

December 2018

Volume 60 ... no. 12



Caleana major* (flying duck-orchid) and *Paracaleana minor* (small duck-orchid) both flower locally from November into January, are locally common and found growing in near coastal sandy soils. Peter Murrell Reserves at Kingston are the **Go To place to see them. **Photo by Geoff Curry.***



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY

GREENHOOD

**December 10th the Tasmanian Orchid Society
General Meeting at Legacy Hall at 7.30 pm.**



ThIt is our last meeting for 2018. A night for “patting our orchids” and saying well done. Come and celebrate or commiserate our orchids ... we as custodians.

Competitions for December... will you “bench”?

.... Orchids for Division 1 and Division 2

.... Best floral arrangement “Christmas Table Decoration”

Be prepared ? Orchid seedling assessment for members who bought the seedlings.....Lc. Hsin Buu Lady, will be assessed at this 10th December Christmas meeting.

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Copy Deadline is the

4th January 2019

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for 2018/19

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MEMBERS**

- Ian Crocker
- Trevor Dicker
- Glenn Durkin
- Peter Manchester
- Jim Smith

**TAS. ORCHID SOCIETY MAJOR other EVENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR...**

The Society's Annual BBQ is the First Sunday in March at Tolosa Park, Glenorchy.

Sunday Get together in January The 27th.

GREENHOOD editor Peter S Manchester 0477432640 ...
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WEB MANAGER Michael Jaschenko ... <http://tos.org.au/>

**TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETIES
GENERAL MEETING DATES**

December 10th @ 7.30 pm. *Christmas gathering and judging of Competition plants and members Div. 1 & Div. 2*

January 15th @ 7.30 pm . *Different ways of watering your various orchids . Panel discussion.*

February 19th @ 7.30 pm. *Sarcophilus re potting.*

Devonport Orchid Society Trade and Social Day 10th February 2019 at Val Johnson & Warren Brooks Home Turners Beach.



Members are invited to submit floral arrangement for judging on the following topics....

Dec. 10th “A Xmas Table Centerpiece”

Jan 21st “Hello 2019”



The Orchid Society has an extensive library kept at Legacy house and can be accessed at the monthly meetings. Our Librarian for the Society is **Sally Johnston**. **Sally has photostated catalogue of the books in the library.** Sally has past orchid magazines . (old and new). Ask her about them.

PRESIDENT Peter Willson’s December Report

As we approach the end of 2018 as an “active” society of orchid growers, we should look at how the society is progressing and how it has progressed through 2018. The key words are “**we are changing**” – probably forced into it whether we like it or not.

The society has gone into the digital age with **GREENHOOD** and our website. Some members are resisting , but about 65% membership are going along for the new “ride”. Membership has increased, especially since the Spring Show. Why? Perhaps because we are becoming a more friendly group of orchid growers willing to share ideas in a constructive way.

There is more cooperation between the membership of the other societies in Tas mania. We share newsletters and invite attendance. We are being more aware of pests and diseases within our orchid environments due to better communication at mini workshops, meeting tips, and at our Sunday get togethers.

Members are “benching” an increase number of orchids. At the November meeting there were 86 Division 2 and 35 Division 1 orchids for judging.

Speakers at meetings are excellent and very willing to share ideas. Warren Brooks talk left members “riveted” as he told and showed us (Power Point) how he grows his 400+ orchid types at Turners Beach. He concluded by telling our members that his success may have been because of the way he communicates and receives ideas from all over the world. YES.. he uses Facebook and hosts other Tasmanian orchid growers at his property in February. It was obvious that he is not rewinding the past but pressing play “.. **Are you willing to change into the future as members of this society so that the society progresses?**

In conclusion the committee and I would like to wish all members a very very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

*Tasmanian Orchid Society Orchid Mix ...prepared by the Tasmanian Botanical Gardens staff for our members to purchase. **Approximately 2020 new bags are available now.** The T.O.S Orchid mix (40 litre bags), are available at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The keeper of the mix is our President Peter Willson. Please phone Peter on 62484375 who lives near Cambridge to make arrangements for PICKUP time and payment.*

ORCHID SEEDLING ASSESSMENT .

“Assessment of successful growing” will occur at the 10th December meeting.

