Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

Feburary 2020 Issue

President's Message Feburary 2020

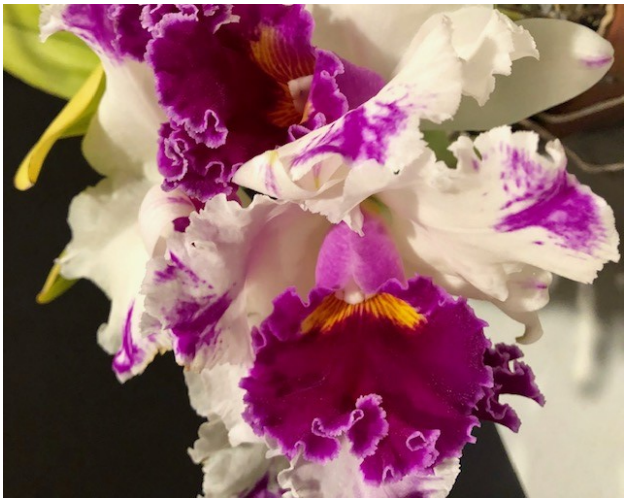
When I became aware of our speaker Bayard Saraduke's topic I thought "would this be interesting enough for all the members"? I certainly did not need to have been concerned. Bayard's photos were just enchanting and beautiful. He also provided some informative data about the orchids and how he does his photography. After the talk I was impressed with number and quality of the questions from our members. All in all, a very successful meeting.

Just a reminder that our May meeting will be an auction at the Johnson Education Center on our regular meeting night. Our members will be supplying the auction plants. Please start perusing your collections for orchids you would like to donate. Make sure your plants are healthy and free of any little critters.

Whether we also purchase supplemental orchids from a commercial vendor has not as yet been decided or even discussed.

I queried at the last meeting whether our members would be interested in purchasing some Paphs from Graham Wood of Lehua Orchids in Hawaii and got a lot of positive response. Think about how many plants each of you would be willing to buy for about $12 to $15 each and let me know at the next meeting so we can decide how many Paphs to purchase.

Orchid of the Month



C. Ida Elizabeth 'Enchanting'- G. Guzikowski

Newsletter Contents

Meetings and Events 2019-2020

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at the at the Johnson Education Center (D&R Greenway Land Trust) One Preservation Place Princeton, NJ 08540

Sept: Ed Weber: Topic TBA

Oct Wayne Hollenbach Topic TBA

Nov: Richard Ho: Mounting orchids and their Care.

Dec: Holiday Party

Jan: David Off of Waldor Orchids

Feb: Bayard Saraduke

March: David Rosenfeld **WHO WERE THESE GUYS: 19TH CENTURY ORCHID PERSONALITIES.**

Apr: Potting party / panel discussion.

May: Auction

June: Annual CJOS Picnic

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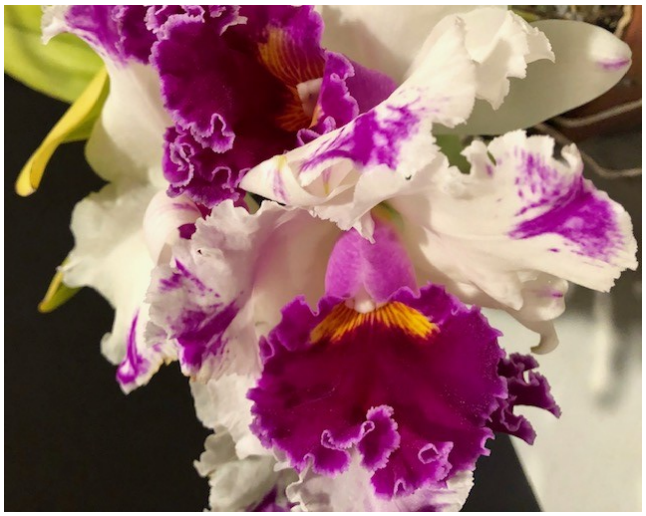
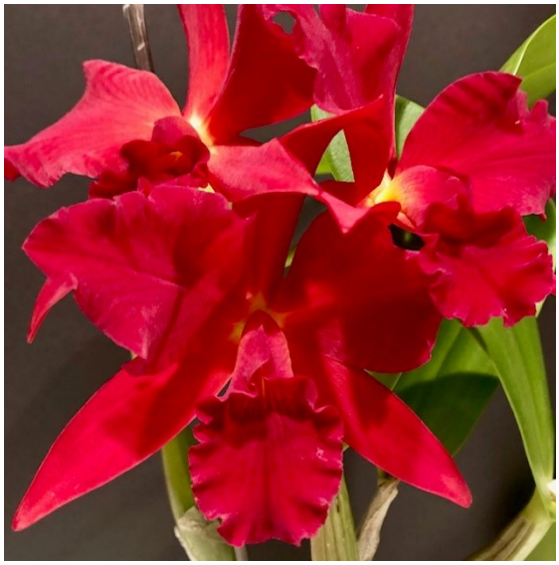
JUDGING Feb. 2020

