 3rd
- Kansas Lawn & Garden Show in Topeka, February 16th-18th

### Where to Find David Bird Speaking:

- Pinners Conference, Saturday Feb 3rd at 10am on Orchids!
- Kansas Garden Show in Topeka,  
Friday Feb 16th at 1pm on Carnivorous Plants and Saturday Feb 17th at 11am on Orchids
- Powell Gardens Orchid Seminar Day,  
Saturday March 9th at 10am on Orchids

Don't forget about our Orchid 102 Class on Thursday, March 28th at 6pm at the Merriam Community Center. Email [Vashti.bird@gmail.com](mailto:Vashti.bird@gmail.com) for registration!

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## Outside OSGKC Resources

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Our Beginner's Group Leader Mark Prout, and our speaker Fred Clarke, gave us lots to think about. Thanks to Alishia Cole for finding some related articles!!





# Preparing Orchids for Winter

By Susan Jones

The onset of shorter days and longer, colder nights heralds winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase “proper prior planning” is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.



During the winter, flowering orchids brighten well-lit windowsills. On cold nights, it's a good idea to move plants away from the window or use bubble wrap as insulation between the pane and the plants.

## Cold Injury

Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.

## Chilling

Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower-than-normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.



## Freezing

Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.

## The Basics

Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the winter to save on heating costs, avoid the warmer-growing genera such as phalaenopsis and vanda. Instead, stick to intermediate- (most brassavolas, cattleyas, dendrobiums, epidendrums, laelias or mottled-leaved paphiopedilums) or cooler-growing (cymbidiums, masdevallias, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums, plain-leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis-and antelope-types), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C), and can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year, and could be adversely affected if they do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips, and actually inhibit rather than enhance growth.

Although winter requires preparation by the orchid grower, the shorter days are exactly what initiates bud development for seasonal species such as *Cattleya trianae*.

## Windowsill

Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable day-night balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

## Greenhouses

Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the wintertime (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides



are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.

## Orientation

the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an eastwest orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide “backup, backup, backup and alarms,” says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University. As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45° F (7° C) at minimum. Gas- or diesel-powered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.

Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — “going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and,” she adds, “pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...).”

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

## After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full compliment of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

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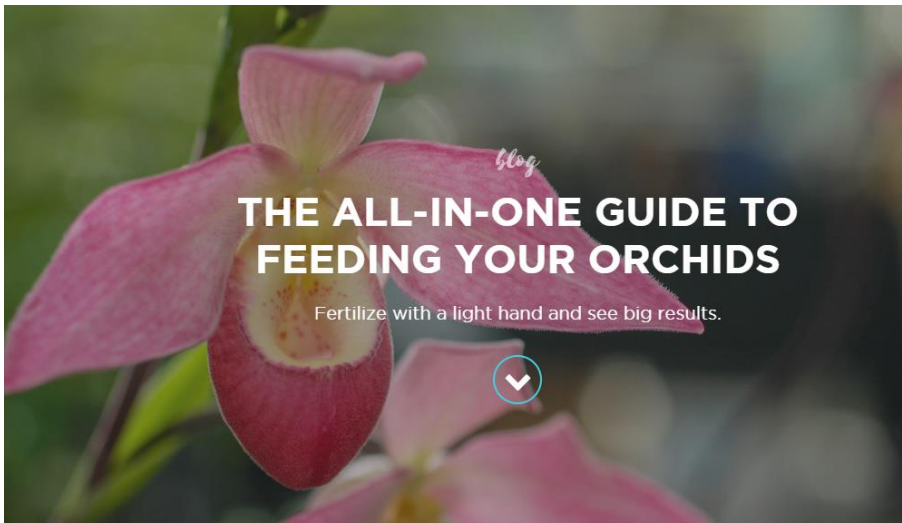
*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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We thank Anna Weston, founder of Orchid Bliss for presenting this information on fertilizing orchids. As Fred said in his talk, 80% of success is watering and 80% of that is fertilizing. Check out many topics on Orchid Bliss. <https://orchidbliss.com/>



Some of the links on this page may be affiliate links. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Fertilizing orchids is essential to promote overall orchid health. Over-fertilizing orchids lead to dry leaf tips and burned root tips. Yet, orchids that have not been fertilized are smaller, with fewer flowers and overall less vigorous growth. This article will teach you the how-to correctly fertilize your orchids so you can grow magnificent orchids.