2019 COMPETITION PLANTS !! for comment by members.

For the last few years members have purchased a plant/s , numbered and brought in at each meeting for “assessment” (which it wasn’t), given a number and then if your number was drawn out of the “barrel” you one a plant prize. It was felt by some members of the committee that the main purpose of doing this competition has “lost its way”. Vice President Vicki Cleaver has proposed a new process of assessment which is for comment. Below is Vicki’s thoughts which you as members should comment in the next month or so.

“This is what has been suggested for competition plants. The growing time would be extended, with the first period being more of a challenge.

When a new competition begins, and as the plants are sold, you would be required to bring your plant into each monthly meeting, have it checked off as usual, but then you must leave it on the front table, making sure you have your plant pot marked with your name. At supper time it would give everyone time to check out all the plants. After supper a couple of the plants would be selected and the owners would be asked to share their cultural tips. Everyone who has brought along their plant will still go in the draw for another plant. This would continue through to the close of this phase in December. Then the true competition would begin. Everyone would then be armed with lots of tips and advice to take their plant home and grow it on for the next twelve months. The following December everyone can return with their competition plants, marked only with their number. Where upon they would be judged against each other regardless of whether they are flowering or not.

They would be compared as to size, quality and culture. A winner would then be selected, therefore ending this competition.

A very big thankyou to Vicki and David Cleaver for the great hospitality and sharing of their home in Bellerive for the November together. 26 members were treated in many ways.. their orchids, facilities, food galore and the Christmas Spirit.



Cultural notes

AREA: HOBART

PERIOD: December/January



	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILISER REQUIREMENTS	PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE DENDROBIUM	Once to twice weekly.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Control snails and slugs.	Requires 50 per cent shade.
CATTLEYA Alliance	Weekly, allowing drying between watering.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Watch for red spider mite when hot and dry. Use Omite or Kelthane.	Ensure good strong light for optimum growth.
ODONTOGLOSSUM	Enough to keep mixture moist.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Watch for aphids on new growths and flowers.	
CYMBIDIUM	Once or twice weekly ensuring plants remain moist all the time.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Watch for red spider mite when hot and dry. Use Omite or Kelthane.	Requires 50 per cent shade.
COELOGYNE	Once or twice weekly, ensuring plants remain moist all the time.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Watch for red spider mite when hot and dry. Use Omite or Kelthane.	Requires 50 per cent shade.
DISA	Keep constantly moist, watering daily during hottest spells.	Weak fertiliser fortnightly, Use organic in sphagnum moss.	Watch for aphids on new growths and flowers.	Increase humidity with damping of floors frequently.
MASDEVALLIA	Keep constantly moist, watering daily during hottest spells.	Weak fertiliser fortnightly. Use organic in sphagnum moss.	Watch for aphids on new growths and flowers.	Increase humidity with damping of floors frequently.
ONCIDIUM	Keep moist but not wet.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Watch for red spider mite when hot and dry. Use Omite or Kelthane.	Strong bright light required.
PLEIONE	Keep constantly moist.	Half strength balanced fertiliser fortnightly.	Control snails and slugs.	
GENERAL COMMENTS	Mist plants frequently on hot days. Don't water plants in the heat of the day. Increase humidity by damping down floors frequently.			

The listings are BASIC cultural information for our HOBART area. It is stressed that the information contained in these charts is to be used as a brief, basic guide depending on your own particular environment. Growing conditions vary from grower to grower depending on many factors, eg type of housing, potting medium, local weather conditions and the area where you live. Should you require more detailed information on any particular cultural aspect, it is suggested you seek the advice of advanced orchid members of TOS or a specialist orchid nursery.



TASMANIAN STATE CONFERENCE - 2020

In September 2020 the Tas Orchid Society is scheduled to host the Triannual State Conference. This event requires a Chairperson and organising committee. This Conference needs strong management organisation so this request is for members of our TasOrchid Society to advise the Secretary Bev or our Vice-President Vicki Cleaver of their willingness to help in the organising for this 2020 State Conference. This committee will be a separate organising body to the annual elected committee which attends to month by month operations.



Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show by Vice President Vicki Cleaver

The Sarcochilus and Masdevallia show was held on the 10th November at Alma Street, Bellerive. This was the first time that the show has been held on the Eastern Shore. According to show marshal Jim Smith nearly 250 orchids were benched. The northerners were very impressed with the venue. It was nice to see the public lining up 15 minutes before opening time, when the doors were opened there was a surge of people making a beeline for the plant sales. Many took advantage of the sale of refreshments, and the raffle proved popular. The judges were Priscilla Greve, Neil Hardstaff, Daryll Corbett and Ian Woodgate with orchid trainees as part of the panel. The judging was a little delayed, however when the display was opened to the public many took advantage of the great display of plants which were certainly up to standard of previous years. The show was well attended.

