

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 24, 2022

Jon Erickson on Orchids

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens





Left: Our president – Karen York

Below: Jon Erickson, Speaker, Orchid Society





Devotions Jan
2022

Flight 2022 Instructions

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022. We are prepared to take off into the new year. Please be sure your positive attitude and gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

All self-destruct devices, pity, anger, selfishness, pride and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your positive attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by faith. Once your faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There is no Baggage allowed on this flight.

God, our Captain, has cleared us for takeoff.

Destination - Greatness

Wishing you a New Year filled with new hope, new joy & new beginnings!

Stay ~~Best~~ Blessed & Welcome to 2022.

Our Chaplain
Linda Giddens

Invocation

(Very Creative)



Jon Erickson showing us what kinds of mediums we could use to pot orchids. He even left us the following instructions to guide us.

REPOTTING ORCHIDS

The orchid family is the largest of all flowering plants with over 30,000 species and more than 50,000 hybrids existing.

MYTHS

- Orchids are hard to grow. NO; orchids are not difficult, they are different. If you can grow any type of house or outdoor plants, you can grow orchids. Orchids are epiphytes (air plants).
- Orchids need a special place to grow and bloom. NO; orchids will do their best to adapt to the conditions you provide for them. Do you have trees, a screened porch, patio, or bright windows? If so, you can grow orchids with few problems.
- You should water your orchid with three ice cubes. NO!

PHALAENOPSIS CULTURE

Phalaenopsis is the best choice for beginners—

Available in almost every color of the rainbow

Long spikes

Large/long lasting flowers

Can grow in low light environment—any room in the house with windows

Probably the most popular and rewarding orchid to grow.

WHAT DO PHALAENOPSIS NEED?

Low light—east or lightly shaded west/south window if grown inside. Direct sun will quickly burn the soft foliage. Foliage clues: yellow means too much light; dark green means lack of light.

Water & humidity—plants require frequent and ample watering and rapid drying off periods but never completely. They need air movement in home, but no A/C blowing on them.

Nutrients—apply fertilizer every 2 weeks when plants are in active growth; reduce to monthly after blooming. Phalaenopsis usually flower in the spring and flowers last a month or more.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING AN ORCHID?

- Before you buy an orchid, ask yourself if your conditions are suitable for it.
- Leaves are firm, juicy and have no strange pigmentation
- An orchid that has some blooms and lots of buds.

WHY DO YOU REPOT?

- When the medium is breaking down—Usually after 2 years with bark and sphagnum moss.

The plant is growing outside of pot. Sympodial—front division=active growth; back bulb division=inactive part. Good to know when planting catleyas, dendrobiums, and oncidiums.

- To see that roots are rotten/drying up.
- ### WHEN DO YOU REPOT?

- Best time is shortly after all the flowers have fallen off.
- Shortly after getting the plant.
 - a. May want to change the type of medium.
 - b. Allows one to determine condition of roots.
 - c. Allows one to establish repotting period.

TYPES OF POTS --- ORCHID

CLAY POTS

1. More stable—better for tall plants and in wind.
2. Lip allows them to be hung easily.
3. Porous—Allows medium to dry out quicker/roots cooler
4. Porous—Roots tend to attach to surfaces—break when transplanted.
5. Can be impregnated with salt from fertilizers—affects PH

PLASTIC POTS

1. lighter=less stable—don't have a pot lip
2. Stay wet longer after watering—good for phalaenopsis.
3. Cheaper, roots don't stick, and don't break.
4. Biggest positive is plastic allow roots to be visible.

WHAT SIZE POT?

- Put plant in a pot that allows the roots to be snug.

POTTING MEDIA?

1. Soil-less mixtures that allow good drainage and air circulation.
2. Moss, Bark, (Orchiata – NZ Pinus Radiata tree), Pro mix, coconut husk chips, expanded clay, coarse perlite, granular charcoal, lava rock (Bushel Stop), broken clay pot chips, styrofoam peanuts (no corn syrup), etc.

