

The Registration brochure is nearly ready and there will be 2 types, to allow for those who can only attend part of the event. All the registration information will also be available on www.orchids.org.nz. The closing date for early registration is 28 February 2010.

Raffle

Julie and Jose were the winners of the door prize. The lucky raffle winners were Colin, Lorraine (visitor), Valerie, Angela, Barbara Sanders (twice) and Bruce.



DECEMBER RAMBLINGS

All the words in blue are web links, if you left-click on them a menu pops up & gives you the option to remove link

- The **growing season** is now well and truly under way. Root action should be strong, with also strong new growths being produced on those plants in good condition. The aim of our culture is to ensure this active growth is maintained for as long and as vigorously as possible. Remember, if a plant does receive a check in its growth, it is often some time before growth can be returned to optimum levels, and any check can affect subsequent flower production. Just because a plant has no flowers at this time of the year, do not forget about it, or you will find subsequent flowering will be reduced.
- All **repotting** should have been completed by now, with the plants showing their appreciation of new media by strong healthy growth.
- The **temperature** will be increasing, with the lengthening days. All plants should now be in their **summer homes**. Do not leave the plants in an enclosed glasshouse or porch as they need plenty of fresh moving air at this time of the year. Summer night temperatures no higher than 10 - 12 degrees celsius for cymbidiums are essential for the completion of successful **bud initiation** of next year's flowers, and this temperature level will not be achieved in most glasshouses. **Growing a plant too warm at this time of the year is the most common reason for non flowering of cymbidiums.**
- Guard against drying out of those orchids which don't like dry roots: **Masdevallias, Paphiopedilums, Sarcochilus, Miltonia, Odontoglossum** are a few that come to mind. Plants mounted on bark, wood and so on, need more frequent misting. A brief misting/light watering, every couple of days, between main watering can be worthwhile
- It is generally recommended that plants be in **shadehouse**, under say 30% shade, or under the outer branches of a tree will also suffice. Some protection from the strongest midday sun will be appreciated, but direct sun early and late in the day will be enjoyed by the plants. If you have been growing your plants somewhat shaded, try not to expose them suddenly to direct sun, otherwise burning of the foliage can occur.
- If you place the plants outside, keep them off the ground on bricks or wood. This prevents the entry of earthworms into the mix, and also allows better ventilation around the plants.
- With the warmer conditions and more active growth, greater attention to **watering** is required. When you do water your plants, apply copious quantities and allow the surplus to run freely from the container. If you spray, dampen the mix first, then, some minutes later, give another good soaking. This ensures the mix gets truly wet, and the application of plenty of water allows the flushing out from the mix of any salts which may have accumulated. Allow the top 25 to 50mm of the media in larger pots to dry before watering again. Remember overwatering involves the too **frequent** watering of the plants; if you do this the roots can die as the essential access of air to the roots is prevented. The actual frequency of watering will vary, as such factors as the weather, size of the pot, growing media utilised, and growth activity determines water utilisation, and therefore each grower must assess their own situation. The correct watering of the plants at this time of the year is most important, and should not be neglected.
- The plants will appreciate some **fertiliser** during this period of their most active growth. While the new vegetative growths are small, a higher nitrogen fertiliser is appropriate, especially in bark based growing media. As the growths mature and reach their full size, a change to a lower nitrogen fertiliser will assist in the maturing of the pseudobulbs, and assist in flower bud initiation. Generally a low nitrogen, high potash fertiliser will be best from mid-summer on. Flowering may be also encouraged by applying magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts) at the rate of one teaspoonful per 5 litres of water monthly from mid summer to mid autumn (fall).
- Watch for **red spider mite** and **false spider mite** infections at this time of the year. The effects of these pests can be reduced by maintaining higher humidity around the plants. The frequent misting of the plants, especially on the underside of the foliage, can reduce the infestation, and the plants will additionally appreciate the moisture and cooling effect. If the pests do become established, chemical sprays may be required. Two applications given 7 to 10 days apart will ensure a complete kill.

Source: *Phil's Orchid World*
<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~tomnz/>

Paphiopedilum

Part III

Humidity. The higher the humidity the better on hot summer days. Frequent damping down of paths, walls and benches to achieve this is desirable. In emergencies the leaves can be sprayed if they will be dry before nightfall but it is better to avoid this if possible. If it must be done, a small amount of fungicide in the water will help prevent rots. Damping down should not be necessary in the colder months of the year.

Light. Less light is required than for cattleyas. Most authorities recommend about 700 foot candles. In hot summer month it may have to be reduced below this to keep temperatures down. In winter months brighter light is beneficial. Some alternative way of providing extra shading is essential if a greenhouse is covered with one of the glass substitutes which cannot be painted.

Potting medium A great many potting mixes have been used, including some with more than 8 individual ingredients, not including nutrients. As with most orchids, the growing medium is usually not a limiting factor in the growth of the plant if all other environmental factors are adjusted to suit it. Paphs will grow in any of the media also used for cymbidiums, i.e. bark being the simplest. Any particles larger than 10mm and all dust must be removed. Paphs in the subgenus *Brachypetalum* (e.g. *P. delenatii*, *P. niveum*, etc.) grow on limestone. Whether or not the limestone is a factor in the nutrition of these plants is contentious but it is usual to raise the pH of the growing media for them. This could be done in bark mixes by increasing the amount of dolomite lime added to 6kg per cubic metre.

