ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



MARCH/APRIL 1984



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Fertilised ★ Free flowing

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ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

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COVER PHOTO:

Cyperorchis mastersii Griff. (Syn. Cymbidium mastersii). This cool to intermediate growing species which flowers in the Autumn-Winter time, is a native of the Himalayas. C. mastersii has been successfully used in breeding with Cymbidium and some attractive and interesting hybrids have results. This photo is of a plant in Ros Bickerstaff's collection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Editor Dear Sir,

I am a relatively new orchid grower and this year have several Cymbidium flowering spikes. These I have watched over carefully, even putting a sleeve of cotton wool around each one to stop slugs, a hint I read. I have been told not to leave the flowers on the plants too long, so picked the first four stems two days ago and to my horror, two of them have bent over like a staple and the stems are soft and rubbery. happened over-night, even though I put the cut stems almost straight away into water. The other two stems are perfect. I tried re-cutting the soft stems but this did not improve the condition and I have since tried the hot water treatment that works for some hard flower stems like roses and hydrangeas, this likewise has not helped.

Could one of your readers please help. These flowers are so beautiful it is such a pity to have them hang their heads.

Thanking you,

New Chum

The above letter was received in the flush of last year's flowering season. A number of well known growers were contacted, many of whom had never heard of 'drooping stems'. However, I publish the following opinions which may be of help, but would be pleased to hear from any readers who have experienced this problem.

Editor

Reply

Could be the plant is low in Phosphate and Potassium or too much Nitrogen.

Dan Collin

Most plants analysed with this problem have been deficient in Calcium.

Many U.S. formulaes (fertilizers) do not include Calcium, as it is often in the natural water in fairly large amounts. It would pay to water the affected plants with a watering can (10 litres) of water containing one tablespoon of Calcium Nitrate Ca (NO3)2, and one tablespoon of Potassium Nitrate (Saltpetre KNO3). The plants should not be dry before treating with this mixture. The KNO3 is to give Potash in case it is deficient. There should be some noticable change within 10 days.

An imbalance of elements such as Ca, K and P can give the same effect as if too much Nitrogen has been given, i.e. floppy leaves and spikes and dark green foliage. A deficiency of K shows as small withered roots. The only way to be sure if there is a deficiency is to have a leaf analysis done. This costs around \$28.00.

Note: Some varieties always have floppy stems!

Mr Grenville Stocker (Analyst — Dominion Salt, Tauranga).

Orchid Nursery Stock Imports

This is to advise that there have been several amendments to conditions for importing orchid nursery stock into New Zealand.

Cymbidium Divisions for Cut Flower Production

Until recently importers were restricted to a maximum of 10 **Cymbidium** divisions (not exceeding two bulbs plus growth) which could be imported without virus indexing and held in post entry auarantine at any one time.

This limit has now been increased to a maximum of 25 units.

Orchid Plants from Mexico/Central/ South America

Previously the introduction of plants of rust host genera from Mexico, Central and South America were limited to pseudobulbs without leaves. Alternatively, a maximum of 10 susceptible plants of rust host genera per consignment were allowed.

In future permits will be issued for up to 100 plants (not exceeding four bulbs and with foliage removed) of rust host genera from Mexico, Central/South America.

This is the maximum quantity which may be held in post entry quarantine at any one time.

Consignments are to be held in quarantine until one leaf has fully developed in 75% of the plants.

Initially these introductions will be on a trial basis only and a condition of the permit will be that no fungicide sprays are to be applied during quarantine without the prior permission of the Field Officer.

C. N. Lund for Officer in Charge, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Private Bag, Levin.

Disa Letter

I have few comments to make on the raising of Disa seedlings from the seed I purchased last year.

To date I have had no problems with algae growth and a few of the seedlings have now made three or four leaves. Rest assured also that the tiny seedlings are not killed off by frost. I am growing mine in a cool house along with a number of Cymbidiums and after the first dozen or so seeds had germinated, we had a heavy frost one night and when I inspected the cool house in the morning, the seed-bed had a fine white frosting on it and the water reservoir had a layer of ice 3 mm to 6 mm thick on top. But they survived and germination of

other seeds went ahead. To safeguard against future frosts I placed a sheet of glass over the seed-bed but this encouraged a growth of a type of mould in one corner.

I dusted this with rose dust which seemed to cure the problem, but no seeds germinated in that area, so I decided to leave the glass off and shift the whole set up to a warmer part of the cool house. Incidentally, I have two older disa plants which are about 15 cm across the leaves, which are growing in with the Cymbidium seedlings. One day I had the sprinklers on for a couple of hours and forgot to check them that During that night we had evening. another heavy frost and the next morning the disa plants along with the Cymbidium seedlings, were covered with frozen water drops like scattered I turned the sprinklers on pearls. immediately to thaw out the damage. A week or so later a number of the Cymbidiums were showing the effects of the frost but the two disa plants were unaffected. SO from these two experiences, I gather the disa is a lot hardier than I had first thought.