Thank you to those club members, including new members, who gave their time to make the day the great success that it was. Our show marshal, Jim Smith, has booked Alma Street , Bellerive for the Second Saturday in November 2019.

NOW YOU HAVE SEEN IT ALL !!!!

Thankyou to Barry Davidson for making the editor aware of this U tube that was sent to him by the Treasurer of the Devonport Orchid Society.

This link is very interesting. If you want to slow it down right mouse click near bottom right hand side and change speed to whatever you want.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I01ymnqLjwQ>

If your comment at the end is not WOW then editor.



SARCOCHILUS & MASDEVALLIA SHOW RESULTS



Venue – 17 Alma
St. Bellerive

Date 10th
November 2018



There were no entries in the following sections \

Species sections ... falcatus, Other sarcochilus, Australian Sarcanthinae – Other than Sarcochilus, australis, ceciliae.

Hybrid section *Melba, First Light/Galaxy, Sarcochilus – Sarco. weinthalii as one parent, Sarcochilus – Sarco. ceciliae as one parent.*

First Flowering Seedling..... *White, Yellow*

Masdevallia Miniature under 40mm (any colour)

Champion Sarcochilus - Medal and \$30

Sarco. George Colthup 'Christina' J Pinner

Reserve Champion – Medal and \$20

Sarco. Tomas Kinsella J Pinner

Best Species - \$10

Sarco. hartmannii 'Roberta' x 'Red Star' D & V Cleaver

Best Hybrid - \$10

Sarco. George Colthup 'Christina' J Pinner

Best Specimen Plant - \$10

Sarco. hartmannii J & B Smith

Best Culture - \$10

Plchs. Richard Jost J & B Smith

Best First Flowering Seedling - \$10

Sarco. Tomas Kinsella J Pinner

Most colourful orchid - \$10

Sarco. Joyful J Pinner

SPECIES SECTION

1. *hartmannii*

1st *Sarco. hartmannii 'Roberta' x 'Red Star'*

D & V Cleaver

2nd *Sarco. hartmannii*

G & S Hill

7.

2. *fitzgeraldii*
- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. fitzgeraldii</i> 'Red Blotch' x 'Pinky' | C & N Doyle |
| 2nd | No Entry | |

HYBRID SECTION

9. Fitzhart
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Fitzhart</i> | J & B Smith |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Fitzhart</i> | G & S Hill |
10. George Colthup
- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. George Colthup</i> 'Christina' | J Pinner |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. George Colthup</i> 'Bill' | J Whitney |
11. Burgundy on Ice
- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Burgundy on Ice</i> | G Durkin & V Byers |
| 2nd | No Entry | |
13. Heidi
- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Heidi</i> | J Pinner |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Heidi</i> 'Ken' x 'Red Chocolate' | J & B Smith |

FIRST FLOWERING SEEDLING

17. Red
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Magic</i> | G & S Hill |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Magic</i> | G & S Hill |
18. Pink
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Orange Glow</i> x Judith | J & B Smith |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Kulnura</i> Cinnamon | J & B Smith |
19. Spotted
- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Cherie</i> | I Woodgate |
| 2nd | No Entry | |
20. Other Colour
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Wairo</i> | G Durkin x V Byers |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Surprise</i> | J Pinner |
21. Red Centre
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st | <i>Sarco. Tomas Kinsella</i> | J Pinner |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Tomas Kinsella</i> | J Whitney |
23. Australian Intergeneric Sarcantinae Hybrid
- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1st | Rhy. Colonial Zeal | I Woodgate |
| 2nd | <i>Sarco. Duno Nicky's Twin</i> x Plrhz. tridentata 'Dark' | J Pinner |
24. Other Intergeneric Sarcantinae Hybrid – one parent Australian Sarcantinae
- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 1st | <i>Srts. Toowoomba</i> 'Sparker' x 'Peppermint Spots' | S Jackson |
| 2nd | No Entry | |