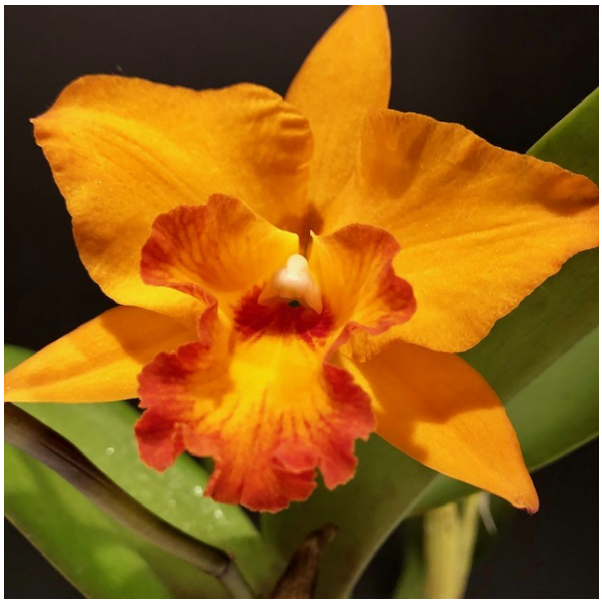
Cattleya-



1. Ida Elizabeth 'Enchanting'- G. Guzikowski



2. Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'-AM
   Ed and Pam Frankel



3. Pot. Love Passion 'Dogashima' x
   Blc Hawaiian Discovery 'Florescent'-
   Renee Jolley

Dendrobium/Oncidium-

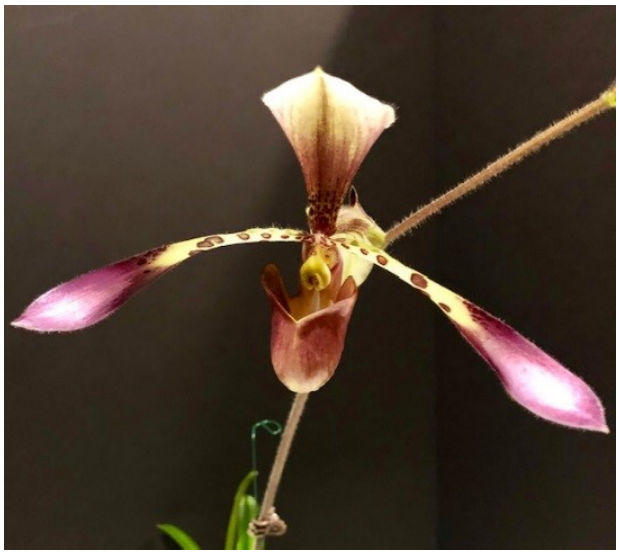
1. Den Glory Night- Jim M.

