



Conservation Through Knowledge

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

Issue 22 Volume 2

November 2010

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Affiliated with the American Orchid Society



501 (c) (3) non for profit organization

The President's Message:



The peak blooming season for many of our popular orchids is now here. In our collection the Phrag's and Phal's are all in bud or blooming. We are not "Catt people" but have a few of those blooming as well – one should be in bloom for the Holiday Party raffle auction. Most Paph's should be coming along soon. We are looking forward to seeing many fine members' plants at our monthly show tables.

Our Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 5 PM at Sandy Mahalik/Steve Calderon's house. We will also be holding elections for the coming year. We hope to see everyone there.

We are working up the schedule for 2011.

On January 10, our own Diane Dean will talk about her visit to Ecuador in April, 2010 to see the wild orchids. I cannot wait to hear her talk since that is a trip I would like to make one day.

NSOS will be exhibiting at the Cape and Island Orchid Show which is held on January 27-30. We would like a large showing since so many of us have very nice orchids blooming at that time!

On February 7, our own Julia Massolin-Walas will speak about pests and diseases, certainly a topic we all need to keep up with.

We are confirming a speaker for our March 7 meeting. We will announce who it will be soon.

Later in March is our NSOS annual show, March 19 and 20. Many of you have volunteered to help out with activities and we will be ramping up in January. Jay has unfortunately had to step down as Show Chair due to family commitments so the Committee will have to step up. We are sure that everyone will pitch in!

Have a very Happy Holiday Season, enjoy your orchids and their blooms, and we look forward to seeing everyone!



L.C. 'Molly Tyler'

Grown by Steve Calderon



Paph "Lucky Pick"


Grown by Steve Calderon



Phalanopsis "ign"

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

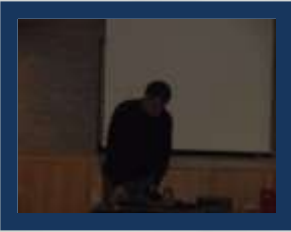
The Meeting was called to order @ 7:15pm by President Ron Burch. There were 55 members and guests present for the meeting & presentation by Bill Cullina.

The MOS show was discussed and members that had any plants in bloom were asked to lend them to our show display.

Ron brought in the Phal. That we had pollinated last month and it had 3 seed pods forming. When ripe they will be harvested & Ron will put them in flasks & when ready they will be given to all the members.

There will be no regular meeting in December, by vote of the membership the it was decided that we would move the Holiday party & elections to Sunday December 5, 2010 @ 5pm. The party will be held @ Sandy Myhalik & Steve Calderon's house. The address and directions can be found on the website. Members with last names starting with A-M are asked to bring Appetizers & those with last names from N-Z are asked to bring desserts. All members that are attending are asked to contact Sandy to let her know what they are bringing. Paper goods, utensils, soda, water will be provided by NSOS as well as a ham and rolls. If anyone wants to partake in other beverages it is BYOB. There will be a raffle as well as a silent auction. This is open to members their guest only.

SPEAKER



Botanical Gardens,
The slide presentation as
informative.

Our speaker this month was Bill Cullina. Bill has been in Orchids as well as other plants for quite some time. He has written several books on different subjects, some of which he brought with him for sale. Bill is also the curator of the Maine which is about 4 hours north of Hartford, well as the talk was very interesting and



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

December 5 Holiday Party & Elections

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

2011

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

January 10, ... NSOS Meeting 7:00pm - "Ecuador: Where Orchids Grow Like Weeds!"

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 from an avid orchid collector that had an 8 x 12' attached greenhouse! The Dean's orchid collection has since grown to nearly 100 plants. Diane grows Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Phalaenopsis, Vandas, Cymbidiums, and Dendrobiums. Phrags, however, are her favorite 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 will share 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. If interested, let her know!

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

January 29-30 - Cape and Island Orchid Society Show, The Resort and Conference Center at Hyas, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA. Contact: Tina Balog, 64 Carol Ave., E. Falmouth, MA 02536; (508) 540-5006; tina@plaid.who.edu.

February 7, NSOS Meeting 7:00pm - Speaker Julia Massolin-Walas - Topic TBA 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

July 17, 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 articles that you have read and that you think would be of interest

to the membership or tips that you have tried that work. 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 :

For the holiday party members with the last names A_M are asked to bring Appetizers and those with last names N_Z are asked to bring Desserts. Please call Sandy Myhalik to let he know what you are bringing.

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**

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 November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so

do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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

AOS CORNER

NOTES ON CYMBIDIUM CULTURE

Care of Flowering Plants

By JAMES L. CARBERY

NO FAITHFUL MOSLEM ever gazed toward Mecca with greater longing than the average fancier looks forward to the Cymbidium flowering season. This is the period of reward for months of work the results will be in exact proportion to the degree with which the plant's optimum conditions have been met. No plant capable of producing flowers has ever refused to bloom from preference — in fact, many a plant has survived continued neglect and succeeded in producing a few flowers on a weak spike in spite of the tremendous odds against it.



and

Usually flower spikes begin to appear near the base of the bulbs early in August and will continue to show on some varieties throughout the month of November. The flowering period is divided into three time categories — early, mid-season and late and the first spikes to show are not always the first to flower, somewhat of a paradox to most amateurs. For example, a mid-season variety may show its spikes several weeks before an early-flowering one, but once started the latter will grow quite rapidly while the former develops more slowly and is easily outdistanced. Any decided change in flowering time is usually the result of a complete change of conditions (such as plants being shipped from Australia to America with a reversal of seasons) or to injury to the root system, usually caused by dividing a plant late in the season. It is also well to remember that some varieties, such as *Bodmin Moor*, will flower on the current year's growth, while others, such as *Alexanderi* 'Westonbirt', require two growing seasons to bring the bulb up to flowering size.



