



Conservation Through Knowledge

Issue 66 Volume 10

January 2018

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501 (c) (3) non for profit organization

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NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2013

Walter Doehr	Cattleya, Phals., Growing under lights	203-634-7712	johndeered1923@gmail.com	Call/e-mail anytime
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Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera			
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	jpresbie@gmailmail.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: johndeered1923@gmail.com

BUSINESS MEETING

Walter Doehr called the business meeting to order at 1:40 PM. Our monthly meetings are now scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, from 1 PM to 4 PM, unless otherwise noted. The intent is to begin business meetings promptly at 1 PM, but a problem with the audio-visual system delayed our start.

Show table: There was no show table this month due to the extreme cold. When members bring plants for the show table, we would like to set aside some time for review so we can learn from each other's successes in growing various types of orchids. To facilitate inclusion of show table highlights in our newsletter and Facebook page (photos, plant names, growers), members are encouraged to fill out an information slip for each plant. Blank slips will be provided. Please be sure to fill out a slip if you bring in one of your beauties!

Mentor list: We would like to update our mentor list, so let a Board member know if you are willing to field orchid questions from fellow members, your area(s) of knowledge and whether you'd prefer to be contacted by phone or email.

Upcoming shows: Since there are no volunteers to set up and take down for the Cape and Island Orchid Society show (Jan 27-28), NSOS will not be participating this year. However, we will be at the New Hampshire Orchid Society show (Feb 9-11) and Amherst Orchid Society show (Feb 24-25), so we need members' blooming plants for these shows as well as our own. NSOS will not participate in the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show since its dates coincide with the Amherst Show. Diane Dean (Away Show Chair) encouraged members who come to the meeting on February 4th to bring plants for the NHOS show for her to pick up there. For others, the deadline for drop-off at Diane's house is Wednesday, February 7.

The 2018 NSOS Orchid Show & Sale will take place March 17-18, with set-up on Friday, March 16 starting at 9 AM. Vendors & exhibitor will arrive at noon. Sandy Myhalik is our show chair. She is not able to attend the February meeting, but will leave sign-up sheets for set-up and other help needed during the show. Walter and Harriet (hospitality), Lori McGowan (membership table), and Lydia Pan (admissions) can all use volunteers for 2-hour slots. Ginna needs volunteers to clerk for ribbon judging on Saturday morning. Please volunteer to help with our show; many hands make light work!

Members were called upon to help with show publicity by disseminating paper and digital copies of the show flyer. More paper copies will be available at our next meeting. If anyone is willing to help advertise our show through local publications and news outlets, please contact Sandy or Jeanne!

Jeanne (Vendor Chair) reported that most returning orchid vendors have confirmed except for Fair Orchids, which suffered a greenhouse catastrophe that wiped out most of Kim's personal collection and sales inventory. Marlow Orchids has been invited to fill the empty slot. Of the upstairs artisans, Blue i Designs and Liena Dieck are not attending this year, so Jeanne is seeking suggestions for additional artisans: their cost is \$75 table rental plus 10% of sales over \$500 (not to exceed \$150).

Following the program, Walter and the rest of the Board held a Town Hall-style meeting to get member input into Society activities for 2018.

Bus trip: Members were in favor of a bus trip. Several potential destinations were suggested, including the Rodger Williams Botanical Center, the Botanic Garden at Smith College, and Garden in the Woods (New England Wildflower Society). The majority of those present voted for the New York Botanic Garden Orchid Show (March 3-April 22, 2018) featuring floral art installations by Daniel Ost. The trip will be scheduled for a Friday to avoid weekend crowds.

Speakers and Programs: Speakers for our September and November meetings have not yet been set. Tom Sampliner, a free-lance naturalist who has several presentations on wild orchids from different parts of the world, has offered to include NSOS in his speaking tour of New England orchid societies in October. Unfortunately, his visit coincides with our auction dinner, so we will decline. Other possible speakers include Tom Nelson (author, "Orchids of New England and New York") or Bill Brumback (Conservation Director, New England Wildflower Society). Troy Jordon suggested we hold a screening of the documentary film "The Judge, The Hunter, The Thief and the Black Orchid" (2010, 75 min) starring Andy Phillips, Fred Clarke, and Martin Motes. Amherst Orchid Society has a DVD copy we might be able to borrow. We could also try piggybacking on this fall's International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) conference to get one of their out-of-town speakers for a program.

Auction/Dinner: Most members were in favor of another auction gala at Tunxis Plantation this year. It was suggested that moving up the date to the beginning of October would allow more people to attend.