2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'- Luanne Arrico

3. Den Aridang Green- Ed and Pam Frankel

Paph/Phrag-

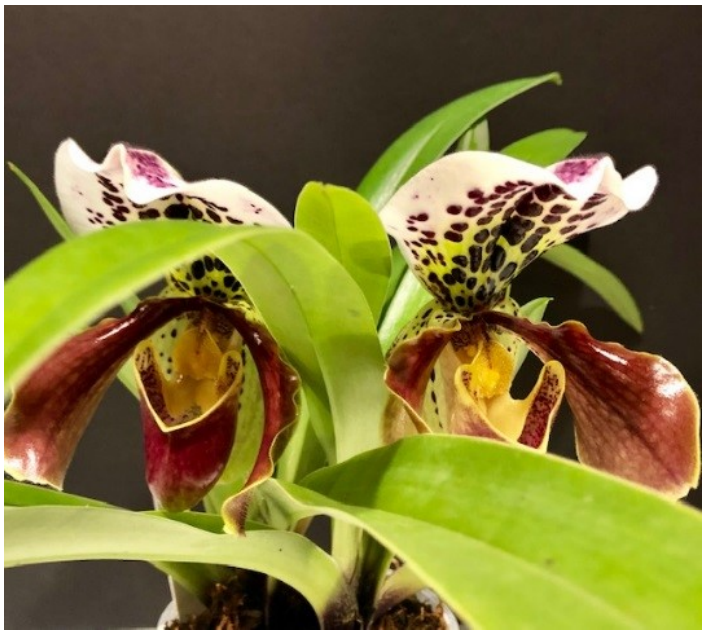
1. **Paph Lowii- Joe Thomas**



2. **Paph Halk Emerald- David Carrick**

Our Appologies David
We missed a picture of your plant
I tried to find one oneline, but couldn't find your plant. It was a beautiful flower at the meeting so if we can get a picture for next month newsletter I will put a picture in that edition

3. **NOID Paph- Anne Skalka**



Vanda/Phal-

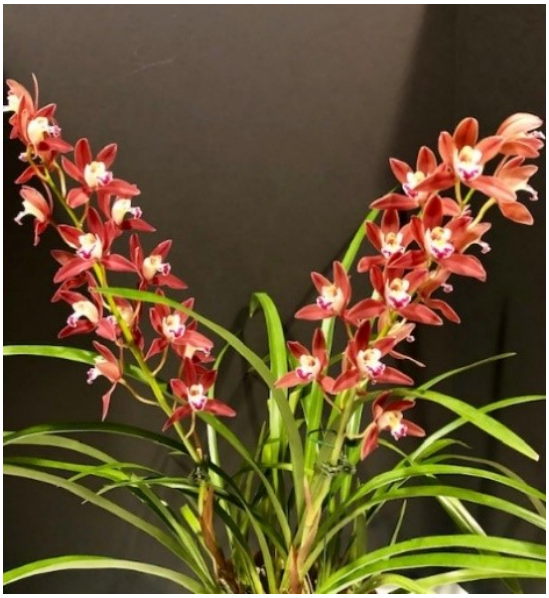
1. Phal NOID- Naomi Nierenberg

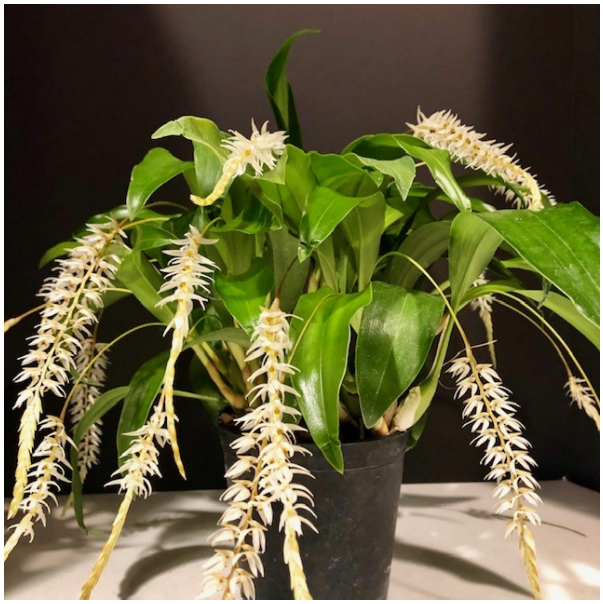
2. V. Sukasamran x V. Creamson Garden- Joe Thomas