Another observation, germination appears to be freer if the seed bed is moist only and not saturated. I had the water reservoir quite high and always kept full. This ensured a steady flow of water through the mix so that the surface was constantly wet and after about 10 or 11 weeks the first lot of seeds germinated. I was away then for a month and a neighbour was to have kept the reservoir topped up. This she neglected to do. When I returned the reservoir was almost empty and the seed bed was just barely damp. The sacking up the sides of the container had dried out completely but the number of seeds germinated had increased threefold. I have now reduced the water flow so that the surface is barely damp and with the warmer weather I am hoping for a more rapid increase in growth.

Incidentally the mix I am using is a layer of fine gravel screening about 3 mm to 4 mm average size, to a layer of

sand, a layer of Becks Cymbidium mix topped off with a thin layer of rubbed peat moss. All the ingredients were sterilised with boiling water and the seed was scattered on the top. I am keeping my fingers crossed that these seedlings will be large enough in 18 months to raffle off for funds for the 1985 Orchid Conference.

One other thing I forgot, the seed bed and seedlings also survived the depredations of the neighbours cat which got in when I had left the door open and sprung upon the bench and knocked the whole installation over on its side. Fortunately, the seed bed was fairly well compacted and the only damage done was one paw mark in the centre.

Syd Patton 21 Heretaunga Square, Trentham, Upper Hutt.

2nd N.Z. International Orchid Conference Preview

9th — 13th October 1985

Conference Report

JANUARY 1984

In August 1983, the Conference Steering Committee asked all New Zealand Orchid Societies for financial assistance towards the operating costs of the Conference. Quite substantial costs have already been incurred, and more will be before any income is received; these costs are well beyond the capacity of the two host societies to absorb.

The replies came flooding in. At 30th January 1984, 19 Societies had contributed over \$16,000 in loans and donations; the Orchid Council has made a donation as well. The generosity of all the donors is very much appreciated, as is their confidence in the Organising Committee.

The response is reassuring, too, as it demonstrates that Societies support the idea of another International Conference. We hope it also means that most Societies will make the effort to mount a display; remember, we have a huge hall to fill, and travel subsidies will be available provided the show is successful. A really good display will go a long way towards ensuring that success.

The majority of the speakers have confirmed their attendance:

Athol Bell (Belvedere Orchids, Sydney), Paphiopedilums.

Dan Hatch (Auckland), New Zealand Natives.

Keith Andrew (Keith Andrew Orchids, U.K.), Odontoglossums, Phalaenopsis David Brundell (M.A.F. Pukekohe), Cymbidiums — nutrition and environment.

Wally Upton (Double U Orchids, Sydney), Dendrobiums
Frank Fordyce (Fordyce Orchids, California), Mini—Cattleyas.

Australian interest in the Conference has been considerable; brochures were sent to all Australian Societies, the Townsville Conference, and to growers in Perth and Sydney. Another batch will be distributed at the 11th World Conference in Florida in March.

Detailed arrangements for the Conference are proceeding smoothly; the next general publicity mailing is due in March, and commercial growers can expect details of sales space in the near future.

If you wish to receive publicity direct rather than through your Society, or if you need more brochures or more information, contact the Conference Secretary at P.O.Box 5133, Wellington. And remember — this will be the biggest Orchid event in New Zealand's history.

John Addison
Secretary.

Loans and Donations Received at 30th January 1984

Poverty Bay — East Coast Orchid Society New Zealand Orchid Society Capital City Orchid Society Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Levin Orchid Society Canterbury Orchid Begonia & Fern Society Marlborough Orchid Society South Auckland Orchid Society Waikato Orchid Society Wanganui Orchid Society Taupo Orchid Society North Shore Orchid Society **Nelson Orchid Society** Whangarei Orchid Society Manawatu Orchid Society Howick Orchid Society Taranaki Orchid Society Thames Valley Orchid Society Tauranga Orchid Society Stratford Orchid Society Gore Orchid Club South Taranaki Orchid Society Conzed Mr and Mrs Lundon Wellington Orchid Society Golden Coast Orchid Society

CULTURAL NOTES

Odonts and Miltonias in April

from Hutt Valley Orchid Circle Newsletter

Many members of the Odontoglossum family, and particularly Miltonias, will flower at least twice a year when conditions suit them, and April usually marks the flush of the Autumn season. It is also about the latest month for repotting those plants that need moving on, as the vigorous root activity of the past two months will be slowing down as the days shorten.

Odonts are not very fussy about compost and all thrive in a wide range of mixtures, provided the culture has

regard for its characteristics; in particular it must be free draining. Beck's No. 1 orchid mix is suitable, but I like to add about a quarter part of chopped fresh sphagnum moss and a somewhat smaller proportion of charcoal ships.

As the weather gets cooler reduce the amount and frequency of watering and make sure the compost is almost dry before watering again. This is particularly important for plants newly potted.

Shading can be reduced, as good light is essential to ensure healthy ripened growths. If you have little or no winter heating in your house the soft green growths that result from too shady conditions will almost certainly suffer in cold weather.

