

May 2024

Issue 125 Volume 18

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2008 - 2024

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May 2024 Newsletter President's Message –

April showers bring May flowers, filling rain barrels and thoughts of moving plants outdoors! While the hints of warm weather are tempting, it is important to hold off moving any of your orchids outside this month except for some cold temp loving plants such as Cymbidiums. Keep an eye on the nighttime temps and don't move plants outside until mid-May at the earliest.

Stay tuned for info regarding our picnic to be held June 22nd at John Scheckton's home.

And make sure to come to our May meeting this coming Sunday, May 5th. Mark Wendell will be taking us all on a trip (virtually!) down the Amazon!

Happy Growing!

Ginna

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Barbara Putko, treasurer@nutmegorchids.org

Advertising in our NSOS Newsletter

Advertising is now open to members and businesses. The following rates apply: \$10/month business card size ad. ¼ page \$25, ½ page \$50. Members would get \$5 & \$10 off these rates respectively. A four-line word ad for members would be \$2. Contact Walter Doehr if interested and send your check to Barbara Putko, our Treasurer.

2024 Schedule of Meetings & Events

May 4, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

May 7, 2024– Speaker = ." Mark & Mary Wendell, Topic: "Orchids of the Amazon"-This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

May 18, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

June 1, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

June 2, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

June 15, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

July 6, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

July 20, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Aug. 3, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Aug. 17, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Sept. 7, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Sept. 8, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Sept. 21, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Oct 5, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Oct. 6, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Oct. 19, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Nov. 2, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Nov. 3, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Nov. 16, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Dec. 1, 2024– Holiday Party - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at Lions Club Camp Happy Hill, 87 W Avon Rd, Unionville Ct. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Dec. 7, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Dec. 21, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Cattleya purpurata, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum* fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



Paphiopedilum Maudiae types may need staking for best presentation

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season.

Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



Orchid Care: Growing Indoors Vs. Outdoors

Posted by Kamaile O. on Sep 6th 2023

Orchids add beauty and visual interest to their environment both indoors and outdoors.

Plus, they're versatile: some varieties thrive outdoors, while others grow more happily inside as a potted plant.

Orchid plants are hardy, can withstand periods without water, and don't require direct sunlight. Their low maintenance lifestyle combined with beautiful blooms allow potted orchids to be one of the most common plant decor in homes and offices. Those factors also make orchids one of the best floral gifts even if the recipient has never cared for one before.

Whether you choose to grow these magnificent plants in your home or outside in your garden here's what you should know about proper orchid care.

Growing Orchids Indoors



The basic care guidelines remain the same whether you grow the orchid inside or out. They will require the same amount of sunlight, water, temperatures, fertilizer, and humidity but what might vary between locations is how you're able to control or make up for these factors.

Because most of these flowering plants are epiphytes, naturally found growing on tree bark and branches, their ideal potting media will typically consist of a chunky mixture of bark chips, perlite, moss, and other breathable materials to retain just enough moisture but allow airflow.

So how should you water your potted orchid?

Orchids should be watered thoroughly about once a week. Whether you decide to dunk your potted plant or set the pot under running water, be sure the medium is completely wet, but no water is left standing in the leaves or crown and never leaving it to sit in a pool of water. Allowing the roots to dry in between watering is important, as too much moisture can cause rot.

If no direct sunlight, how much light does an orchid need?

Orchids grow best in an area where it will receive at least 6-8 hours of bright but indirect sunlight per day. East facing windows offer the most ideal lighting. Different types of orchids may require more sunlight to grow and rebloom so refer to our Orchid Care Guides for more in-depth information for each variety.

What is the ideal temperature for orchids?