OTHER SARCOCHILUS HYBRID

25. Predominantly white
1st *Sarco.* Donna Gaye **J Whitney**
2nd *Sarco.* Bunyip **J & B Smith**
26. White with red centre
1st *Sarco.* Tomas Kinsella **J Pinner**
2nd *Sarco.* Tomas Kinsella **J Whitney**
27. Predominantly yellow
1st *Sarco.* Autumn **J Pinner**
2nd *Sarco.* Surprise **J Pinner**
28. Predominantly red
1st *Sarco.* Duet **C & N Doyle**
2nd *Sarco.* Joyful **J Pinner**
29. Predominantly pink
1st *Sarco.* Enid **I Woodgate**
2nd *Sarco.* Cherie Snow 'Dark Pink' x Kulnura Dazzle 'Splodge' **I Woodgate**
30. Any other colour or colour combination
1st *Sarco.* Brock Harley **J Pinner**
2nd *Sarco.* Wairo **G Durkin & V Byers**
31. Spotted
1st *Sarco.* Harmony **J Sharman**
2nd *Sarco.* Gabriella 'Blotchy Purple' **W & M Dawes**

NOVICE

SPECIES

32. *hartmannii*
1st *Sarco. hartmannii* 'Roberta' x 'Red Star' **D & V Cleaver**
2nd *Sarco hartmannii* **G & S Hill**
33. *fitzgeraldii*
1st *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* 'Red Blotch' x 'Pinky' **C & N Doyle**
2nd No Entry

HYBRID

35. Predominantly white
1st *Sarco.* Unknown **C & N Doyle**
2nd *Sarco.* No Entry
36. Predominantly coloured
1st *Sarco.* Wairo **G Durkin x V Byers**
2nd *Sarco.* Tina x Amber **I Crocker**
37. First flowering seedling
1st *Sarco.* Magic **G & S Hill**
2nd *Sarco.* Magic **G & S Hill**

MASDEVALLIA

Champion Masdevallia - Medal and \$30 *Masd. coccinea* var. *alba* 'Snowbird' **I Crocker**

Reserve Champion - Medal and \$20 *Masd. ignea* 'Plush' **B & L Davidson**

Best Species - \$10	<i>Masd.coccinea</i> var. <i>alba</i> 'Snowbird'	I Crocker	
Best Hybrid - \$10	<i>Drac.</i> Transilvania	J & B Smith	
Best Specimen Plant - \$10	<i>Masd. ignea</i> 'Orange Fantasy'	B & L Davidson	
Best Culture - \$10	<i>Masd.</i> Southern Belle	G & S Hill	
1.	Dracula Species or Hybrid (includes Dracuvallia)		
	1st <i>Drac.</i> Transilvania	J & B Smith	
	2nd <i>Drac.</i> houtteana	J & B Smith	
2.	Masdevallia Predominantly Yellow		
	1st <i>Masd.</i> Falcata 'Golden Light'	J Sharman	
	2nd. <i>Masd.</i> Falcata 'Golden Bullion'	C & N Doyle	
3.	Masdevallia Predominantly Pink		
	1st <i>Masd.</i> Rubicon 'Rainbow'	C & N Doyle	
	2nd <i>Masd.</i> Southern Belle	G & S Hill	
4.	Masdevallia Predominantly Orange		
	1st <i>Masd.</i> Super Nova 'Beenak'	J Whitney	
	2nd <i>Masd.</i> Falcon Sunrise 'Lava Flow'	C & N Doyle	
5.	Masdevallia Predominantly Red/Brown		
	1st <i>Masd. ignea</i> 'Plush'	B & L Davidson	
	2nd <i>Masd. ignea</i> 'Orange Fantasy'	B & L Davidson	
6.	Masdevallia Predominantly White/Blush Shades		
	1st <i>Masd. coccinea</i> var. <i>alba</i> 'Snowbird'	I Crocker	
	2nd <i>Masd. coccinea</i> var. <i>alba</i> 'Snowbird'	C & N Doyle	
8.	Other Pleurothallidiniæ Species or Hybrid		
	1st <i>Dryadella zebrina</i>	S Jackson	
	2nd No Entry		
9	Masdevallia Predominently Purple		
	1st <i>Masd.</i> Larissa 'December Child'	E Mulder	
	2nd <i>Masd.</i> Midas Touch x <i>macrura</i>	J & B Smith	
10.	Masdevallia Striped		
	1st <i>Masd.</i> Pixie Magic 'Beenak'	J Whitney	
	2nd <i>Masd.</i> Snowy River 'Pleasant Park'	C & N Doyle	
OTHER GENERA			
1	Best Hybrid	<i>Milioniopsis</i> Unknown	D & V Cleaver
2	Best Species	<i>Den. grimisii</i>	J & B Smith
3	Best Specimen	<i>Den. Ella Victoria Leaney</i> 'Como'	B Woodward
4	Best Culture	<i>Den.</i> Aussie Cascades	J & B Smith

UPDATED details on Cattleya orchids ... Ian Woodgate.

