

Orchids at Kew, by Joyce Stewart

Orchids have been admired for many centuries for the beauty of form, their dazzling colors and almost endless variety. They have been cultivated in the famous gardens and greenhouses of Kew since the 18th Century, and throughout this long association Kew has played a leading role in their introduction, naming, propagation, cultivation and conservation.

Illustrated with some of the finest specimens from the gardens' collection, this volume follows the story of orchids at Kew from the earliest times up to the present day. As well as describing the species and hybrids which can be seen and the techniques involved to grow, study and display them, we are introduced to the great botanists who were fascinated by these unusual plants, to the illustrators to capture their beauty in paintings and drawings, and to the important work of conserving and reintroducing rare orchids.

Joyce Stewart is currently the Sainsbury Orchid Fellow at Kew as she coordinates the scientific, horticultural conservation work related to Kew's magnificent orchid collection. She has studied ingrown orchid species and hybrids for many years, and has written many articles and books on the orchid family. She is a member of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society and its Orchid Committee, Deputy Chairman of the British Orchid Council, and the Director of The Orchid Review. She is also Chairman of the International Orchid Commission, and a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Orchid Specialist Group. She enjoys traveling and lecturing about orchids and maintains her own private collection of orchids at her home in Dorset.