



Conservation Through Knowledge

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

Issue 24 Volume 2

January, 2011

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The President's Message:



The year has begun with snow, snow, snow! We have had 62 inches in our yard so far with 7 inches predicted for tonight into tomorrow! My flight to San Francisco that leaves in TWO DAYS was cancelled THIS AFTERNOON. At least I don't have to worry about heating a greenhouse, my Cyp's are happy as clams under a very thick blanket of snow. Every year that happens the following Spring has especially nice blooms so I am looking forward with excitement!

The first orchid show of the year, the Cape and Islands Orchid Society (CAIOS) Show, was held on the 29th-30th, January, at the Hyannis Conference Center. We don't get to it every year but it is exciting when we do as it is the premier winter show in New England and Northeast. There are a few snapshots attached in this newsletter. Thank you to those who contributed orchids! NSOS always does well, even a show like this with thousands of plants entered: John received a ribbon for one of his spectacular Cattleya's, Ginna received several ribbons, including THREE for a single miniature Catt – hopefully the weather will cooperate and allow her to bring it to our meeting next Monday; she also received ribbons for a Dendrobium and a Paph. This is Phrag season and we took our monster Mont Fallu 4N, which is more than 36 inches tall and this year had 5 blooming spikes. It received a second place, which was quite good given the competition which included the first place plant that was 42 inches tall and had 10 blooming spikes with more than 100 flowers. A magnificent plant that its owner fertilizes with a thick layer of fresh horse manure. Someone asked him how he can stand the odor and his response was, "Did you see the plant?" The same grower also had a Phrag Haley Decker in its third year of bloom that had 3-way branching in its spike and 10 buds/flowers. When I arrived (I collect all the kovachii hybrids like this one) Glen Decker, the originator of Haley (both the hybrid orchid and his daughter for whom it is named) came to me and dragged me over to see it. He had never seen such a huge Haley Decker. We both agreed that fresh horse manure probably doesn't smell too bad! The CAIOS society display was as usual enormous and beautiful. An interesting development this year in this highly mature society was that many of the advanced members wanted their own tables rather than put their plants in the CAIOS display. Thus, more than half of the orchids in the display in the image were *rented* from florists for the show! I have included an image of one of the individual member tables. This member received best Dendrobium alliance award, best Odontoglossum alliance award and best plant in show. Perhaps he did deserve a special table...

I mention the CAIOS show since it is such a learning experience and to note that NSOS will attend the Amherst Orchid Society Show in late February so start grooming your plants! While this is a smaller show, there are several professional orchidists in this society and the plants and displays are always stunning (and it is only an hour drive from Farmington so easy to visit).

Then we have the NSOS show in late March aim for. We hope that everyone can contribute plants and help out. We will ask Nancy to tell you about the exhibit she has designed (and which Tom is busily building in his garage!).

We hope to see everyone at our February meeting on Monday the 7th. Julia will speak about orchid pests and what to do about them. Remember to bring your bloomers!



IMPORTANT



NSOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL of DUES

YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2011. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO WRITE A CHECK, PAYABLE TO NSOS, TO RENEW YOUR DUES ASAP. A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP REMAINS AT \$20.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR, AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AT \$25.00. IF YOU JOINED IN SEPT./OCT./NOV./OR DECEMBER OF 2010, YOU ARE PAID UP THRU 2011.

YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS DETAIL IS MOST APPRECIATED. THANK YOU!!

**JEANNE MCDERMOTT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**



NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2010

Ron Burch	Cypripediums Native orchids	860-567-0431	ronjonb@aol.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Walter Doehr	Cymbidiums, Phals., Growing under lights Hydroponics	203-634-7712	johndeered@att.net	Call/e-mail anytime
Joe Hertz	Under lights and Windowsill growing All species	860-233-5505	jhertz1015@aol.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Julia Massolin-Walas	All species, Hydroponics Pests & diseases, Mounting/Repotting Dividing	860-673-3578	orchidjulia@hotmail.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera	860-677-5381	jtmcdermott@comcast.net	Call/e-mail anytime
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	jpresbie@sprintmail.com	Call/e-mail anytime
John Sziklas	Paphiopedilums Phragmepediums Cattleyas	860-658-2908		Call anytime

NSOS now has a mentor list and would like to add more folks going forward. We are looking for people that are willing to answer questions on something that you are familiar with pertaining to orchids. You do not have to be an expert, just able to help someone who has a question in your area of knowledge. We all have areas that we feel comfortable in that would be of great assistance to someone just starting out. If you wish to be added to our NSOS Mentor List, please send me a note: johndeered@att.net

BUSINESS MEETING



The January meeting was called to order @ 7:15 pm by VP. Jeanne McDermott as our President Ron Burch was away on business. The guests that were present were welcomed & asked to sign our guest book. The membership was reminded that membership dues are due at this time.

Those that brought our refreshments were thanked.

Our Raffle table has 6 good size plants and we had a silent auction for 3 beautiful bloomers from John Szikles greenhouse. upcoming show March 19th & 20th

Jeanne spoke on our with set up on the 18th. The show committee met on January 3rd and lots was accomplished. Everyone's assistance is requested & a sign up list was passed around for open positions during our show, these will also be available at the February & March meetings. Members may even show up during the show to help if they haven't signed up. Our banner will be flown on the green the week of our show. We will have 7 vendors on the main floor & 5 on the Mezzanine along with a massage therapist.



Alan Stauch publicity Chairman spoke on the publicity, asking that all members help by handing out flyers.

NSOS will be using 3 – 60” tables
Nancy Galvin.



for our display, this is being chaired by

Other Shows;

CAIOS – January 29th & 30th @

Hyannis, MA, Ron & Barbara Burch from Gardens at Post Hill & our President will be setting up our display. Plant staging area was at Jeanne & Tom's House.

New Hampshire – February 11th – 13th @ Nashua - Not sure if we will have an exhibit.

Amherst Society – February 26th – 27th @ Northampton MA. – NSOS will attend

SPEAKER



Dr. Diane Dean is a **Charter Member** of the Nutmeg State Orchid Society. Diane received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota. She began collecting orchids while in college and has continued to collect for nearly 30 years. In 1999, Dr. Dean accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Saint Joseph College here in Connecticut. The Deans purchased a home in West Hartford an avid orchid collector that had an 8 x 12' attached greenhouse! The orchid collection has since grown to nearly 100 plants.

Diane grows Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Phalaenopsis, Cymbidiums, and Dendrobiums. Phrags, however, are her favorite



The from an Dean's

Vandas, orchids.



Several years ago, the Connecticut Orchid Society hosted Dennis D'Alessandro who spoke on his orchid collecting experiences in Ecuador. He described finding hillsides covered with Phragmipediums Besseae. Diane was most intrigued and immediately began planning a trip to Ecuador.

That trip took place during April of 2010. Diane and David Dean were hosted by President and Founder of Ecuagenera, Jose "Pepe" Portilla. He took them to see many orchids in their natural habitats. Dr Dean shared the pictures of these orchids including the rock wall of Phragmipedium Bessie and many other special pixs. The Deans also visited the El Pahuma Orchid reserve near Quito as well as a collection of orchids in Mindo, Ecuador.



Ecuador is considered by many to have more orchid species than any other country. Dr. Dean would love to organize a tour of Ecuador through Ecuagenera for members of the Orchid societies in the North East in the near future. She is planning one for this coming summer, if interested please contact her.

Dr. Dean's presentation was excellent & the information & slides do not do justice to a trip like this.



2011 CAIOS SHOW



John Szaklas
2nd Place



Ginna Plude
3 Ribbons



NSOS Exhibit



CAIOS Display



CAIOS Indiv. Grower

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

February 7, NSOS Meeting 7:00pm - Speaker Julia Massolin-Walas - Topic "What's Bugging Your Orchids?" discussion about the most common pests and diseases including molds ,viruses and insects, that affect orchid collections. It also presents pesticide-free methods and organic recipes for getting rid of them, and how to prevent from introducing them into your collection. Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

February 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

February 11-13 - New Hampshire Orchid Society Show, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH. "Celebrate Orchids" Contact: Jean Hallstone, 4 Bud Way, Suite 14, Nashua, NH 03063; (603) 880-0404; jhallstone@yahoo.com.

February 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

February 26-27 - Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vo-Ag High School, Locust St., Route 9, Northampton, MA. Contact: Harold Norman, 7 Maple St., Monson, MA 01057; (413) 267-5124; Leilani.norman@verizon.net.

March 5-13 - Philadelphia International Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Drew Becker, PHS, 100 N. 20th St 5th Fl, Philadelphia, PA 19103; bgreene@pennhort.org.

March 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

March 7, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm- TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

March 19 & 20 ... 12 noon till 6 pm Saturday & Sunday 10am till 5 pm. Nutmeg State Orchid Society's Orchid Show. West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 West Main St., West Hartford. The Public is Invited

March 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

March 25-27 - Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Contact: Mary Beth Clarke, 1540 Anne Dr., West Chester, PA 19380; mcrna2go@aol.com.

April 3 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

April 4, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

April 17, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

May 1 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

May 2, NSOS meeting 7:00pm –TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

May 15, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

June 5 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

June 6, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

June 19, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

July 3 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

July17, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

August 7 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

August 21, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

September 4 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

September 12, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

September 18, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

October 2 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

October 3, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

October 16, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

November 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

November 7, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

November 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

December 4 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

December 5, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – Holiday Party & Elections - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

December 18, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

Meetings are held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm the first Monday of each month unless otherwise posted above or on our website.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: Starting in January I would like to start a new feature with input from the membership. I would like to include tips that you have tried that work & also those that have not worked. I would like input from all our members whether you are new or old to orchids.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski: tommajeski@comcast.net .

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 Tom Mierzejewski, our Treasurer.

Refreshments :

It is requested that for the February meeting, those members with last names beginning with N thru Z bring in a snack or finger food to share with members. Thanks in advance for your contributions!



Robert Hirnyk Memorial Library

	TITLE	AUTHOR	PUB
1	Book of Orchids	Withner, Dr. Carl	1985
2	Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them	Kramer, Jack	1998
3	Complete Guide to Maine's Orchids	Kenan, Philip E.	1983
4	Exotic Orchids -- Successful Indoor Gardening	Rittershausen, Wilma	1989
5	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J. N.	1989
6	Field Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Europe	Williams, John & Andrew	1978
7	Flowers of the Amazon Forest	Mee, Margaret	1988
8	Forgotten Orchids of Alexandra Brun	Cribb, Philip	1992
9	International Book of Orchids	Hunt, P. Francis	1979
10	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara	1992
11	Orchid Genera Illustrated	Sheehan, Tom and Marion	1979
12	Orchids	Black, Peter McKenzie	1973
13	Orchids	Menzies, David	1991
14	Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation	Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris	1992
15	Orchids -- Natural History & Classification	Dressler, Robert L.	1990
16	Orchids -- Wonders of Nature	Kijima, Takashi	1987
17	Orchids at Kew	Stewart, Joyce	1992
18	Orchids from Seed	Thompson, P.A.	1974
19	Orchids of Africa	Stewart, Joyce & Hennessey, Esme F.	1981
20	Orchids of Asia	Eng Soon, Teoh	1980
21	Slipper Orchids	Hennessey, Esme F. & Hedge Tessa A.	1989
22	Southern African Epiphytic Orchids	Paul, John S.	1978
23	The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.	1987
24	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne	1983
25			

Monthly Checklist for January and February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, *Lycaste*, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not replot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

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

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Orchid Nutrition for Winter

By Susan Jones

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months

Overall Health

Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilizing, or stressed from lack of water is much more likely to be injured by any additional strain.