Don't let your plants flower themselves to death as some varieties will do if not restrained. Some of the best growers allow their plants to bloom only three years in four. If your plants are small or young or sickly, it will pay in the long run to restrict their flower production until they have built up a solid vegetative base.

And watch out for wogs and bugs and other pests that seem to multiply this time of the year. Lay bait for slugs and snails. April is not usually a very busy month in the glasshouse, so you should have time for checking on hygiene requirements, and provisions for heating, ventilating and shading.

For Sale

Cymbidium Mericlones

Well grown plants approximately two years old. Mostly ex Valley Orchids. I have been restricted to hobby type growing, so must reduce my stock of plants.

For full list and prices, please write to: Graham Burr, P.O.Box 162, KAWERAU.



By George Fuller, N.D.H. [N.Z.], Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

BEHOLD! WE HAVE A RARITY An appreciation of Odontoglossum edwardii

All species enthusiasts probably have lurking somewhere, a desire to discover, either in the wilds or in the acquisition of unlabelled or mis-labelled plants, a specimen unknown to science, or at least a form that is rare. The source of ones hopes and aspirations may be in searching local flora, importing species from overseas or even obtaining plants locally, depending on the level of interest, but if my experience is any measure, it is quite surprising how high the chances are of locating even in New Zealand, rare exotic species or distinct forms of species, quite apart from the fact that there must surely be native species of orchids yet to be 'discovered' out there in our countryside.

The flower-spike is erect and sturdy, branched and apparently can reach to over a metre. The plant is fairly typically odontoglossum in having pear-shaped pseudobulbs up to about 100 mm (4") tall with leaves up to about 600 mm (2') in length x 40 mm (1½") in width. In accordance with Sander, the leaves of our plant are distinctly stained purplished at their bases especially in the early stages of new growth. We have not achieved the dimensions suggested, but the plant obviously has that potential.

Perhaps I have been unobservant, but I do not recall the strong violet fragrance suggested. However, I will soon be able to check this for as I write in early February, the plant is untypically in bud for an autumn flowering. It last flowered in September 1981, and our records indicate flowering about every third year, but previously always in spring. It has not proven any more difficult than most odonts to cultivate and no doubt with the special care it deserves this native of Ecuador found by Edward Klaboch could be brought to full expectation and induced to flower regularly.

Having whetted the appetite, the letters begin to pour in asking where plants can be obtained! I am tempted to suggest asking the well-travelled Don Richardson, who has not succeeded in 25 years of searching. Like him, I have failed to get seed in attempt to self this rarity and that is very frustrating though perhaps not surprising. Odonts are notoriously difficult to pollinate, quite apart from the fact that many plants will reject their own pollen in any case. Consequently, I am desirous of obtaining pollen of this species from anywhere in the world and would be delighted to stand naked in the waxing moonlight to ensure pollination, if that is the required technique. I am happy to make pollen available to anyone with another plant, though I wold not necessarily insist on the same conditions of application!

On the subject of pollen, one hybrid was made by Don Richardson before he lost his plant, using Miltonia flavescens as the other parent. The hybrid, Odontonia Starlite, illustrated with his article is quite exquisite if one can tear oneself away from the ideology that insists that every orchid hybrid should

be as symmetrically perfect and exciting It embodies the best as a saucer. features of each parent and is delightfully elegant and colourful. With its richness and fullness of colour. I can Odontoglossum edwardii foresee producing some excitina hybrids. especially when incorporated with oncidium but let's put first things first and ensure perpetuity by producing seed through selfing. If that fails on this flowering we will have to consider mericlonina.

To my surprise, I have no illustration in black and white of this species, but I have a good one in colour and the editor has assured me that as there is insufficient time to include it with this issue, it will appear as a front cover feature as soon as possible. I can't wish for better than that for this rare and attractive species needs to be seen in colour.

This tantalizing prospect of 'the big win' is not confined to the realms of the species enthusiast of course. After all, it the motivating force behind possession of unflowered hybrid seedlings too, but there is a subtle difference in the final analysis. If a species is entirely lost, that is final. If, however, there is a need to reproduce a hybrid, this can be done provided the relevant species are available to start with, so I suppose the rediscovery of a 'lost' species is more important than that of a hybrid, though one must concede that there are genetic factors which must come into consideration. But I fear that again, I an beginning to ramble, so back to the subject of this article.

I am motivated into writing through an article written by a world authority on odontoglossums, Don Richardson. In the November 1983 issue of the American Orchid Society Bulletin, he records his experiences with this species under the heading 'The Elusive Odontoglossum edwardii'. It appears that in 1957 he received an incorrectly named plant which subsequently he identified as Odontoglossum edwardii since, with its violet flowers 'there is no other

odontoglossum like it', to quote his words (that, I would deem an understatement). Tragedy struck when he later moved and under temporary housing arrangements, his precious plant died. He is now very concerned, for his awarded plant failed to respond to selfing and in all his travels he has not located another specimen.