As noted in the November edition of GREEN HOOD , Ian Woodgate has pointed out to me that some aspects on Cattleya orchids (C.) were lost in the translation and needs clarification. Please note the following from Ian when reading the article again. Editor.

Following is clarification of certain points;

* Prior to recent DNA based re-classifications there were approximately 65 species of C. recognised this would have now increased significantly.

* C. come in two types:

1. bifoliate, characterised by two leaves atop long cylindrical pseudobulbs, relatively small flowers on multi flowered racemes, flowers tend to be waxy and more of an open structure.

2. unifoliate (labiate group), characterised by single leaves atop stocky pseudobulbs, spectacular flowers, larger and more filled in than the bifoliate type having one to four flowers per raceme.

* Unifoliate C. are the traditional type and were once referred to as "chocolate box" orchids. Do not recall saying beware of the sellers of this type of orchid. Unifoliate C. do however require more warmth.

*Most C. have a dormant resting period however it is not unusual for C. to start new growth in Autumn.

*When you water will depend on your individual growing conditions, more in warmer weather whilst in active growth.

* For re-potting and splitting timing is crucial. Repot when new roots are first visible to eliminate chance of damage. At this stage older roots can be trimmed back with less chance of plant shock.

* Roots growing over the side of pots often grow into neighbouring pots (not one another!)

*Fertilise when and with whatever you wish!

* *Ian`s 3 'laws'*

1. Know what you want to grow (Unifoliate or bifoliate or both)

2. Know what conditions you require to grow your C. of choice (temp,water,airflow humidity etc.)

3. Watch your plants - esp. around repotting time.



This picture is a perfect example of why orchids should be repotted regularly—

Usually this means repotting every 2 years. The roots of this plant have grown out of the pot and are in fact stuck to the side. Because these roots are growing from the only portion of the plant that will continue to grow and flower, they must be removed intact from the pot. To do this, the pot may need to be broken.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES

(SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018) by Trevor Burnett

A grower should now be ensuring that, by the end of October, you have completed repotting of the plants that have finished flowering. The plants that did not produce spikes should already have been done. With warmer conditions now gradually becoming the norm during these months, increased attention needs to be given to the watering. As all plants now should have a nice new open mix, one increases the watering programme to once a week, but always in the morning. When one waters, check to ensure that the water freely flows out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot. As a lot of growers place a small crock pieces in the base of the pot, to ensure that good drainage is maintained and not retarding the water flow. With the warmer weather, the fertilizer programme can be increased to weekly or fortnightly with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths. When repotting plants from the existing pot, carefully extract all the growing mix with ones fingers to remove any dead roots. Care must be taken not to damage live roots when repotting as paphiopedilums have a limited root system. Place the plant in the pot, with the base of the plant some 15mm below the rim of the pot, and work the mix in and around the roots.

Gently bumping the pot on the bench can also assist in the placement of the mix. On top of the mix one usually spreads a small quantity of crushed sea shells or gravel sand which helps support the plant from moving in the pot, which will cause root damage.

Nickys Paphiopedilum (Slipper Orchids)



Perlite; Handle with care!

By D. George Tsambourakis



Perlite is a generic name for naturally occurring siliceous rock. To be more precise, Perlite is an amorphous volcanic glass with a relatively high water content, formed by the hydration of obsidian. It occurs naturally and has the unusual property of greatly expanding when heated

sufficiently. When quickly heated at temperatures of 860-890dC perlite softens (being glass). Water trapped in the structure vaporizes and escapes, this causes the expansion of the material to 15 times its original volume.

This expanded perlite bulk density can be up to 150kg/m³.

Because of its many properties, Perlite has many commercial applications, including its use in horticulture.

In horticulture, perlite is used as a component of growing mixes which are open to air (provides aeration), and have good moisture retention properties for better plant growth, its usefulness is also due to the fact that perlite being a form of natural glass is chemically inert and has a pH of about 7. Perlite is also sterile and weed free.

Unfortunately, it is the advantages of perlite that make it 'hazardous'.

Perlite is very light, very porous, has a very large surface area, and breaks and pulverizes easily, Perlite dust can be extremely fine and being light, it remains airborne for much longer periods of time than normal dust. Therefore, because it can be inhaled easily, it is very dangerous.

Inhaling perlite dust is no different to inhaling smoke, cement dust, bull dust or asbestos fibre dust. It goes straight into your lungs and coughing is the first reaction, the eyes are also vulnerable. Although it has not been proven that it is a carcinogenic, (in my opinion it can cause Silicosis) it can cause problems and a breathing mask should always be used when handling dry, dusty materials, for example emptying a plastic bag into a container. To be safe, always keep perlite moist to reduce risk. Protect the eyes. If dust affects your eyes, wash them with plenty of water and if pain persists visit your doctor to remove any larger grains present. Do not take risks.

Silicosis is a form of occupational lung disease caused by inhalation of crystalline silica dust, and is marked by inflammation and scarring in forms of nodular lesions in the upper lobes of the lungs.



Shade Cloth ? for our orchid houses.

How to choose the right shade cloth that makes a difference to plants?

As summer is here and the temperature outside begins to rise, you start to water your plants more. But have you thought of putting **“sun screen” on your plants!!** ---

- Provide shade cloth to cover your plants as a shelter, this will save you water and energy as well as make your plants grow faster and be healthier.

What you need to do is know more about this “sun screen” and choose the right one to protect your plants from sunburn and other fatal factors under the fierce sun in summer.



So what is shade cloth?

Shade cloth was developed over 30 years ago to provide protection for plants from the harsh Australian climate. Shade-cloth is used in many different applications in the domestic, horticulture, commercial, industrial, sport, leisure and agriculture industries.

In summer, shade cloth could be used to cover your shade house skeleton or greenhouse glazing, to cool it down for your plants. Hobbyists, growers, nurseries, gardeners and farmers should protect their young plants from direct sunlight. Ideal for plants when they are establishing and then gradually hardening off, shade cloth is also used to shield pets, livestock and people from sun and wind.

What is shade cloth made of?

Shade cloth is usually made of loosely woven polyester or even aluminium and can be found in varying densities or degrees of shade from approximately 5% to 95%. All shade cloth is water permeable so that rainwater, sprinklers and irrigation systems can keep your plants hydrated.

What type of shade clothes are there in the market?

There are two types of the most common shade cloth: “knitted” and “woven”.



50-knitted-shade-cloth



Woven-Shade-Cloth

Knitted Shade Cloth Made of lightweight polyethylene where as **Woven Shade Cloth** made of 100% polypropylene.

Open lockstitch design resists wind damage, and reduces heat build-up and wind speed inside structures

- **Allows more heat build-up than knitted Shade cloth**
- **Easy to install**
- **Heavier (Less easy to install)**
- **UV resistant**
- **UV Stabilized to withstand the most extreme sun exposure**
- **Edge taping not needed**
- **Edges must be taped to resist fraying, and will un-ravel if cut**
- **Resists most horticultural chemicals and detergents**
- **Longer life expectancy than woven shade cloth**
- **Allow for 2-3% stretch or shrinkage**
- **Minimal stretch or shrinkage, less than knitted**

As we can see from above, to protect your plants from extremely hot weather and make them grow healthily in hot summer, knitted shade cloth is a better choice due to its life expectancy, functionalities and easy installation.

Percentages

Shade cloth is woven or knitted in different densities. We call the densities of Shade Cloth “Percentages”. The difference in percentage lets different amounts of sunlight to penetrate, which means that the percentage of shade cloth you choose, blocks out that percentage of the sun. Therefore, what you grow will help determine the percentage of shade cloth you need.

As we all know, sunlight is so crucial to a plants’ growth, so choose the right density and as low a density as you can get away with.

Usually a shade percentage of 30-50% is ideal for vegetables, while 80-90% is ideal for sheltering people. Most plants will do best with a maximum of 40% - 60% shade. However, when growing some shade loving plants such as orchids and some ferns, 75% or higher maybe needed to get correct light levels.

Examples of shade cloth percentage suitable to your plants

50% Shade cloth in Green Colour

Suitable for: nursery stock cabbage peppers lettuce some Orchid varieties pot plants geraniums caladium irises

75-80% Shade cloth in Green Colour

Suitable for: orchids some ferns large olive trees Protection barriers on buildings Use as silt fencing Use as awnings Use as livestock shading Use as domestic shading



One of the most important aspects in choosing the right density of knitted shade-cloth is that it should be applicable to the area where we live. In Australia, the temperature in the north is hotter than in the south in summer. Therefore, there are more people choosing higher percentage shade cloth in the northern Australia regions such as North Queensland and the Northern Territory.