Orchids grown under less than ideal conditions are more likely to be a target for infection or infestation. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterize the winter growing area.



Winter nutritional practices differ from those of the active growing season.

General Nutrition

Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of year, and your orchids' nutritional needs change accordingly. Orchid growers can take the following steps now to help prepare their collection for optimal health through the months ahead.

If your orchids will winter outdoors, fertilizing properly can help them resist cold, insect and disease damage, as well as give them two to three additional degrees of cold resistance. This can mean the difference between a dead orchid and an unscathed plant or one that just loses a few leaves.

Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple of doses of blossom booster in October and November; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10.

Ideally, this change in fertilizer should start by mid-November and continue through the end of January. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in December and January in favor of plant protection, but it can help keep the plant healthier overall.

Some growers recommend using Dyna-Gro Pro-TekT (0-0-3), a liquid nutritional potassium-silicon supplement for plants. The product is supposed to improve heat and drought tolerance in orchids, as well as boosting their resistance to pests, disease and environmental stress.

Specific Genera

Seasonal nutritional needs differ among various orchid genera, and may diverge still further depending on local climatic conditions in disparate geographic regions. The following guidelines may require modification to accommodate individual growing conditions.

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing frequency should be reduced, as the plants dry out more slowly in the cooler temperatures and shorter days.

Bud sheaths may yellow at this time of year as temperature fluctuations can cause water to condense inside the sheath. Should you notice condensation in the sheath, it should be opened or removed to allow the developing buds adequate air circulation and prevent bud blast caused by rots. Simply slit open the sheath and carefully peel it down toward the pseudobulb, exercising caution so as not to damage the delicate bud primordia within.

Dendrobium Autumn and winter needs vary according to the species or hybrid parentage in this diverse genus. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* hybrids will benefit from a fertilizer with a low nitrogen formula for optimal flowering.

The leaves of *Dendrobium nobile* types and their hybrids begin to yellow and drop at this time of year in preparation for their winter dormancy. Plants should be given plenty of light and good air circulation and kept dry from November through February. Mist occasionally if their canes become overly shriveled.

Paphiopedilum Generally, these do not require a great deal of fertilizer. This is especially important with the cooler-growing bulldog types to reduce nitrogen levels at this time of year for best flowering. (Bulldog Paphiopedilums have plain green leaves as opposed to the mottled-leaf types. One of the best-known bulldog-type hybrids is *Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill.) Watch for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath or for late-season warm spells, as either can rot the sheath and destroy the developing inflorescence. While Paphiopedilums should not be allowed to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced in the cooler days. Overwatering can cause root rot or Erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis Growth slows and inflorescences begin to appear. Reduce watering and fertilizing frequency, and apply a bloom-boosting fertilizer. Many growers also recommend applications of epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming.

Once buds are evident on the inflorescences, keep temperatures and humidity consistent to prevent bud drop. Phalaenopsis grown in the greenhouse are especially prone to bud blast in February and early March, when the heat is still coming on at night and the greenhouse temperatures rise during the day.



By providing the right nutrients in the fall, a bounty of blooms will follow for late-winter species such as this *Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Banjong' AM/AOS.

Vanda Aside from *Neofinetia falcata*, vandaceous orchids generally do not tolerate autumn and winter's cooler temperatures (below 60° F [16° C]) well and need to be carefully protected from chills.

Vandaceous orchids still need as much light as possible as the days become shorter and light levels fall. Reduce the frequency of fertilizing and watering to accommodate the slower growth period they are entering.

Starting the first week of October, Julie Rosenberg at R.F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida, recommends feeding vandaceous genera a blossom booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for four to six weeks, at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water (15 ml to 3.8 l), with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1 teaspoon per gallon (15 ml to 3.8 l), substituting bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can mean happier, healthier and more productive plants year round.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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THINK SPRING