Back in the mid '60's when the late Fred Parker was donating his orchid collection to Pukekura Park. unnamed specimen was included which at the time I could only assume was an oncidium, because of its intensely dark red overall colouring. I hunted for years for an oncidium species which matched this plant but none came anywhere near. Although on reflection it now seems strange. I just did not associate it with odontoglossums (reinforcing Don Richardson's quoted appraisal), though the plant fits readily into that group. It wasn't until that dedicated namehunter, the late Dennis Coe, took up the case that everything fell into place and oh! how beautifully.

As with a black tulip, the flowers of this orchid would raise eyebrows in any display. The blooms are only about 25-30mm (1") across but the almost solid colouring has been variously described by different authorities as 'violet', 'mauve to purple', 'dark purplish mauve', 'bright magenta' and 'reddish purple' — take your pick, but I favour the last. None have mentioned the superb crystaline lustre which explains the "brightness" of these otherwise heavy colours.

The basic colouring extends into the lip, well-described as tongue-shaped, but in our specimen it is diffused around the edges to a dark orchid pink. The column is dark and in our plant there is colour relief in that the two calli (ridges) that stand up at the base of the lip are edged with yellow in conformity with Sanders and the RHS descriptions, though Hawkes suggests a 'yellow basal area'. Not mentioned anywhere, but

certainly setting our plant off beautifully is a white pollen cap which stands out superbly.

George Fuller Curator



March — April Cultural Notes

by Gordon Maney

Most Cymbidiums are showing their spikes now, and the number one thing to remember is to keep throwing slug pellets around your plants. If you don't, slugs and snails will soon find them.

Many thousands of lovely blooms are ruined each year through lack of care.

This time of the year I again top dress with 4:4:1, that is 4 parts of dried blood, 4 parts Superphosphate and 1 part of potash. Approximately one tablespoon to a two gallon bucket. Make sure that you put this around the plants and not into the leaves or you will burn your plants.

Osmocote being a slow release fertilizer is also very good at this time of the year. I use the nine month one, which is 18:2.6:10, which means 18% nitrogen (N), 2.6% phosphorus (P), 10% potassium (K), and also contains 4% sulphur (S). I still liquid feed but as the weather gets much cooler only once a month with such feeds as lush, nitrophoska, etc.

Young plants in small pots I throw dried blood onto, being careful to thoroughly water both before and after broadcasting. Dried blood on small plants will not burn and gives a good boost through the winter months to come.

Remember always, that when Cymbidiums need feeding, you must thoroughly water the date before. Also three or four days later a thorough watering is necessary to stop any build up of salts. This usually shows up in the form of black tips on the leaves.

If you haven't checked your plants for scale insects and red spider, make sure you do before the flower spikes get too long. For scale, All seasons oil mixed with wettable powder Malathion sprayed under and over the leaves. Repeat in ten days to make sure you have killed the insects that may have hatched out in the meantime. This of course applies to red spider, as well. If you spray with Kelthane or any miticide today, you must spray again in ten days time to eradicate any mites that have hatched out since the first spraying.

I do not spray all my plants with All seasons oil and Malathion, in case I get scale, I only use it on a plant if I find it has scale. However, red spider is an insect that is particulatly prevalent in dry conditions. Because in many parts of New Zealand it has been very dry this summer, it is necessary to make sure we completely get rid of it before the flowering season. Although we have all been watering frequently, I'm afraid it doesn't necessarily keep these destructive little insects away.

Before I sign off; as the flower spikes begin to grow it is advisable to stake them so they can be trained. Make certain all rubbish and weeds are cleaned away in your glasshouse, before you shift your plants in for their flowering. Fix all leaks, if there are any, and once your plants are on the benches, it's inadvisable to move them if you can help it, particularly once the spikes have some length to them.

Our Australian Holiday

On 28th July my wife and I left Auckland by Jumbo Jet for Perth. It was a marvellous flight arriving forty minutes early and Air New Zealand personnel were really great. We were visiting our son and his wife and three children in Forrest Field. Perth.

While we were there we were fortunate to meet a Mr N. Hoffman of Kalamunda, who took us to his home and put on for us a slide evening of Western Australian Orchids. Western Australia has hundreds of orchids all being terrestrial. He is in the process with a fellow orchidist, of publishing a book on these exciting This certainly was a great orchids. evening and much enjoyed by us both. During our stay in Perth, we were taken out into the bush, where we saw numerous orchids in spike but as it was August, they were not out yet except for one which I was told was a donkey orchid. After four weeks in Perth we left for Adelaide, by bus at 8.00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, travelling over the Nullabor Desert. We travelled all that day, night and next day until 10.00 p.m. when we reached Adelaide. The Orchid Society had arranged our accommodation and I cannot say enough about their hospitality, for during breakfast the 'phone went and we were provided with a host for the day, Mr Monkhouse, who took us for a drive and then on to his orchid farm. We saw the cutting of orchid spikes getting ready and packing for overseas markets, white and pink for Japan, deeper colours for Holland and U.S.A.