Summer Picnic: The 2017 picnic had the lowest attendance in recent history. Sandy will not be hosting a picnic at her house in 2018. There was some interest in organizing an outing to view native lady slippers blooming in the late spring and possibly combining this with a picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

SPEAKER

January's program was presented by Ginna Plude (Director), who serves as NSOS' representative to the AOS and is a student judge. The first part of her talk covered how judges acquire expertise and accreditation via the AOS student judging program, how ribbon judging at shows differs from AOS judging, and the format of Northeast Judging Center meetings (first Saturdays at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA and third Saturdays at Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford, CT), which are open to the public. She then segued into a case study of *Phragmipedium pearcii*, an underappreciated small species from Peru that has received relatively few AOS awards. Thanks to Ginna for such informative and personal insights into the world of AOS judging!

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Important!! Dues are due prior to February 1, 2018 to prevent being dropped from the membership rolls..
Single \$25 .. Family \$35

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.

2018 Schedule of Meetings & Events

Jan. 20, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Jan. 27 – 28, 2018 –Cape & Island Orchid Society Show – The Resort & Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA

Fed. 3, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Feb. 4, 2018 – Meeting – Topic Puerto Rican Orchids – Will Wilson - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 4 pm

Feb.9 - 11, 2018 –New Hampshire Orchid Society Show – Courtyard by Marriott, 2200 Southwood Dr., Nashua, NH

February 8 - 11, 2018 Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale at the Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ

Feb. 17, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Mar. 3, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Mar. 4, 2018 – Meeting – Topic Show Prep. – Sandy & Ginna - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 4 pm

Mar. 17 – 18, 2018 – Nutmeg State Orchid Society “ Come See our Bloomers” show & Sale, West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 West Main St., West Hartford, CT

Mar. 17, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

March 23 - 25, 2018 - Genesee Region Orchid Society's 44th Annual Orchid Show at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

Apr.7, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Apr. 8, 2018 – Meeting – Topic What are my orchids Telling Me? – Joanna Ekstrom - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 4 pm

Apr. 13, 2018 – Bus Trip to New York Botanical Garden

Apr. 21, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

May 2, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

May 6, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD – Glen Decker - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 4 pm

May 19, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Jun.7 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Jun. 16, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Meetings are held at the Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 4 pm the First Sunday of each month unless otherwise posted above or on our website



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
28	Orchids Made Easy	Levesque, Ryan & Laura
29	A Guide to Orchids of the World	Hodgson Paine Anderson
30	An Introduction to the Orchids of Mexico	Wiard, LeonA.
31	1990 Awards Annual A.O.S.	American Orchid Society
32	Orchids For Everyone, A Practical Guide	Williams, Dumbelton, Bilton, et al
33	Orchids in Australia	Kerr, Ronald
34	Dendrobium Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
35	The Orchid	Hunt, Kijima
36	Orchids of Vanuatu	Lewis, Cribb
37	The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume II. The Laelias	Withner, Carl L.
38	The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume I. The Cattleyas	Withner, Carl L.
39	Exotic Orchids in Australia	Jones, David L.
40	Exotic Orchids in Australia (paperback)	Jones, David L.
41	Orchids of South Australia	Bates, Weber
42	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J.N.

43	Dendrobiums an introduction to the species in cultivation	Schelpe, Stewart
44	Orchid Growing in the Tropics	OS of SE Asia (Singapore)
45	Beautiful Thai Orchid Species	Kamemoto, Sagarik
46	Cultivation of Autralian Native Orchids	Richards, Wootton, Datodi
47	Growing Orchids The Australasian Families	Rentoul, J. N.
48	Growing Orchids The Cattleyas and other Epiphytes	Rentoul, J. N.
49	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara
50	Growing Orchids The Hybrid Story	Rentoul, J. N.
52	Growing Orchids The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.
53	The Astonishing Stanhopeas:the upsidedown orhids	Greer, Barney
54	Native Orchids of Taiwan (English and Tai)	Su, Horgg-Jye Ph.D.
55	Japanese Indigenous Orchids in Color(Non English)	Hashimoto/Kanda
56	Exotic Orchids in Color (Non English)	Hashimoto/Kimura
57	Tropical Orchids of Southeast Asia	Banks, David P.
58	A Cultural Manual For Angraecoid Orchid Growers	Hillerman, Fred
59	Notes from the Royal Botaic Garden Edinburgh	Reeve, Woods
60	A Revision of Dendrobiu Section Oxyglossum	
61	Vandas and Ascocendas and Their Combinations with Other Genera	Grove, David L.
62	Native Orchids of Peninsula Malaysia	Teo, Chris K.H.
63	Genus Phalaenopsis (Orchid Digest, V.1)	Sweet, Herman R., PHD
64	Miniature Orchids	Northern, RebeLavarack,
65	Dendrobium and Its Relatives	Harris, Stockercca Tyson
66	Vandas: Their Botany, History, and Culture	Motes, Martin R.
67	Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
68	Indian Orchids: Guide to Identifiation & Culture V. II	Pradhan, Udai C.
69	Orchids of India	Rao,A.S.
70	Orchidaceae: Genus—Coelogyne, Botanical Survey of India	Das, Jain
71	Quality Stream of Cattleya 1980's (Jap and Eng)	Jusekisha
72	Asian—with pictures)	
73	Masdevallias:Gems of the Orchid World	Gerritsen & Parsons
	AOS Magazines (dir and suppl)	December 2009 – Current issues
74	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
73	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
76	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February
77	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	March
78	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	April
79	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	May
80	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	June
81	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	July
82	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	August
83	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	September
84	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	October