PROCEDURE

- Remove plant from pot.
- Remove old medium from roots/wash roots. Don't reuse old medium
- Cut away all rotten/dried up roots using a sterile tool.
- Spray roots with 3% hydrogen peroxide. Large cuts use cinnamon.
- Put plant in container and fill with moist medium. Work medium into root cracks using eraser end of pencil
- Firm down medium and add pot clip.
- Label plant with name and repotting date. (Venetian blind)
- If spike is dead, cut it all the way to the base; this allows plant to focus all its energy into new growth.

- Inspect plant for insects and abnormalities
- If planting a phalaenopsis indoors, place it in an east or north facing window where it gets bright but no direct sun light.
- Don't allow A/C to blow on plants and don't spray room with aerosols.

Best source of information: www.aos.org

ORCHIDS PROPAGATION

Dividing Rhizomes

- A minimum of 3 stems per division
- The largest division will grow quickest to blooming

Keiki's (Hawaiian meaning baby)

- Leave young plants on the stem until they develop several roots a few inches long.
- Cut the young plant from the flower stem just below the roots and pot the portion just removed.
- The bottom half may continue forming baby plants.

Cuttings

- Cut off one of the long stems or canes with a sterile pruner.
- Cut sections of the cane so that each section contains at least two nodes.
- Lay cut stems or canes flat, half buried, on a bed of damp sphagnum moss in a shallow container.
- Cover the container with a lid of plastic wrap to hold in the moisture.
- Place the container where it will get diffused but not direct sunlight.

Back Bulbs

- Cut off from mother plant the older bulbs that no longer have leaves.
- Put in a 2-inch layer of damp sphagnum moss in a plastic bag.
- Put several bulbs with their bottoms one-fourth buried in moss in the plastic bag and seal it. Takes about 2 months.
- When the leaves are a few inches long, place plants as a group in a shallow container in diffused light. Transplant after 2 months

Mounting Orchids

- Place the plant on a small handful of moistened, squeeze-dried sphagnum moss.
Spread the roots around the sphagnum moss. Place the orchid on the mount so its center points down. Wrap fishing line around the top and bottom of the moss to hold it in place.

COMMON WAYS TO KILL ORCHIDS

- Overwatering
- Underwatering
- Too much light or heat
- Leave foliage wet overnight
- Too much fertilizer
- Purchased sick plants

WHAT ORCHIDS TO GROW

Always choose an orchid that comes close to fitting your growing area---light intensity, temperature preferences, how much space is available, is there air circulation, when do you want orchid to bloom, etc.

- Phalaenopsis "Twinkle" --- low light, multifloral type that has many smaller flowers on a very compact plant.
- Brassavola "Lady of the Night"--- strong light, very compact-growing orchid with white spidery flowers which have a lily-of-the-valley night fragrance and appear several times a year.
- Paphiopedilum (Slipper Orchid) "Maudiae"--- modest light, among the easiest of orchids to grow with exotic flowers and stunning foliage. Short compact plant.
- Oncidium "Sharry Baby" --- single most popular orchid in the world - Medium light, usually blooms around Xmas---yellow/burgundy flowers covering a spike of up to 30 inches which also have chocolate and vanilla fragrance.
- Miltoniopsis "Santanaei"--- easy to grow, white, flat, pansy-shaped with yellow flare on top of the lip---6-8 inches tall with sweet rose scent.

KEEPING THINGS IN BALANCE

- When growing orchids it's important to keep things in balance. In cool temperatures, orchids require less water and light.
- In high humidity, orchids need increased air circulation.
- In bright light and/or high temperatures, high humidity is required.
- When orchids are not growing, reduce or stop fertilizing.
- In high temperatures, the light and humidity also need to be high and the orchids require more frequent watering.

**ENJOY YOUR ORCHIDS AND DON'T BE AFRAID OF THEM.
REMEMBER, TEMPERATURE, AIR FLOW, LIGHT, WATER, AND
FERTILIZER ARE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS.**

Google: "Orchid You Tubes"





Repotting



PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
DARLENE ENZIAN
CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER