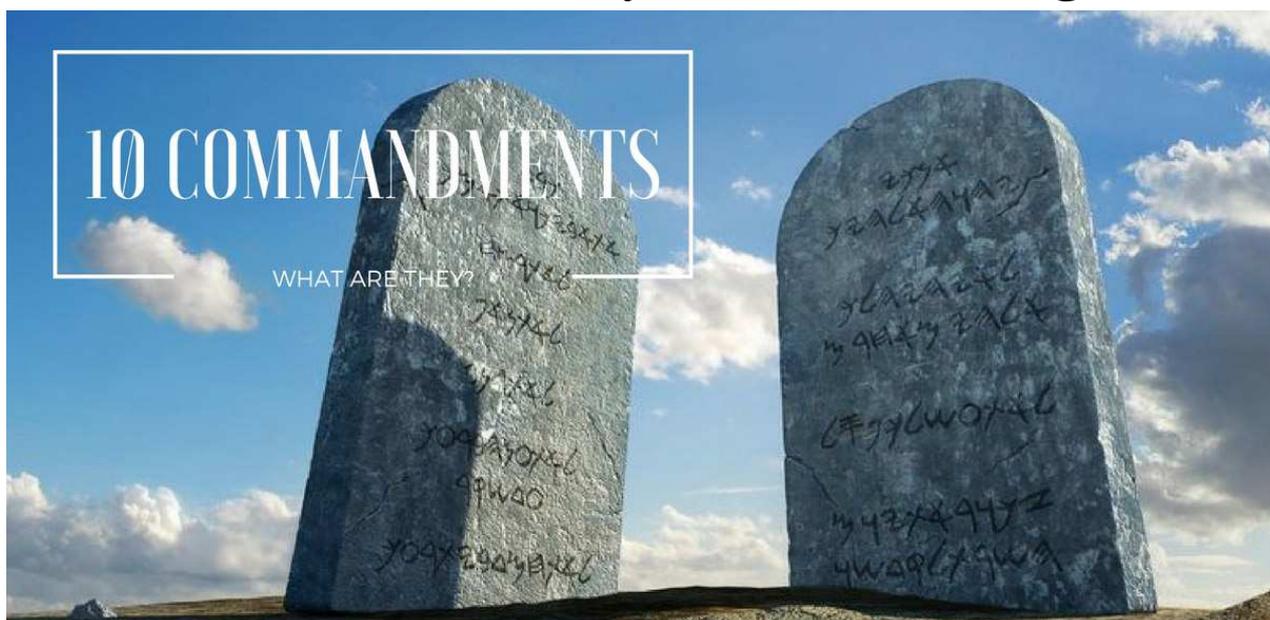
In Summary

If you cover your shade house with 50% or 75% shade cloth, all the way to the ground, a huge amount of heat load is dissipated by the cloth so it never gets into your shade house (try to mist or fog at regular intervals during extreme hot weather). Finally, know you will have a high return on your shade cloth investment by reduced energy costs and water costs. Talk about going green, talk about lowering your carbon footprint, shade cloth does it!

You put sunscreen on your body; why not use sunscreen for your orchids ?

Ten Commandments for an Orchid Grower

By Ernest Hetherington



GAWLER DISTRICTS ORCHID CLUB INC. · SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2017

Perhaps like the biblical Ten Commandments, ten commandments of orchid growing are a good code to live by, are often observed, often overlooked or broken. In orchid growing how much we know and how long we have been growing orchids is of no value if we do not put into practice what we know.

1. LEARN BASIC GOOD CULTURE An average orchid, well grown, will give you better flowers than a fine variety poorly grown. When breeding is set for a particular plant it cannot be changed. Only the full potential for that variety can be

developed through good culture. As simple as it may sound, learn how to water the various genera, learn how to feed and adjust the light. Do not be continually experimenting with new mixes, feeding procedures and all sorts of techniques until you have learned the basics. Develop a good relationship with a grower whose opinions you respect, and who has demonstrated his skills. Listen to him. Wait until you have proven for yourself that you have mastered the Cookara Bill basics of good culture before you set out to revolutionize the orchid world.