The mantra most repeated when fertilizing orchids is weekly, weakly. This means that 3 out of 4 weeks, weakly fertilize your orchids with a diluted solution of fertilizer, about 1/2 to 1/4 strength. On the 4th week

when watering your orchid, do not use fertilizer. Instead, flush the potting media to rinse away any salt build-up.

## When to Fertilize Your Orchid

<https://youtu.be/d-dzse4ThUY>

Most cultivated orchids grow in tropical or subtropical climates with a wet season and a dry season. During the wet season orchids grow vigorously putting out new growth – this is the time to fertilize. During the dry season, the orchid does not grow new roots, or leaves and does not need fertilizing.

While not all orchids strictly follow this pattern of growth and dormancy, the ability to recognize active growth and dormancy will help you properly feed your orchids as nothing else will. Some orchids like the *Maxillaria tenuifolia* seem to be constantly growing – and should be regularly fertilized throughout the year. On the other hand, *Coelogyne* orchids go dormant during the winter/dry season and require no fertilizer at all until the spring/wet season.

Thankfully, your orchid tells you when it needs fertilizer, and when it doesn't. New growth means "I'm hungry, feed me" and no new growth means "I'm resting. Don't feed me." The observant orchid caretaker will read the signs and know when to and when not to feed. Fertilizing orchids is essential to promote overall orchid health, but it must be done correctly.

## Natural Habitat

Imagine your orchid growing in its natural habitat. Many orchids are epiphytic, meaning that they grow on trees, rocks, or other hosts. Even semi-terrestrial orchids grow shallow roots that grow along the surface of the ground through leaves and loose soil, rather than digging deep into the earth. While orchids are adapted to flourishing on relatively small amounts of nutrients, this doesn't mean that your orchid won't benefit from fertilizer.

Orchids are dependent upon regular rainfall that soaks into their roots. Additionally, wild orchids benefit from biological and chemical processes that provide needed nutrients.

Cultivated orchids do not get the benefits from these natural processes and won't get the needed nutrients unless we feed them – in the form of fertilizer.



## Why Fertilize Your Orchid

You can always tell an orchid that has been properly fertilized. The flowers are larger, and there are more of them. The root system is vigorous and strong. The leaves are glossy and healthy. Because orchids grow stronger with proper feeding, fertilizing orchids is an important skill that every orchid caregiver can master.

## How to Fertilize Your Orchid

The mantra most repeated when fertilizing orchids is weekly, weakly. Cut the fertilizer to half to one-quarter of the package instructions. For example, if the fertilizer manufacturer's instructions say to add 1 teaspoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water, add only 1/2 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water. Then, every fourth watering, do not fertilize. Instead, flush the potting media with water to rinse away any salt build-up.

## Growth Cycle

You may have noticed that sometimes your orchids seem to be doing nothing at all while other times you notice leaves emerging, flower spikes forming, and new roots developing. These are all parts of the orchid's life cycle, including the rest cycle. Observing the orchid's growth cycle will help you know when to fertilize.

## When to Skip the Fertilizer

As noted above, you will observe periods when the orchid plant goes dormant. During this resting period, you will not see any flowers, roots, or leaf growth. This signals the need to take a break from fertilizing your orchid, and if the orchid goes dormant, cut back on watering as well. When new growth appears, the orchid is beginning the next stage of its growing cycle and will again benefit from fertilizer.

