

Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them, by Kramer, Jack

Orchids became popular in Europe in the 18th century and the passions they engendered for the new and exotic led to plant hunting expeditions throughout the world in the 19th century. The names of those early orchid hunters are preserved today in the Latin names by which the orchids they discovered are still known. In the last two decades Orchids have been the subject to extensive hybridization and the search for novelty and ever more fantastic colors and shapes; indeed thousands upon thousands of hybrids have appeared. Jack Kramer concentrates on the original Botanical orchids as they appeared in nature and their habitats. These orchids had waned in popularity with the Introduction of the new hybrids and were also at risk in many cases of extinction as their natural habitats were despoiled and ravaged by man. Fortunately, new cloning techniques have rescued such endangered species from oblivion.

This book addresses the technical needs of the novice orchid enthusiast in choosing species appropriate to the climate and facilities available, as well as guiding the beginner on the basics of orchid cultivation. "The lesson to be learned is that you can successfully raise orchids as long as you select a species appropriate to your growing environment, whether that is a conservatory, greenhouse, garden room or windowsill in your home." A major feature of the book is the Gallery of Orchids which covers over 350 different botanical orchids, many of them Illustrated.

Botanical orchids contains practical advice, history and easy-to-use reference material and will be a welcome addition to the Gardener's Library.

Jack Kramer has lived and cultivated orchids in various parts of the United States from Illinois to California to Florida. He has been growing and studying orchids for over 35 years and, wrote the first book on growing orchids at home in the USA in 1965. He is the author of over 100 books on various horticultural subjects and he is uniquely qualified to share his expertise and knowledge of nature's most fascinating flowering plants, the orchids.