Our host for the next day was Mr E. Hargreaves, who took us to the Royal Adelaide Show where our main interest was the Flower Show. A very large hall, half of which was orchids. I took some slides, but not being a very good photographer, I was pleased I did get some that were worthwhile. In the afternoon we were taken to the North Adelaide Orchid Society Show, who

only have about sixty or members and we saw a number of Australian terrestrial and species of which I took some more slides. Our next day was also spent with Mr Hargreaves, who this time took us back into the hills where we saw how devastating was the Adelaide fire. All the bush was jet black, but it seems necessary, as he said the orchids will be tremendous this year. They need the heat and a fire every five years promotes their growth. Also the gums were starting to shed their black bark, and new growth was under way. We saw many orchids in spike, but it was still a little early to see them fully out. Also we visited the park and saw six foot snakes, which are found in their bush, also birds, koalas and of course the 'roos.

Our last day was spent with the Secretary's mother, Mrs Harris, who drove us practically to every park, beach and anything she thought would interest us. Finally taking us home for tea and then after, up to a Look Out, so as we could see the city and surrounding areas at night. We must say it was very exciting. While in Adelaide, an appointment was made by Mr Hargreaves to see Mr Nesbitts collection of Australian Native Orchids of which we also took some slides. We left Adelaide, travelled all night to Melbourne, where we did some shopping and left three days later for Auckland. We stayed the night there and then left for our home in Greenmeadows, Hawkes Bay, still remembering the great holiday we had in Australia, being away six weeks.

Bill Haste Hawkes Bay Orchid Society.

GROWING EPIPHYTES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dendrobium Linguiforme [Tongue Orchid]

The plant is epiphytic or lithophytic, forming large masses on trees or rocks. Its range is from the extreme south-east of New South Wales to at least the Burdekin River in Queensland. It grows from sea-level to altitudes of around 1000 metres, but is confined mainly to the coastal areas, although it has been found up to 250 kilometres inland. The inland plants have smaller, tougher leaves than those of the coastal areas, due no doubt to the harsher conditions under which they exist. It is not confined to a specific host but is found on quite a large variety of trees.

The rhizomes are prostrate and branching with thick, tough ovate leaves, 3 to 4cm long, having distinctive longitudinal furrows on top.

The racemes, up to 15cm long, grow from just below the base of the leaf and bears from six to 20 flowers. The flowers are usually white or cream with a number of faint purple markings on the labellum.

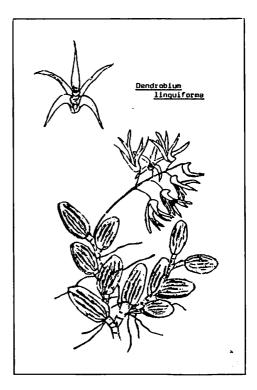
The flowering time is usually August-September here but earlier in the tropical areas.

It does not lend itself to pot culture but is very hardy and with a little care will grow freely on cork or hardwood slabs. I have had good success using pieces of Melaleuca on which it readily establishes itself. It receives approximately 75% shade. It should be protected from our frosts and can be fertilised using foliar fertilisers at half the recommended strength.

This is the variety of the species on which the genus Dendrobium was founded. It was first described by O. Swartz.

There are three varieties of this species, the best known of which is var. nugentii, which is a tropical form from about the Burdekin River north to Bloomfield River in the south-east of Cape York Peninsula.

This form has broader, thicker leaves which are more rounded at the apex and in addition to the longitudinal furrows it often has transverse furrows. The flowers of this form are slightly smaller and age quicker.



'Gadget Day' Report

from Howick Orchid Society

Readers, I'm sure will be interested in these useful and helpful ideas and if you have one or two of your own, perhaps you would make time to write to the Editor so he can share your bright ideas with other readers.

We are always being advised to dab all cut surfaces when re-potting, with Flowers of Sulphur, but 'dabbing' or 'dipping', both are messy procedures. Instead, find an empty, pliable, talc powder container with a removable top and fill it with sulphur powder.

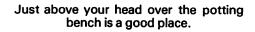
So you haven't any 'hang-ups'? Well why not try these?

Our members are buying planter bags by the 100's and this is a good way to keep them tidy, sorted and out of the way.

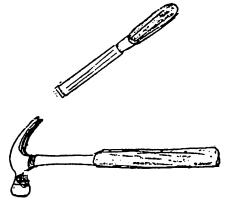
Just needs a 'puff' and it is so quick and clean.



Below — a hammer and chisel, a great duo for splitting up reluctant old Cymbidium plants.

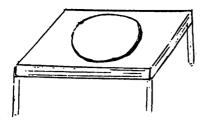


Old basket hangers



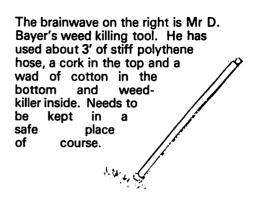
If you find a mussel basket on the beach, use it as a plant hanger. (These are more plentiful now with the proliferation of Mussel Farms.