Another time when you should hold off for a few weeks on the fertilizer is when buds are starting to form. Feeding during bud development can lead to bud drop, and you don't want that.

Lastly, if your orchid is sick or stressed, wait to fertilize until your orchid has recovered. For example, if your orchid has been overwatered and has lost its roots, place the orchid in a shaded location, and increase the humidity. You can make a mini-greenhouse by placing a clear plastic bag over the orchid.

## Types of Fertilizer

Orchids need both macronutrients and micronutrients. Macronutrients are needed in larger quantities and include nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Micronutrients are trace elements that are needed in smaller quantities, yet are still vital for proper health. Micronutrients include iron, manganese, boron, etc. Whichever fertilizer you choose, look for one that is a complete fertilizer. This means that the fertilizer contains both macro and micronutrients.

### Organic

Organic fertilizers are made from natural sources such as fish and seaweed – kelp emulsions, ground bones, blood meal, and manure. The concentrations of macro and micronutrients are lower than their inorganic counterparts. Also, organic fertilizers depend on biological and chemical processes in order to take effect.

The main drawback of organic fertilizer is the stench. Whatever organic material is used to make the fertilizer is what you will smell – blood, fish, manure – you name it – you'll smell it. Of course, the smell does dissipate, particularly once the fertilizer has dried.

Some orchid growers use a combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers with great results.

### Inorganic

A complete, inorganic fertilizer is a reliable way to feed orchids. Though the formulas vary with different purposes in mind – some to promote flowering, others stimulate root growth, and others to encourage leaves – there isn't a lot of guesswork involved. You can dependably count on stimulating a good result in both plant growth and flowering.

### Slow-Release Fertilizers

The idea behind a slow-release fertilizer is that you do it once, then you don't have to worry about it for several months. As these fertilizers depend on chemical processes within the soil, they don't work that great for orchids – the majority of which don't grow in soil, but in well-aerated, free-draining mixes. Furthermore, slow-release fertilizers can burn sensitive orchid roots. While some growers successfully use slow-release fertilizers to grow orchids, the odds are greater than you, and I will have better success with regular applications of fertilizer that give you more control.

## What the Numbers Mean

I'm sure you've noticed that on the label of every fertilizer there are three numbers separated by dashes. You may see something like 20-20-20. These numbers represent the percentages of macronutrients – nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. The label will also list whatever micronutrients the fertilizer contains.

Here's what those numbers mean. Fertilizer numbers are representative of a percentage. For example, if the fertilizer labels read 7-7-7. This means that there is 7% nitrogen, 7% phosphorous, and 7% potassium. While these numbers do not add up to 100%, they do represent a concentration. The lower the numbers, the lower the concentration of the respective nutrients.

A balanced fertilizer means that the macronutrients have an equal percentage. For example, a 20-20-20 fertilizer is composed of 20% solution of nitrogen, 20% phosphorous, and 20% potassium.

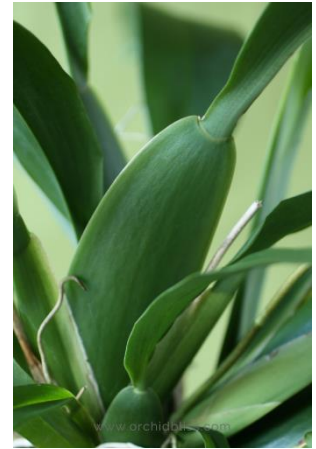
## Health Benefits of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), and Potassium (K)

### #1 Nitrogen

The first number on the fertilizer label is always nitrogen. Nitrogen promotes healthy, lush foliage. High nitrogen fertilizer is recommended if using a wood-based planting media, [9-6](#). Use this fertilizer when you notice new leaves forming.

Some nitrogen fertilizer is urea-based. Urea becomes a useable form of nitrogen when it combines with naturally occurring bacteria in the soil. Since orchids do not grow in soil in the traditional sense – most often fir bark and other open potting mixes – orchids do not absorb nitrogen that depends upon this process. Urea-based nitrogen will not hurt the orchid, but neither will the orchid absorb nitrogen in this form.