84a	AOS "Orchid" Supplement	October
85	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	November
86	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
87	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
88	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February
89	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	March
90	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	April
91	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	May
92	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	June
93	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	July
94	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	August
95	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	September
96	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	October
97	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	November
98	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
99	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
100	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February

Monthly Checklist for January and February



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

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.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

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 repot 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.

Growing Under Lights

By Susan Jones

Temperature and Humidity

The heat generated by grow lights can cause hot, dry conditions in the growing environment. Symptoms of excess heat and a corresponding dearth of humidity include brown edges on leaves, wrinkled or pleated leaves (especially in Oncidium-type orchids), bud blast, and even weak, shriveled or stunted growth. A warm, dry growing environment can also encourage pests such as spider mites, which thrive in low humidity. Maintain humidity of 50 to 60 percent to keep your orchids in optimal health, and keep the ambient temperature no higher than 80–85 F (27–29 C), with a nighttime differential of 10–15° F (6–8° C).

Misting to increase humidity is helpful in the short run, but tends to evaporate quickly and so provides little lasting benefit unless it is repeated at frequent intervals throughout the day. Unless one has an automated misting system in place, misting is not the most effective form of humidity control.

Place plastic or ceramic (waterproof) saucers filled with pebbles and water underneath plants (making certain that the water level stays just below the bottom of the pot). This increases the ambient humidity around the plant as the water evaporates into the surrounding air.

Another option is humidity trays. These trays are usually plastic, a couple of inches deep and covered with a plastic egg-crate lattice to keep plants elevated above the surface of the water in the trays. They are available in a range of sizes and shapes, and usually accommodate a number of plants on each tray. They may be purchased from most orchid supply companies and some nurseries as well. Trays can be easier to manage than an individual saucer under each plant, and allow the grower to water plants without moving each one to the sink, instead letting the runoff drain into the trays.



Metal shelving units such as this are available at most home improvement stores. Look for one coated with vinyl or rust-resistant paint for use in an indoor light garden.

Air Circulation

Orchids are not the only organisms that benefit from a humid environment. Fungi and bacteria find it inviting as well, and without adequate circulation in the growing area, they will make your orchids their host. Gentle but constant air movement will impede the growth of these unwanted pests while aiding the overall health of the orchids. Proper airflow will also help minimize any heat buildup generated by growing lights, cooling the plant's foliage to help prevent drying or even burning of tissue and reducing the ambient temperature.

A fan or fans, depending on the size of the growing area, will provide needed circulation. An open window can help too, but this may adversely impact temperature and humidity levels, depending on the weather outside. In addition, like people, orchids should never be left in the path of a cold draft. Oscillating fans or muffin fans strategically placed around the growing area can keep air movement at a healthy level. At an adequate level of airflow, orchids' leaves will stir very slightly in the breeze, no more. If smaller, lighter plants are being blown around or toppled, the breeze is too strong.

Finally, plants must be spaced to allow the air to circulate between them. Orchidists are a notoriously acquisitive lot, and the temptation to fit just one more plant into a limited space can lead to overcrowding, which invites a host of ailment possibilities, including those caused by inadequate air movement.

Light

Too little light will yield dark green foliar growth with few or no flowers. Plants exposed to too much light may have yellowed leaves with a red or purple cast to them. High light exposure is not usually a problem for under-lights growers, but weak growth and failure to bloom are often symptoms of otherwise healthy orchids receiving inadequate light.