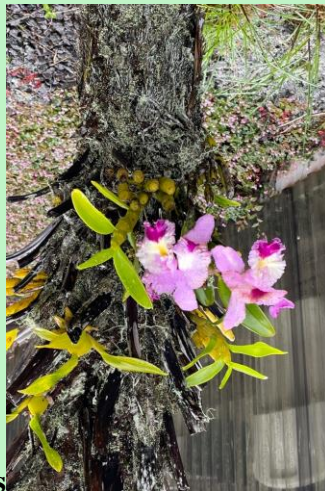
As with the other factors, different orchids can endure slightly cooler and warmer temperatures, but the best temperature range is 60-80F. Many orchids benefit from a 15 degree swing between day and night so placement near windows can help to achieve this more naturally felt occurrence.

Is orchid fertilizer necessary?

Orchid fertilizer may not be considered necessary, but it can be extremely beneficial. In nature, nutrients and minerals may have been acquired in the environment. Either by applying a balanced liquid fertilizer at 1/2 the recommended rate weekly or utilizing a slow release nutricote blend can help to keep the plant healthy and vigorously growing. Reduce fertilizing when the new shoot has completed its growth so buds may initiate.

Phalaenopsis is one of the most popular varieties and the species that typically comes to mind when people picture an orchid with its iconic, long-lasting flowers. This variety is hardy enough to withstand a wide range of indoor temperatures and little light.

Growing Orchids Outdoor



Add a striking effect to your gardens with these as outdoor plants, available in a wide variety of species and colors. In climates that don't experience frost, orchids can be placed or mounted on a tree in an area that receives morning light and sees ample but indirect sunlight under the shade of the canopy.

When deciding where to place your orchid outside, first determine whether the genus is of an epiphytic nature or a terrestrial type as most cannot survive planted in the ground.

If there is minimal humidity and your plants dry out more frequently, they should be watered more to prevent excess dryness. If you're in a location that receives more rainfall, but your orchid has been left in a pot, be sure to set the orchid in a way that will help it from catching water in its leaves ideally under the protection of tree branches.

Cattleya, widely considered one of the most exquisite varieties for its large, flamboyant flowers, performs well in bright filtered light and can handle a variety of temperatures. This type of orchid does particularly well mounted on trees here in Hawaii. If you have a sunnier space, consider cymbidium, which is tolerant of almost full sun. Oncidium, a particularly large variety, is well-suited for high elevations. There are terrestrial varieties of orchids such as Spathoglottis and Phaius that thrive planted in the ground.

No matter which type of orchid you have in mind, these quality plants can help to beautify both your home and garden.



Robert Hirnyk Memorial Library

	TITLE	AUTHOR
1	Book of Orchids	Withner, Dr. Carl
2	Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them	Kramer, Jack
3	Complete Guide to Maine's Orchids	Kenan, Philip E.
4	Exotic Orchids -- Successful Indoor Gardening	Rittershausen, Wilma
5	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J. N.
6	Field Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Europe	Williams, John & Andrew
7	Flowers of the Amazon Forest	Mee, Margaret
8	Forgotten Orchids of Alexandra Brun	Cribb, Philip
9	International Book of Orchids	Hunt, P. Francis
10	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara
11	Orchid Genera Illustrated	Sheehan, Tom and Marion
12	Orchids	Black, Peter McKenzie
13	Orchids	Menzies, David
14	Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation	Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris
15	Orchids -- Natural History & Classification	Dressler, Robert L.
16	Orchids -- Wonders of Nature	Kijima, Takashi
17	Orchids at Kew	Stewart, Joyce
18	Orchids from Seed	Thompson, P.A.
19	Orchids of Africa	Stewart, Joyce & Hennessey, Esme F.
20	Orchids of Asia	Eng Soon, Teoh
21	Slipper Orchids	Hennessey, Esme F. & Hedge Tessa A.
22	Southern African Epiphytic Orchids	Ball, John S.
23	The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.
24	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne
25	Orchid Pests and Diseases Guide	American orchid Society
26	Growing Orchids Guide	American orchid Society
27	Understanding Orchids	Cullina, William