3.V. Motesiana x V. tessellata 'Miki'- Jeff Tryon

Species-

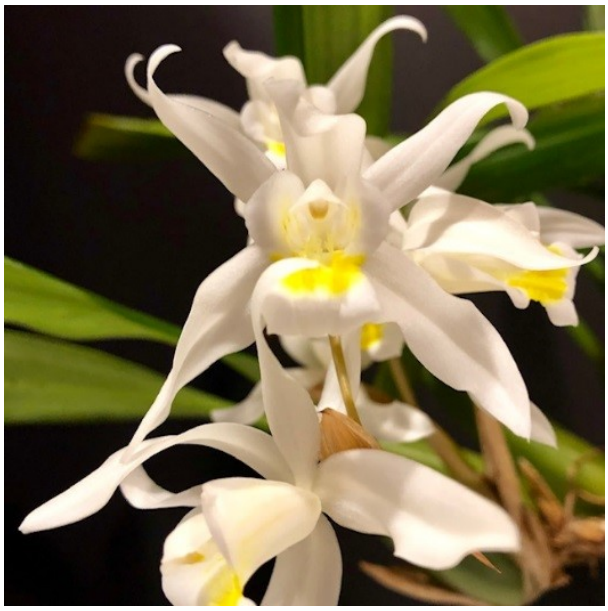
1. Cymbidium NOID Shirly Li



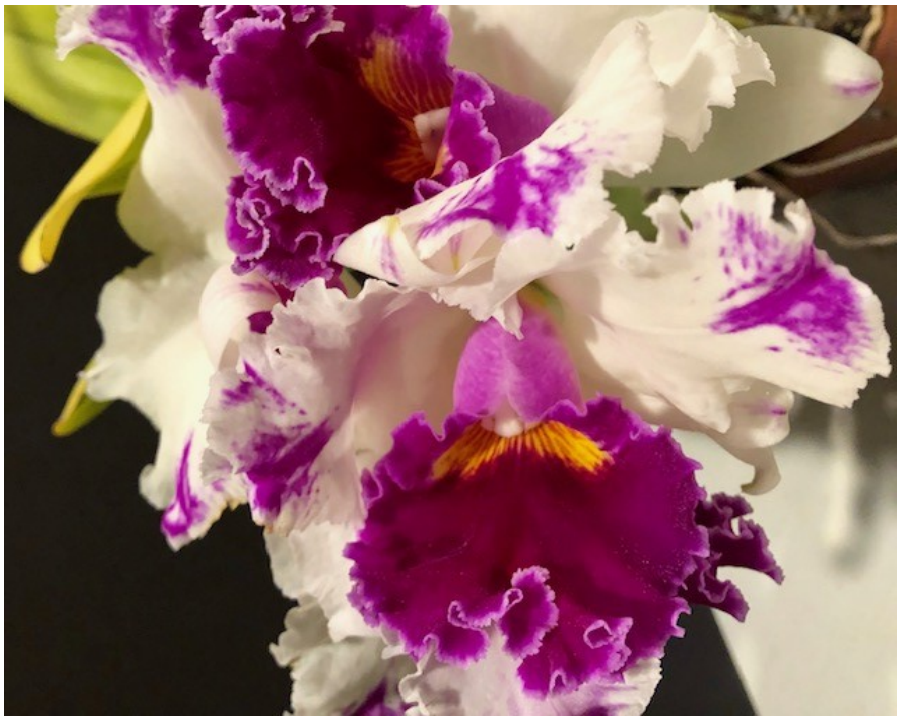


2. Dendrochilum glumaceum- Joe Thomas

3. Coelogyne Unchained Melody- D. Carrick



Orchid of the month-



C. Ida Elizabeth ‘Enchanting’- G. Guzikowski

The U.S. Postal Service is introducing ten new orchid stamps!

The American Orchid Society is honored to host the first day of the issue dedication ceremony at our headquarters.