Species and hybrids that stay petite in stature at maturity and do not require high light levels to flower and grow well, such as some of the angraecoids, dendrobiums, masdevallias and other pleurothallids, phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums and sophronitis, are ideal candidates for inclusion in a light garden. Many of the miniature members of the Cattleya Alliance, tolumnias and smaller vandaceous orchids are excellent choices size-wise, but most will need higher light to induce flowering than under-lights set ups are usually able to provide.

In addition, collecting orchids of similar cultural requirements and size at maturity will help ensure a growing environment and culture regime suitable to all of the plants in a light garden. Homogeneity in size helps assure that all of the plants will receive the maximum exposure from the grow lights. When there is a height disparity among plants, the lights are often adjusted to accommodate the tallest orchids, while the smallest in stature remain too far from the bulbs to receive adequate illumination.

Photoperiod is another consideration, and one easily managed by under-lights growers. A photoperiod is the amount of time for which an orchid is exposed to light (and darkness) during a 24-hour period. That daily exposure affects the orchid's growth and blooming. Some orchids, especially species, are sensitive to the balance of day and night length, and will not bloom if not given long enough periods of darkness at night. Also, a light left on, or even an outdoor light

shining in a window at night may prevent or interrupt flower development. Familiarize yourself with the light requirements of the orchids under your care, and set your light timers accordingly, adjusting them as needed for summer and winter variations in day/night length.



Paphiopedilums, with their low-light requirements, make excellent candidates for growing under lights.

Insects

Aphids, mealybugs, scale insects and spider mites are some of the most common pests to annoy light gardeners. These insects can be introduced into a collection via new plants; even slugs and snails can hatch from eggs that hitchhike into the growing area in plant media. Crowded orchids enable insect pests to spread rapidly from plant to plant. To prevent the introduction of pests to the growing area, isolate new introductions for a minimum of two weeks to be certain that they do not harbor unwelcome visitors that could spread to other plants.

Remedies for insect pests on orchids grown in one's living environment are of necessity more gentle and less toxic than standard insecticides so as not to compromise the health of people and pets sharing that space. These treatments should be repeated at regular weekly intervals for maximum insect control. Remember to avoid getting sprays on the light bulbs above plants; buildup from those sprays will reduce light output over time.

Give the Pests a Shower

A jet of room-temperature tap water from a kitchen-sink spray nozzle or hand-held showerhead will do handily.

Isopropyl Alcohol

A spray bottle with isopropyl alcohol kills pest insects on contact, and a cotton swab dipped in alcohol may be used to manually remove pest insects.

Horticultural-Oil

Spray Mix 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of a horticultural oil (neem oil, superfine oils, peppermint or eucalyptus oil), ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) gentle, plant-safe liquid dish soap into one quart (.9 l) of warm water. For a larger batch, combine 4 teaspoons (20 ml) horticultural oil, 2 teaspoons (10 ml) of dish soap and 1 gallon (3.8 l) of water. Shake the solution during use to keep the ingredients well mixed, and make up a fresh batch for each application. Thoroughly coat all surfaces of the plants being treated; the oil smothers insects, and so must contact them to be effective.

Insect-Growth Regulators and Chitin Inhibitors

These products, such as Enstar II, include a growth regulator that kills eggs and prevents insect maturation. Be sure to follow safety precautions on the label when applying these controls.

Insecticidal Soap

Available from most home and garden centers, insecticidal soap kills soft-bodied insects by breaking down their cuticle. While generally considered safer for use around humans, pets, and plants than insecticides, insecticidal soaps are still hazardous to human and animal health and must be applied with caution in conformity with the label.

References

Fitch, Charles Marden. 2002 revised edition. *Growing Orchids Under Lights*. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach.

Light, Marilyn. "Conservation: Growers' Tips" Orchid Safari Archives Web site, 1997.

Sheehan, Thomas J., PhD. 2002 revised edition. "Physiological Disorders of Orchids" In *Orchid Pests and Diseases*. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach.

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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**New Hampshire Orchid Society
27th Annual Show and Sale**

"A Flurry of Orchids"

February 9 - 11, 2018

Orchids as Art

Cape and Island Orchid Society

29th Annual Show

January 27 & 28, 2018
Saturday & Sunday
9am-5pm

Admission is \$10

For more information,
call toll free: 877-250-1711

<http://www.caos.org>

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