



News letter May 2010
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Although medonohue32@hotmail.com
will still get me. I am the same person



The monthly meeting of the Nth Otago Orchid society was held in the Red Cross Rooms on Thursday the 8th April. Apologies received and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Financial report was read and passed.

A letter from Murray Lister advised the possibility of arranging a visit from Kevin and Helen Western and David Menzies. Ruth Coles has now confirmed the visits and the itinerary for David Menzies who will stay in Oamaru Friday October 1st. and the Westerns will stay in Timaru 18th September giving us a speaker each. More details later.

Kate Brunton read to us about Murray Lister's conversion to NEEM as a broad spectrum disease and insect control. It was very convincing report. It also prompted discussion on other remedies. The main focus for the evening was a power point showing of native orchids and a tramping club trip to Arthurs Pass and the west coast. The presenter was Graham Champness who was very interesting and had an obvious love of the bush Flora and Fauna.

The club had a C.D. in its library on Masdevallia and Dracula culture which we viewed for the first time courtesy of Graham. The raffles were drawn and Popular votes taken. Results below.
1st. Joan Butlers Native Earina autumnalis. A lovely plant with flowers all around (See above)
2nd & 3rd. Angus McMillan With Phal Join Grace and Den Sunglow x Jamie Upton.

The photo above doesn't do them justice, but can you smell the flowers from here ?

Orchid Nutrition for winter. (Copied) Overall Health.

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months.

Overall health. Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilising, or stressed from lack of watering is more likely to be injured by additional strain. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterise the winter growing area.

Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of the year and your orchids nutritional needs change accordingly. If your orchids will winter outdoors, fertilising properly can help them resist cold, as well as give them 2 or 3 additional degrees of cold resistance.

Use a fertiliser low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and the orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple of doses of blossom booster in April and May; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10. Ideally, this change in fertiliser should start by mid-May and continue through the end of July. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in June and July in favor of plant protection, but it can keep the plant healthier overall.

An 83 year old talked herself out of a speeding ticket by telling the young officer she had to get there in a hurry before she forgot where she was going