EVENT: First Day of Issue Ceremony

DATE & TIME: Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: The American Orchid Society Library at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156

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American Orchid Society

Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members

Greenhouse Chat February 2020

Ron McHatton

Tuesday, February 18th, 2020
8:30pm EST

Orchid Q&A

Greenhouse Chat March 2020

Ron McHatton

Thursday, March 19th, 2020
8:30pm EST

Orchid Q&A

***How Do You Grow*?**

Each month, I would like to show a member's growing methods/conditions. We started with ours. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter) edsharkf@yahoo.com No submission this month. Let's get some pictures of your growing space

CULTIVATION

The following is reprinted with permission from the St Augustine Orchid Society

Growing Masdevallias in the Florida Heat

by Carolyn Robinson, Gainesville Orchid Society

The author's Masdevallia mejiana happily growing and flowering. Note the clay pot which helps to keep the plant's roots cooler and, along with the gravel and glass container, help to provide the higher humidity these plants need to thrive.

I was babysIttIng a friend's orchids while she went on a trip. Some of them were masdevallias. During that time, one of them, a *Masdevallia herradurae*, burst into full bloom. It looked like a ball of big red, angry ants. That plant set me off on a new challenge. I wanted to grow masdevallias.

Living in Florida is wonderful for growing most orchids, and I am blessed with a sunny greenhouse. But in the summer heat, the interior of the greenhouse can reach 94°F most days. I love growing miniatures, but some of the most beautiful ones need to be in a cool environment, that becomes a challenge.

My friend and I ordered bare root plants at the Redland Orchid Festival and I was on my way. As you might expect, *Masd. herradurae* was in that shipment! I potted mine in sphagnum moss and put them in my greenhouse window for the summer. This window faces south, and I protect it from the sun with a layer of shade cloth over it. The plants did great, but when winter came and the sun shifted, that window got really bright and I added more shade cloth on the top and sides.

I began reading on the Internet about the culture of masdevallias. The articles tell you that they want pure water and up until then, I had been watering with well water, which contains lots of minerals and lime. So I switched to distilled water.

Masdevallias also thrive with high humidity. Because I was growing them in an air-conditioned and heated house, that posed a problem. I had heard about pebble trays, so I set out for the thrift stores and found many 3- and 4-inch-deep glass bowls that proved perfect for my needs. I use a layer of small rocks about 1½-inch deep in each bowl. That way, the water level in the bowls will not touch the pots sitting on them.

I use clay pots, which helps keep the plants cooler. I switched from potting in pure sphagnum, which I felt allowed the plants to stay too wet, to a mixture of sphagnum, broken tree fern, seedling bark and some sponge rock. I use a little more sphagnum than the other ingredients. All my masdevallias are doing very well with this mixture.

I fertilize the plants every other week with a weak solution, being careful to make sure that their mixture is not bone dry when I do so. I use a 20-20-20 formulation, mixed ½ teaspoon to a gallon of distilled water. This is then diluted again, mixing ⅓ cup of the fertilizer water with enough distilled water to make 2 cups total. Because air movement is also critical, I keep a small fan running in the growing area at all times.

My kitchen window has exploded with flowering plants, so I have now expanded my growing area to growing some under lights in a spare room as well. For this setup, I have a 2-foot fixture with a single, 24-watt T5 fluorescent bulb. The light is about 14 inches above the plants. I leave the lights on for 10 hours a day. These plants are thriving too.

Do your research to find out which masdevallia species and hybrids are intermediate- to warm-growing. Some good choices to start with include *Masdevallia floribunda*, *Masd. herradurae* and *Masd. mejiana*. Take the plunge and try these beautiful miniatures because it is a great day to grow masdies!

South Facing Kitchen Window

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in December 2019 (Vol.88:12, p 960), reprinted with permission.

Virus Testing

Do You Really Want to Know

by Sue Bottom

Often Cymbidium Mosaic Virus causes black blotches on the leaves that result in a really ugly plant, although there are other diseases that can result in black splotching besides virus.

There are different philosophies on testing orchids for virus. Approaches range from the person who simply does not want to know to the person who wants a virus free collection. Whether or not to test your orchids is a very personal decision that each grower will ultimately have to make.