For limited watering, insert a small piece of fine hose in the end of your usual one. Handy for little plants and mixed genera.



No, not a hole, a revolving disc.

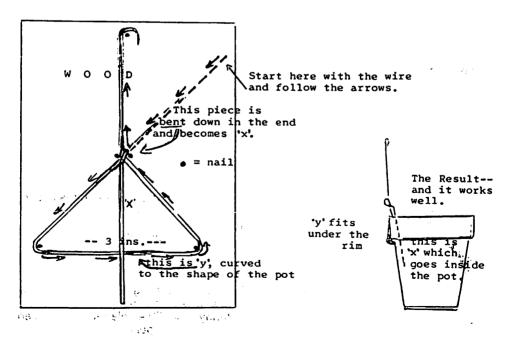
'Lazy Susan' stool from Cath Jones. Very useful when re-potting, spraying and grooming plants. Height 15", length 14", width 11" and revolving disc 8" diameter.



For the husks caught between the bulbs, it is hard to beat a fish hook extractor.

Pot Holder

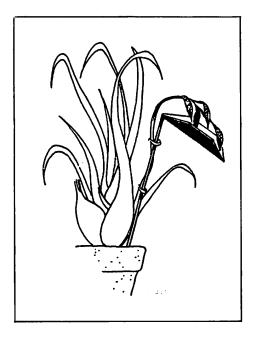
You need 5 nails and a piece of wood about 12" x 4" to bang them into and a 14" piece of 12g. wire.



And this classy example of ingenuity came from Val Bayliss and is a Light Reflector. In her words:

'Purpose — To give even colour to Cymbidium blooms by reflecting light to undersides of buds, particularly darker tonings.

Materials: Flexible wire, i.e. welding rod, and builders' foil. Bend wire and cover with foil according to spike size. Concurve foil, and position under spike facing North'.



DISA UPDATE

The 1983-84 flowering season has been very successful in Taranaki with the first blooms opening as early as October. This is much earlier than any of us have experienced before and with plenty still flourishing now into February and obviously going to continue into March, it seems that a five month flowering period can be expected.

We are very thrilled at the colour range and quality of the seedlings coming to maturity and have adopted a policy of giving a varietal name to the most outstanding. So far about ten have been selected and these are used for seed production. Apart from very interesting colour variations we have plants that have attained 950 mm (3'1") in height, some with nine and ten flowers per spike and some with outstanding flower form with no furling back of the sepals.

Over the past few years we have been very fortunate in obtaining seed from overseas and the policy of distributing this to a group of interested persons in the hope that someone would come up with the right combination of conditions has really paid off. This summer saw one member flowering, to what we assume to be almost perfection. D. racemosa, quite different in colour to D. uniflora, with smaller compact flowers and a tall elegant flower spike 1.2 mm (3'11 ½") tall.

Several specimens of two hybrids have flowered. Perhaps I had better explain that there are about five or six species which will intercross and each is very distinct. D. uniflora is by far the most striking in terms of size and colour and not surprisingly has been the king pin in most hybrids. Several plants of D. Brett's Bay have flowered and though variable in colour to most, they would be accepted as forms of D. uniflora. Not surprisingly. that species heavily predominates in the parentage. Not so with D. Kirstenbosch Pride, however, for this cross between D. uniflora and D. cardinalis carries much of the latter species influence with smaller but very richly coloured flowers with elongated pendant ventral sepals and rounded dorsal sepal (hood).

With the passing of the flowering season comes seed production and sowing. Local members have cooperated again and are producing seed for distribution through the Taranaki Orchid Society as occured last year. Conditions for obtaining seed were advertised in the last issue of Orchids in New Zealand. Check on this for there is an address change and request for a

longer than standard return envelope because the accompanying instructions became so bulky that cramming them into a standard envelope was more difficult than germinating the seed! When the mail arrived many people must have thought that they were investing in bean seeds.

Many thanks to those who wrote to the Editor with details of their progress. Some problems were revealed and some very interesting experiences recorded. As promised, I will endeavour to summarise correspondence in this column, hopefully in the next issue.

In closing, a final reminder about seed supply. Those interested should not delay in applying because the seed should be sown as fresh as possible. Distribution will be in late March or April, in accordance with the conditions advertised in the previous issue of Orchids in New Zealand, so please check before applying.

George Fuller

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Fifth Asean Orchid Congress

1ST — 7TH AUGUST 1984 SINGAPORE

Introduction

The ASEAN Orchid Congress is a periodic gathering of orchid enthusiasts from all over the world. The Congress is hosted by each of the ASEAN member countries in turn, to discuss and evaluate the needs and interests of orchid cultivation and research in the ASEAN region.

Date & Venue

Singapore is proud to host the Fifth ASEAN Orchid Congress from 1st — 7th August 1984. An Orchid Show will be held concurrently at the World Trade Centre, Maritime Square, Singapore. The seminar venue will be announced at a later date.