When fertilizing orchids, to get the most benefit from nitrogen in fertilizer, buy a fertilizer that is not urea-based.



[3-](#)

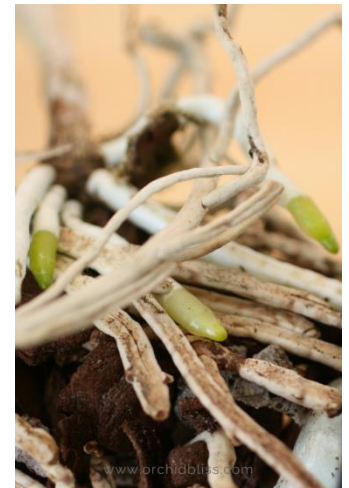


### #2 Phosphorous

The second number refers to phosphorous. To promote flowers, use a higher phosphorous fertilizer such as [3-12-6](#). Once the orchid is prepared to bloom, you see flower spikes appearing, and return to a [balanced fertilizer](#).

### #3 Potassium

Potassium is the third number on the label and is important for developing a strong root system, including the overall well-being of your orchids. Potassium also helps to fight pests and diseases and bounce back from unfavorable conditions such as cold and drought conditions. When roots are forming use a fertilizer such as 0-0-3.



## Fertilizing Orchids – Simplify the Process

If you want to simplify fertilizing and don't want to keep different fertilizers on hand, you can always use just a balanced fertilizer. Using a balanced fertilizer keeps things simple especially if you are growing several different types of orchids that are experiencing different seasons of the growth cycle. In fact, using a complete, balanced fertilizer is a popular, and effective way to fertilizer orchids – even among the fussiest and most enthusiastic orchid growers.



## Fertilizer Salts – The Double Bind

An important way to provide your orchids with essential nutrients that they will not get by water alone is to fertilize. The key to fertilizing properly is to not overdo it. Orchids are salt sensitive. And salt is the carrier for the minerals found in fertilizers. Too much fertilizer will burn plants and will break down potting media more quickly.

Regularly flush fertilizer salts from the potting media by allowing clean water to flow through the potting media once or twice a month when watering.

A couple of indicators that the potting media has high salt are leaf tips that are brown and crispy and root tips that are brown and dull instead of green and plump.

In addition, another clue that salts may be too high are roots that grow out as aerial roots instead of down into the potting media.

Some potting mixes absorb more salts than others. It doesn't mean you should necessarily avoid these mediums, just be aware so you can flush the salts and change the potting media as needed.

- LECA, also known as Aliflor or clay pebbles, is an inorganic potting media that won't break down, reducing the frequency of re-potting. Since it is inorganic the need for fertilizing is especially important. Yet, these clay pebbles readily absorb salts.
- Lava rock is a good potting medium for orchids that are particularly sensitive to overwatering. Like LECA, lava rock will not break down but does readily absorb mineral salts.
- Sphagnum moss is an organic product used alone or mixed with other mediums. It absorbs and holds water – and fertilizer salts.

## Leaching Salts

If you use any of the above potting media, use clay pots (which also absorb salts) or even, regularly and properly fertilize your orchids, it is helpful to know how to leach fertilizer salts from your potting media and/or your clay pot.

To leach salts from the potting mix and pot, simply soak the orchid pot in distilled water for about an hour. One week later, repeat the process. Pretty simple.

## Necessity of Re-potting

Leaching salts from the potting media will reduce salts from the media and clay pots, but inevitably, you will need to re-pot your orchid. Regular, light fertilizing during active growth, flushing, and leaching salts as needed will delay the need to re-pot. Of course, your orchid may outgrow its pot and potting media will break down.

When the potting mix begins to break down, you may notice your orchid leaves going limp, and the leaves starting to rot.