Watering and nutrition After watering, the pot should be allowed to lose all the added water before it is watered again. However, the growing medium must not be allowed to get bone dry. If a plant is removed from its pot and the growing medium is wet when tipped out, then the plant does not need watering. If the medium is just perceptibly moist the plant is due to be watered. Nutrients are best placed in the water supply at each watering. The 100 ppm N formula is suitable for bark-based mixes.



N100, P15, K50

Ammonium nitrate	41
Monoammonium phosphate	12
Potassium nitrate	26

Use lower N for others. If using slow release materials, put them on top of the medium rather than in it and apply them in a quantity at the bottom end of the scale recommended by the manufacturer.

Pests and diseases. Watch for slugs and snails, mealybug and scale. Paphs are also subject to soft rots – diseases which need moisture to gain a foothold. Be

extremely careful not to allow water to remain in the centre of the plant. Routine spraying with a preventative fungicide is desirable if these are recurring problems.

Repotting and propagation. Paphs often do not have an extensive root system and resent repotting less than many orchids. Some growers repot each year with new growing media, not necessarily into a larger pot. 2-yearly repotting should be adequate, removing all the old potting medium. The best time is immediately following flowering. Repot at any time if it is suspected that the growing medium has broken down or is inappropriate. When dividing plants, make divisions of 2 or 3 growths. Often a large plant will just fall apart into several suitable pieces without any encouragement. Success has been reported in getting old, flowered growths to initiate a new shoot by applying the cytokinin benzyl adenine (BA) to the leaf bases and dormant axillary buds. (This is the hormone used to encourage *Phalaenopsis* stem nodes to make plants.)

.To be continued.....

Source: *The New Zealand Orchid Grower*, ID James

POPULAR VOTE SECTION

If there is an asterisk (*) beside the plant named below it is possible that either (a) the plant has been registered or (b) the name on your plant has been misspelled; please update your plant labels. ? means it doesn't appear in OrchidWiz.



PLANT LIST

Small:

1 st	L&V Prince	Masd. Angel Heart
2 nd	L&J Sharp	Sarco. Star Struck

Species:

1 st	L&V Prince	*C. Auranti-Media (not a species)
2 nd	P&M Thomas	E. <i>aromatica</i>

Other:

1 st	P&M Thomas	Lc Prophecy 'Monterey'
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Cymbidium:

1 st	Theo Verryt	Cym. Len Southward
2 nd	C&B Grant	Cym. Cricket 'Cascade'

Daisy Burrell	<i>C. intermedia</i> var <i>aquinii</i>
	<i>C. skinnerii</i>
	Den. <i>mohliianum</i>
	Den. <i>victoria reginae</i>
	Cym. Fifi 'Harry'
	Sarco. Empress

Bruce Goodall	<i>C. intermedia</i>
	Lc Amazon Trick
	*C. Mem. Neil Ryan
	(was Lc Rivermont Imperial 'Gama' x Chocolate Drop 'Kodama')

C&B Grant	Cym. Cricket 'Cascade'
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L&V Prince	C. Auranti-Media
	Cym. <i>devonianum</i>
	Den. <i>thyriflorum</i>
	Den. Yukidaruma 'The King'
	Den. <i>nobile</i>
	Masd. Angel Heart
	Masd. Chaparana x Copper Angel
	Sarco. Bernice Klein
	Sarco. Melba 'Alba'
	Z. Kiwi Korke

Judy Murray
 Den. Yukidaruma 'The King'
 Masd. Grace Arms
 Masd. Peppermint Rock '5 Striper'
 *Masd. Curlei
 (was Masd. *toverensis* x *macrura*)
 Masd. Tuakau Goldstrike
 Masd. *veitchiana*
 Phalaenopsis Unknown
 Phallenopsis. Unknown
 *Sarco. Heidi
 (was Sarco. (*hartmannii* 'Red Snow' x *fitzgeraldii*)
 x *hartmannii* 'Yellow Snow'
 Sarco. *hartmannii* ('Red Centre' HCC x 'Red
 Snow')
 Z. Kiwi Korcker



LLc. Prophesy 'Monterey'

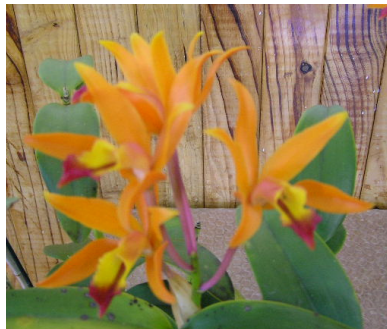
L&J Sharp
 Sarco. Melody
 Sarco. Star Struck

P&M Thomas
 E. *aromatica*
 Den. *nobile* U2 Utopia (not found)
 Den. *nobile*
 Lc Prophesy 'Monterey'

Theo Verryt
 Cym. Babylon 'Castle Hill' FCC/RHS
 Cym. Len Southward
 Cym. Penny Serenade
 Cym. Mighty Mouse x Lemon Butter
 Cym. Hawtescens
 Cym. Pee Wee
 Den. Super Star 'Dandy'
 *L. Ragotiana
 (was L. *grandis* x L. *cinnabarina*)
 Masd. Bella Donna 'White Giant'
 Phal *lueddemanniana* 'Pixie'
 Lc. Gold Digger x Slc. Mine Gold 'A'
 Lc. Gold Digger x Slc. Mine Gold 'B'



Cym. Babylon 'Castle Hill'



C. Auranti-Media



Masd. Angel Heart