Theme

The Congress theme will be 'ASEAN Orchids for the World'. The objectives of the Congress are:

- a) to promote and stimulate interest in orchid production and distribution,
- b) to increase export earnings from orchids of ASEAN countries,
- to develop an orchid market information centre to serve the ASEAN region,
- to conserve orchid germplasm of ASEAN countries and to promote further research.

Correspondence Address:

The Organising Secretary,
Fifth Asean Orchid Congress,
C/o Parks & Recreation
Department,
Botanic Gardens,
Cluny Road,
Singapore 1025.

Society Information

MEETINGS

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: D. K. Lilly, P.O.Box 21141, Henderson. 836-8900.

BAY OF PLENTY

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs Dorothy Dennis, 1A Randall Place, Te Puke.

CANTERBURY

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mr J. G. Marshall, 6 Gamblins Road, Christchurch 2. Phone: 326-533 Ch Ch.

CAPITAL CITY

Meet 3rd Monday of month. See Mrs P. Elms, 'Wynmead', Ohariu Valley Wellington. Phone: 788-918. Road.

DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICT

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mr L. N. Feck, 10 Trafalgar Street, Dannevirke. Phone: 7914.

GOLDEN COAST

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs Betty Norman, 60 The Esplanade, Raumati South. Phone: 86-959 Paraparaumu.

HAWKES BAY

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs N. F. Allen, R.D.3., Napier. Phone: 83-050.

HUTT VALLEY CIRCLE

Meet 4th Monday of month. Secretary: Mr Jack Francis, 17 Ranfurly Street, Trentham. Phone: 287-829 Wellington.

HOWICK

Meets 2nd Saturday morning of month. Secretary: Mrs E. Frost, 73 Ridge Road, Howick. Phone: 534-4823.

MANAWATU

Meet 2nd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mr J. G. Jackson, 18 Hurley Place, Palmerston North. Phone: 83-348.

MARLBOROUGH

Meet 4th Sunday of month, June, July and August. 4th Thursday from September to May. Secretary: Mrs J. Bottom, 24 Snowden Crescent, Blenheim. Phone: 87-918.

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr T. H. Wells, 5 Browning Crescent, Stoke. Phone:

NEW ZEALAND

Meet 3rd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr C. H. Brindle, 24 McIntyre Road, Mangere Bridge. Phone: 689-001, Auckland.

NORTH SHORE

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs Eden Campbell, 52 Lynbrooke Ávenue, Auckland 7. Phone: 679-804.

SOCIETY OF SOUTHLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr Ray Dodd, Taiepa Road, R.D.9., Otatara. Phone: 80-067 Invercargill.

STHATFORD ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs. Sylvia Voss, 24 Pembroke Road, Stratford. Phone: 7715.

OTAGO

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr. M. L. Young, 61 Argyle Street, Mosgiel. Phone:

POVERTY BAY EAST COAST

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs L. Fitzgerald, P.O.Box 795, Gisborne. Phone: 76872.

ROTORUA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Naere Short, 41 Koutu Road, Rotorua. Phone: 87-391.

SOUTH AUCKLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Valerie Burnside, 74 Red Hill Road, Papakura. Phone: 298-3205.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary Mrs D. Brocket, 16 Baker Street, Timaru. Phone: 47-136.

SOUTH TARANAKI

Meet 3rd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mrs Una McCormick, P.O.Box 275, Hawera. Phone: 85-755.

TARANAKI

Meet 2nd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr A. D. Gray, 24b Alberta Road, New Plymouth. Phone: 88836.

TAUPO

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs L. Galloway, 12 Rimu Street, Taupo. 86-481.

TAURANGA

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs B. Burgess, P.O.Box 2107, Tauranga South. Phone: 25-819.

THAMES VALLEY

Meet last Sunday of month. Secretary: Mr Gordon McKenzie, P.O.Box 60, Thames. Phone: 86-720.

WAIRARAPA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Pam Shaw, 47 Lorns Street, Masterton. Phone: 84483.

WAIKATO

Meet 4th Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Rachel Haggle, P.O.Box 7101, Claudelands, Hamilton. Phone: 494-612.

WAIROA

Secretary: Mrs R. Gasson, P.O.Box 191, Wairoa.

WANGANUI CLUB

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Frances Harvey, 46 College Street, Wanganui. Phone: 55-607.

WELLINGTON

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs L. G. Cosnett, 35 Clyma Street, Upper Hutt. Phone: 288-429 Wellington.

WHANGARE

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Janice Shavler, P.O.Box 4115, Kamo. Phone: 50219.

A.G.M. 26TH MAY 1984

As you may be aware the Conzed Annual General Meeting for 1984 is to be hosted by the Orchid Society of Southland in Invercargill.

Air New Zealand Time-Table and Fares, To and From Invercargill.