To keep your orchids looking their best, the first step is to prevent limp, leathery leaves and rotten roots. Download my free cheat sheet on how to prevent limp leaves and rotten roots. [Click here for the super helpful cheat sheet.](#)

## Advantages of Becoming an Expert at Fertilizing Orchids

The skills you've learned as an expert orchid fertilizer – keeping track of root, leaf, pseudobulb, and bud growth – will help your orchid rebound from potting much faster than they would otherwise.

Now you can pot when it's best for the orchid – not because it's an emergency. The beginning of new roots is always the best time to re-pot. By regularly flushing and leaching salts you can keep the roots and leaves healthy and the potting media fresher for longer. Those who don't take these precautions risk losing their orchids to root loss due to excessive salt build-up.

You, on the other hand, will grow lush orchids with abundant flowers. It's amazing what "weekly weakly" feedings can do for your orchids!

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# Let's Get to Know Each Other

## OSGKC Members!

FEBRUARY



*Susie Hanna*

Birthday February 13th



Here's me:

I joined 17 years ago, in 2004.

I've been growing orchids since 1996 or 25 years.

Hooked after Phalaenopsis re-bloomed for me.

Phalaenopsis remains my favorite, although I have many other genera in my collection.

We have a four-season's plant room attached to the north side of our house. We supplement with a variety of lights.

I have a journalism degree from KU, and worked at a number of companies doing market research. I'm now semi-retired, managing rental properties.

I like a good challenge and enjoy learning completely new things.

A black cat named Munchkin





*Gordon  
Cleveland* Birthday February 16th

We just joined a couple months ago (October, 2022), having moved back to Kansas from Maryland after a long hiatus, including 6 years in Hawaii—where Patricia fell in love with orchids and tropical plants of all kinds. Had to leave them all behind and start over. When we moved to KC last December our most critical challenge was bringing the onciniums in the back seat—with our 2 kitties! Onciniums are Patricia’s favorites and hard to find here! This past year she been working to find the optimal places for the orchids; our house has nice big windows, but huge trees shading them, so by following the light we settled down on the south-facing front window for the onciniums and the north-facing back window for the phaleanopsis, which you can see in these pictures. In summer, we always take the orchids outside to grow and keep them partially shaded and watch the watering carefully, especially now in KC where it is much drier. This year the onciniums haven't yet bloomed, but are healthy and ready to be divided in spring.

We are both happily retired, me from USDA where I was radiological program analyst working on nuclear hazard mitigation. Patricia was the undergraduate business school dean at the University of Maryland--"den mother" for 3000 undergrads! A surprising fact about me is that I play guitar, and we enjoy getting together with our old friends from our KU days (I'm a proud Jayhawk alum!) We are empty-nesters, save for our 2 old kitties. We are not professional orchid-growers by any means, but happy we joined OSGKC so we can learn from everyone!



My name is *Joyce Moulis.*

Birthday February 18th



My late husband, Tom, and I joined OSGKC in 1973 shortly after we started growing orchids in 1972. Our interest in orchids was an extension of our love for tropical house plants. Our first plants came from a friend who had visited Hauserman's in Chicago and brought back two Phalaenopsis for us. We attended an OSGKC meeting to learn more about orchid growing and got hooked by the enthusiasm and generosity of OSGKC members sharing plants and knowledge with us. We started growing orchids in the windows. When the collection outgrew the windows, we moved to an underlights set up in a 12' x 12' basement room. In the early 1990s we built a 9' x 18' attached greenhouse. We held various offices and wrote the history for OSGKC's 50th anniversary. Tom and I retired in 2011 and 2012: he was an electrical designer and I was an executive assistant at a university. Cats have always been part of our family. In July, Shadow, a retired mama cat from the GPSPCA came to live with us. One of my more unusual interests is southwest archaeology and rock art.



# News from the AOS

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these AOS Corner items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone...and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to ORCHIDS magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!