It is quite common for growths and bud spikes to appear at about the same time and in their early stages they are quite difficult to tell apart. One is well advised to resist the impulse to probe around them, waiting until such time as they have grown sufficiently to be easily identified. One distinctive characteristic of a growth is that it is usually more pointed on the tip than a bud spike and this tip is generally incurved toward the bulb. The bud spikes are generally blunt and will continue to grow as the season advances while the development of the growth is retarded. A sure method of distinguishing between bud and growth: the bud spike feels soft under a slight pressure while the growth remains firm. This method, however, is certainly not advocated and may result in considerable damage to, or loss of, the flowers.

It quite often happens that a growth will appear on either side of a

bulb to be followed a few weeks later by bud spikes, which emerge between the new growths and the bulb. As the spikes develop the leads usually remain inactive, starting their growth again when warm weather returns in the spring and forming roots that will make them independent of the parent bulb. Injury to these new roots, caused by late dividing, can throw a lead so far off schedule that it fails to make up in time to flower and carries on to the next season

before reaching its blooming stage. Care of bud spikes as they begin to important. The buds are protected by reaches about one-half of its ultimate through their protective covering in a their development the buds are so against a leaf will often bruise them, off if the plant is carelessly moved on



elongate is simple but a series of sheaths until the stem length, when the buds will break tight cluster. At this period of delicate that even brushing while the fragile stem may snap the bench.

While the plants need constant

of bud development are the most crucial. Thrips or aphids can scar them at this stage, although the damage will not be visible, but the injured area enlarges as the bud grows and shows a decided blemish on the open flower. These pests, as well as red spider and the twospotted mite, must be carefully controlled and an added precaution against slugs is advisable; a band of fluffy cotton encircling the stem below the buds will check their upward progress.

As the buds develop and place more stress on the stems some support is usually advisable. It is well to keep the spikes fairly upright in the foliage but it is not necessary to destroy their graceful arching effect to accomplish this. A short wire stake that reaches no higher than the first bud usually affords adequate support and is quite inconspicuous. A stout galvanized wire stake is easily cut to the desired length and the top end can then be curved into a loop as a protective measure against the sharp point. Painted a neutral green, these stakes blend with the foliage and last for years.

Sudden variations in temperature are best avoided at all times, especially when the spikes are elongating and spacing the buds for flowering. A delay in ventilating the house on a bright morning may permit the temperature to rise very rapidly, causing an immediate reaction from the stems and buds, which is checked again when the house is ventilated. These sudden temperature changes are responsible for much of the poor spacing of buds and twisting of stems. It is well to limit the temperature changes to twenty degrees between day and night and to have these changes occur as gradually as possible. This is best accomplished by anticipating outside changes, ventilating early on a rising temperature and closing vents promptly as the temperature begins to drop.

Watering is watched very carefully during the flowering season since the plants' requirements are not nearly as great as during the active

protection from insects the early stages

growing season. Root activity is at its lowest point and the dull winter weather reduces transpiration considerably. Plan to water the plants early on a rising temperature so that the soil will recover from the chill before nightfall; in fact, a tank inside the house where water may be stored to bring it up nearer the existing temperature before using is advisable.

Another matter for consideration is that of light. The light tolerance of Cymbidiums is generally underrated; as a matter of fact they flower more freely when given a strong light pattern during the growing season. With the weaker light of winter and cool temperatures, wash on the glass may be lightened considerably as light plays an important part in the intensity of flower color. Pinks and reds, as a general rule, favor a stronger light pattern than the whites while the greens usually have better color in a more subdued light.

Spacing the plants on the bench takes on added significance as the flowering period approaches. Space between the pots should be sufficient to allow the leaves of the plant to grow in a natural position and not interfere with the buds in any manner. While no greenhouse ever seems to be large enough after the first season it is poor economy to crowd plants at any time, especially while they are preparing to flower.

Care of leaves is another point that cannot be stressed too often.

The loss of a green leaf is as serious as that of a corresponding amount of root. Care in moving the plants can prevent leaves from becoming twisted or broken. It is also advisable to avoid brushing against the leaf tips in passing and to give the plants sufficient room to prevent the foliage from overlapping.

Everyone interested in Cymbidiums admires a well-grown plant and envies the successful grower. The formula for success is really quite simple; the little things you do for your plants during the course of a year may seem very trivial at the time but they add up to a very impressive total when the flowering season arrives. — 610 Hoska

Drive, Del Mar, California



**May the upcoming season bring you joy and happiness
to you and your family.
Have a safe Holiday**