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The Host Society WILL arrange for the 10% Group Discount for all travelling Societies. Societies going to combine so that 20 or more travel together, will be entitled to 20% discount on the standard fare. There are other reduced fares available and if you wish to take advantage of these, make your own enquiries at your nearest Air New Zealand Office.

For those places with a return flight leaving Invercargill at 6.00 p.m. Sunday, we can arrange a bus trip from Invercargill through Queenstown to catch the same plane in Dunedin, for around an extra \$10.00 each.

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John McDonald, President, OSS.

Around The World

by J. Bradley of Masterton

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF MISS BRADLEY'S ORCHID TRAVELS McBEANS — OCTOBER 1983

I travelled from London to Brighton on a cool autumn morning for a few hours sightseeing — the Royal Pavillion and Palace Pier, before heading northeast to Lewes. From there I was taken to Cocksbridge by Mrs Ray Bilton to see

McBeans Orchid Nursery. Unfortunately Ray was in America, however, I was given a full guided tour of one of the highest qualified cymbidium nurseries I have ever seen. The plants were very lush in growth, the leaves standing straight and erect even though they were on 2-3 year old bulbs. In contrast to many beliefs, although the plants were so green the spike production was very high; therefore maybe a high nitrogen fertilizer can be used throughout the year to allow strong vigorous

growth without adverse effect on flower production.

As in New Zealand, the English experienced warm summer days but cool nights for this last season which has resulted in a high spike production. Some miniatures were already in full bloom, so it seems that current breeding is considerably extending the flowering season thus reducing our Southern Hemisphere sales advantage.

To start at the beginning of plant production, the laboratory, where both seed sowing and mericloning are conducted. Two laminar flow units are in use, one solely for seeding and replating, the other for mericloning. The seeds are initially sown on agar plated horizontally in milk bottles, the cheapest form of container then later transferred to a vertically plated bottle.

The mericlones are started in a liquid culture media which is constantly rotated so that the growing meristem is continually in contact with all the required growth hormones. The proliferated corms are then divided and transferred to the solid agar growth into plantlets. When deflasked the plants are put into hygiene flats in a warm house to give them a good start again when repotted into individual pots they remain in the warm house until fully established. then the heat is gradually reduced. Although the heating is costly - using gas heated water, which is pumped through the houses, it increases the rate of plant production considerably which is required when plants are in high demand.

The media used is a mixture of peat, perlite and bark. The high peat content means less watering is required which is labour saving in the large nursery which encompasses two acres of glass. The feed used throughout is a 28 — 12 — 12 N P K ratio at a rate of 1:200 applied as a liquid fertigalion. The nitrogen content is slightly reduced in winter when growth is less. A slight water stress is applied to the growing plants to keep them smaller as the current demand is

for plants of reduced size so that more fit into ones limited glass-house area. There is a strong demand in England for houseplants for which the miniature cymbidium is very suitable. For such reasons. McBeans are now also producing a primary paphiopedilum Deperle (primulinum x Delenatii) which produces three to four pearly white flowers per stem over two to three months. When travelling throughout Europe, notices the reduced light intensity - still most growers increase the shading in summer by the use of whiting over the roof of the glass. To reduce heat losses in winter a double skinning of polythene is used.

In general I found McBeans to be a very clean efficient producer of outstanding quality cymbidiums. Their scientific approach to growing and experimentation indicates that they will continue to be one of the worlds leading murseries for breeding and plant production.

RATCLIFFES — OCTOBER 1983

Ratcliffe Nursery has always been known throughout the world as the finest producers of Paphiopedilum orchids, I now understand why. I found the operation to be very clean and efficient, thus the plants healthy and strong. It was a pity that I missed the main flowering period from November to January as I can well imagine the blaze of colour that would be seen in the houses.

Both hybrid and primary species of paphiopedilum are grown, being popular with the hobbyist as well as many English gardeners who are looking for indoor flowering pot plants for the winter when their meticulously kept summer gardens are hidden under the snow.

to be continued . . .

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Mr Komivama

Secretary:

Mr Suga

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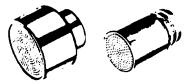
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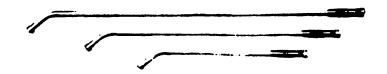
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Seminar commences Saturday 2nd June at 1.00 p.m. Concludes Monday 4th June at 12 noon.

Register Now

Registrations to be sent to The Secretary, Taranaki Orchid Society, 24B Alberta Road, Fitzroy, New Plymouth (Phone 88-836). Accommodation is at a premium. Rooms reserved at the Devon Motor Lodge are from \$42.00 for two beds to \$52.00 for three. Rooms reserved at the Plymouth Hotel are from \$75.00 for three persons to \$120.00 for six persons. The afore-mentioned Hotel is also the venue for the Seminar. Early registration will guarantee accommodation.

Registration \$25.00 increased to \$30.00 after 2nd May 1984.

Deposit Accommodation \$10.00	Yes/No	Number of people
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Plymouth Hotel	Yes/No	3 to 6 berth
Official Dinner Saturday	Yes/No	Number attending



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