## WHAT ARE WEBINARS?

**Webinars** are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming **webinar** or watch the recorded **webinars** any time at your convenience.

It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website.

**Webinars** offer new material each month and recorded sessions allow you to search a multitude of topics to view on your personal schedule.

The popular monthly **Greenhouse Chats** are open to everyone. AOS membership is not required. However, if you are an AOS member there are so many more webinars available to view.

## **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

At a Glance:

## Webinars - Coming Attractions!

**REGISTRATION IS EASY** <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>  
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Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Jan. 03, 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Jan. 23, 2024 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	Feb. 07 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Feb. 08, 2024 8:30 pm EST Thursday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Jan. 01</i>	Multi-floral Paphiopedilums Desirable and Highly Awarded Slipper Orchids	Phalaenopsis: From Soup to Nuts A Panorama of Moth Orchids for Everyone	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 06</i>
<b>Presenter</b>	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Carol Klonowski Hobby Grower, AOS Judge	David Edgley AOS Judge, Judging Committee Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

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Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram  
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Upcoming Webinars – more detailed info:



**Phalaenopsis  
Fuller's D-Plus  
'FL 89135'  
FCC/AOS**

Photographer:  
Jea Shang

## Phalaenopsis: From Soup to Nuts with David Edgley

David Edgley

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024  
8:30 PM EST

Join Accredited Judge and Chair of the AOS Judging Committee, David Edgley, for a wonderful panorama of Phalaenopsis breeding and the culture needed to grow these delightful orchids.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



## AOS Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Ron McHatton

Thursday, February 8th, 2024  
8:30 PM EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at

greenhousechat@aos.org by February 6, 2024.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



## AOS CULTURE DAY 'ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT'

Cheryl Erins et al

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024  
11:00 AM CST (10:00 AM EST, 8:00 AM PST)

The AOS is proud to announce the rescheduling of the 5th Orchid Culture Day! 'ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT'. Explore the wonders of four fascinating genera. Only \$35 for an all-day seminar with four great speakers and programs.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)





# Designing and Building Home Greenhouses

Jean Allen-Ikeson  
Thursday, March 14th, 2024  
8:30 PM EST

Learn about the tricks of the trade for designing and installing home greenhouses for orchids Texas to Canada: types, foundations, floors, ventilation, shading and benches you can make yourself and keep your orchids happy.

<a href="#">REGISTER NOW</a>	<a href="#">LEARN MORE</a>
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**OSGKC.ORG**

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stimulating interest in orchids and their  
culture

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Like us, post your pictures or  
comments, join the community!!

Please check [www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) for updates and changes to our program  
schedule.

### **Sunday, February 11, 2024**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
*Speaker: Doug Martin, OSGKC Member, "The Birds, the Bees and the  
Orchids: Orchid Pollination"*

### **March 9, 2024**

Powell Garden, Orchid Delirium and Symposium,

### **Sunday, March 10, 2024**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
*Speaker: Nicholas Rust, Rusty Exotic Orchids, "Habinaria: A Basic  
Overview of the Traits of the Species"*

### **Sunday, April 14, 2024**

*Auction*

### **Sunday, May 19, 2024**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
*Speaker: Brandon Tam, The Huntington Orchid Collection, "Searching  
for the Rare Selenipedium aequinoctiale"*

### **Sunday, June 9, 2024**

*Speaker: Dr. Douglas Needham, OSU, "Orchid Care in the Home"*

### **Sunday, July 14, 2024**

*Orchid Growers Tour*

### **Sunday, August 18, 2024**

*OSGKC Member Picnic*

### **Sunday, September 8, 2024**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
*Speaker: Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids, "Mini Vandaceous Species  
and Hybrids for the Home Grower"*

### **Sunday, October 13, 2024**

*TBA*

### **Sunday, November 10, 2024**

*TBA*

### **Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
*Holiday Party and Awards Presentation*