



News Letter June 2010
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Plant of the month (owned by M.Miernicki
Oda. Parade x Oda. Harreitta leconte

Hi, Everyone, Hope you're all well and keeping healthy these winter days.

To those who attended our May meeting, I hope you enjoyed our guest speaker Graham Letts as much as I did. He took us on a trip to the Japan Orchid festival and what lovely slides he had to show us. The group from N.Z. were also able to visit a Bonsai Show. Thanks to Graham who speaks to us each year. He also reviewed the plants we had on the popular vote table. Results below.
1st. M.Miernicki's Oda. Photo above. 2nd. M.Harper's Cat. Forbesei. A lovely wee plant I purchased from Philip Norton a few years ago and it flowers each year for me. 3rd. L. McCone's Phal.
There was very little business but Joan has been busy pricing halls for our dinner after our orchid show and when David Menzies visits us on the 1st. and 2nd. October. At this stage we are trying to arrange a pot luck meal at midday 2nd. October and will be inviting our Timaru club to join us. A group of us hope to travel to Timaru when Kevin and Helen Western visit 18th. Sept
Our Orchid show plans are well on the way for 25th and 26th Sept so it will be a busy time.

Masdevallia. Masdevallia orchids are cool growers. They love a cool, moist environment with plenty of air movement to remind them of their origins in the high country of South America. They do not have pseudo bulbs like many epiphytic orchids, only fleshy leaves to hold water and nutrient. One should be careful there to maintain moisture at the roots and in the environment. It is still important not to over water, never keep the medium soaking wet. For the reasons above it is vitally important to keep the medium sweet. If it decays it will root systems and the plant will collapse. For this reason we recommend repotting annually.

Potting. They can be grown in pine bark or Sphagnum Moss, but I find Sphagnum Moss can get cold in the winter.

Conditions. Masdevallias need to be well shaded in the summer to keep the plants cool and the environment humid. If possible try to keep the temp. under 30c, a few hours warmer won't matter as long as you have humidity. Constant dry heat will cause the plant to drop its leaves and collapse. In winter try to give bright airy conditions, humidity is usually high any way. Minimum Temp. should be 5c for most, though be aware there are some warmer growers. Masdevallias will sometimes tolerate a light frost but try to avoid this if at all possible.

Summary. Cool moist airy conditions free from frost. Avoid hot and dry. Pot annually, do not divide too small.

Feed Osmocote or Orchid Food. Keep free from pests especially Aphids. Do not over water.

Masdevallias may be grown indoors if you have light but not direct sun on a window sill or similar. As humidity is low indoors leaves will need misting daily and the plants grown on wet gravel or plunged in Sphagnum Moss.

You may be surprised just how well they grow indoors.

If you live in a climate with long hot summers they may well prefer it indoors at least for the summer.

I have been reading through some tips and the writer said he doesn't fertilize in the months of July and August as he feels that the plants have stopped growing because of the cold weather.

Yup, I'am rich. Silver in the hair, Gold in the teeth, Stones in the kidneys, Sugar in the blood, Lead in the feet, Iron in the Arteries and an inexhaustible supply of natural Gas. (I never thought I'd accumulate such wealth.)

Popular vote table
In May.