2. PROVIDE PROPER GROWING FACILITIES A greenhouse is best. Don't try raising orchids under adverse conditions unless it is absolutely necessary. It is "getting the cart before the horse" if you spend money on orchid plants before you have proper facilities. This may sound like heresy to commercial orchid growers. I am one myself. More plants will follow if you are successful with your first ones.

3. WATCH FOR "CREEPING OBSOLESCENCE" An orchid collection is forever changing. Your interests do not remain the same. What you liked yesterday will not be your favourite tomorrow. As you build your collection, you will find your tastes become more refined and selective. Realize that you have just so much space, time, energy and money to spend. Get the most satisfaction and pleasure from your orchids. If you have plants that you know are diseased or not doing well, get rid of them (I dare you!). Good orchid plants are no longer expensive. Make sure that every plant produces well and give you the blooms you desire. If you have Cattleyas, count the leaves on a mature plant. How many out of this total have flowered? You can tell by the flower stubs in the leaf axils. Most should have; otherwise that plant is a non-blooming boarder. Do you have a plant that won't flower though you are determined to make it do so? Give it a fair trial under varying conditions. If it still doesn't flower, get rid of it. There are other plants waiting to take its place. Do you have a plant which flowers well for you but which has inferior flowers? You have divided it. Now you have a dozen plants of the same variety? Give some away to someone who is starting, or as gift plants. Make room for better quality. Keep upgrading your collection and you will get more pleasure from it.

4. LEARN ABOUT DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND PEST CONTROL I cannot tell you here how to identify virus and other diseases in orchids. There are some excellent articles and books on the subject in your library. Orchids have certain diseases which can be spread. What a shame to have a beautiful and perhaps expensive orchids become infected with virus merely because you did not learn about virus prevention. Learn basic pest control. Common orchid scale is so easily identified and eradicated with modern insecticides. Learn what a red spider looks like and be on the alert for it. How often beautiful blooms are eaten by slugs and snails, and yet there are so many effective baits available. As for aseptic technique, do not cut your flowers until you have sterilized your cutting tool. There are good chemical sterilizers available.

5. BUY GOOD STOCK Don't be "pennywise and pound foolish" by trying to fill your greenhouse too quickly and too cheaply. You get what you pay for. Good orchids are no longer expensive. There are so many reputable growers who have seedlings of

excellent breeding as well as flowering size - 2 - plants or small divisions which cost very little. A collection of fine varieties can be so much rewarding.

6. LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT NAMES AND WATCH YOUR

LABELLING You will get so much more pleasure if you know a little bit about orchid names. How are orchids named? How are they registered? Learn what makes an Lc., a Blc., and the various types of other orchids. Keep your plants well labeled. It is a sad sight to go into a collection and see the names worn off the tags, or the tags themselves completely missing. A plant without identity loses so much of its value.

7. BEWARE OF GIFT PLANTS This is related to several of the other categories. If you are just starting, beware of the plant your neighbour gave you which he could not flower. Be sure the gift given to you is a plant worthy of your attention. Most plants, which you win at your Society's plant raffle drawings, are of excellent quality and from a reputable grower; however, beware of plants donated by a well-meaning amateur who is not aware of disease or other conditions.

8. SPECIALISE Orchidology is vast and varied. There are many fields of endeavour. The basic rule is growing what you like. However, you'll get more pleasure out of hybridizing - raising seedlings and watching them grow, hoping for a winner. You may get great satisfaction in having nothing but the finest selected or awarded varieties in your collection. You may wish to specialize in Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis or some other genus. There can be a never-ending delight. You may want to fill your greenhouse with nothing but species.

9. BUILD A GOOD LIBRARY You'll get pleasure from your orchids in direct relationship to your knowledge of what you are doing. There are so many questions to be answered that a good library is invaluable. You can go as far as you wish here, depending on how much of a bibliophile you might be. A few of the basic books might be all that is needed.

10. JOIN YOUR LOCAL ORCHID SOCIETY When you join your local orchid society you will receive many benefits. If you attend the monthly meetings, there is always a lecture of general interest. The personal contacts you make are of great value too. By working with others who share your interest, you can truly multiply the benefits you get from your orchid collection. Orchid growing is a hobby which, literally, can give you pleasure all your life. You can surely get the utmost in satisfaction if you bear in mind even a few of the basic commandments which are listed.

STOP PRESSNext Sunday get together.

Shirley Jackson (the organiser of such events formembers) has informed the editor that after the most successful get to gether at Vicki and David Cleavers place the next one will be in January at Glen Durkins place. More details will be given in the Jauary edition of Greenhood.