Most people simply do not want to know if their plant is virused. Denial is a temptress. We all want to believe that life is fair and only good things happen to good people. It is perfectly fine to assume all your orchids are virus and disease free, as long as you hedge your bets and act as if all your plants are virused so you follow stringent sanitary practices when handling any of your plants. If you find plants that are potentially diseased or exhibit the symptoms of virus, you have to be brutal and simply discard any and all questionable plants.

At the other end of the spectrum are those that want a virus free collection. This group might include orchid hybridizers, who do not want to transmit virus to their new hybrids. A virused plant should not be used as the pollen parent because the virus would be transmitted to the offspring, but a virused plant can be used as the pod parent as long as the seed from the mature, dried capsule is properly sterilized. Of course, the hybridizer must know which, if any, of his plants are virused so the proper precautions are taken. Hobbyists may want a virus free collection so they do not have to worry about virused plants infecting the rest of their or their friends' collection. They are willing to go to the considerable expense of testing each and every plant and discarding any plant that is virused. Then, in order to maintain a virus free collection, every new plant purchased is tested to prior to adding it to their collection.

My Sainted Mother told me to never ask a question I did not want to know the answer to. Too bad my evil sister-in-law did not learn that lesson before asking what I thought of her. So it is with virus testing. If you decide to move forward with virus testing, think the whole process through in advance and be prepared for some heartbreak. My approach was to start testing the most at risk plants, those that are in 8 inch pots and have been through the division process multiple times so they have the highest potential to be virused from contaminated cutting tools and potting surfaces.

Easy Decisions. Any plant that exhibits the symptoms of virus is either simply discarded, or discarded after testing confirms the presence of virus. Plants with the blotchy black necrotic spotting may have Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CyMV), and those with angular V shaped markings may have Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV). Once the symptoms of virus are visible in the leaves, the plant is simply too ugly to keep in the greenhouse. Even worse are flowers that exhibit virus symptoms. ORSV causes color break. CyMV does not usually express itself in the flowers, but when it does, it causes blossom brown necrotic streak (some say a dual infection with CyMV and ORSV is required for the necrosis to occur). In any case, any plant that is obviously infected with a virus is discarded because it is simply too ugly to remain in the greenhouse.

Difficult Decisions. The tough decisions arise when you decide to test your entire orchid collection for virus, even those that don't exhibit any symptoms. You have a plant that is growing well, has no leaf discolorations, no flower blighting, but it tests positive for virus.

- If the vigor is compromised or the flower is nothing special, it is discarded knowing there are many many new seedlings growing up that will be glad to take its place.
- If this asymptomatic plant tests positive for ORSV, it is discarded to avoid potentially spreading the

disease to other plants. ORSV is the primary flower blighting virus, and to avoid spread to other plants, infected plants are discarded.

- If it tests positive for CyMV, it is evaluated on the basis of its growth vigor and flower quality. Vigorously growing otherwise healthy plants with drop dead gorgeous flowers are moved to a virused bench, to isolate them to some extent from other plants. Here, extraordinary sanitary precautions are taken to prevent spreading the disease.

We became familiar with the five stages of grief at Chez Bottom during virus testing:

- Denying the existence of virus (you use strict hygiene procedures… but what about the early days?)
- Being angry with the vendor (but the plant has been in your care for all these years)
- Bargaining with the orchid gods (how can you get the plant to outgrow the virus?),
- Being depressed (what a failure you are at orchid growing), and finally
- Accepting facts as they are (guess this means you'll have to buy lots of new plants and be more careful going forward).

Virus Testing. The test involves cutting a small sample of tissue from the plant, mashing it in a buffer solution and inserting the test strip to wait for the results to appear. If you decide to start a virus testing program, be exceedingly careful to not spread the disease during the testing program. Put on fresh gloves to test each new plant, use newspaper or butcher paper to provide a clean working surface, changing it between plants. Use single use double edge razor blades to make your cuts.

Very little is written about exactly where to obtain the sample. Some like to sample an almost spent flower, some sample the roots, and others the leaves; but, which leaves? I have always sampled the older symptomatic leaves under the assumption that these had the most time for the virus to replicate inside. The Good Doctor Hackney says he always tests a leaf from the youngest mature growth because that is where the virus will be most concentrated. Per Randall and Ogle:

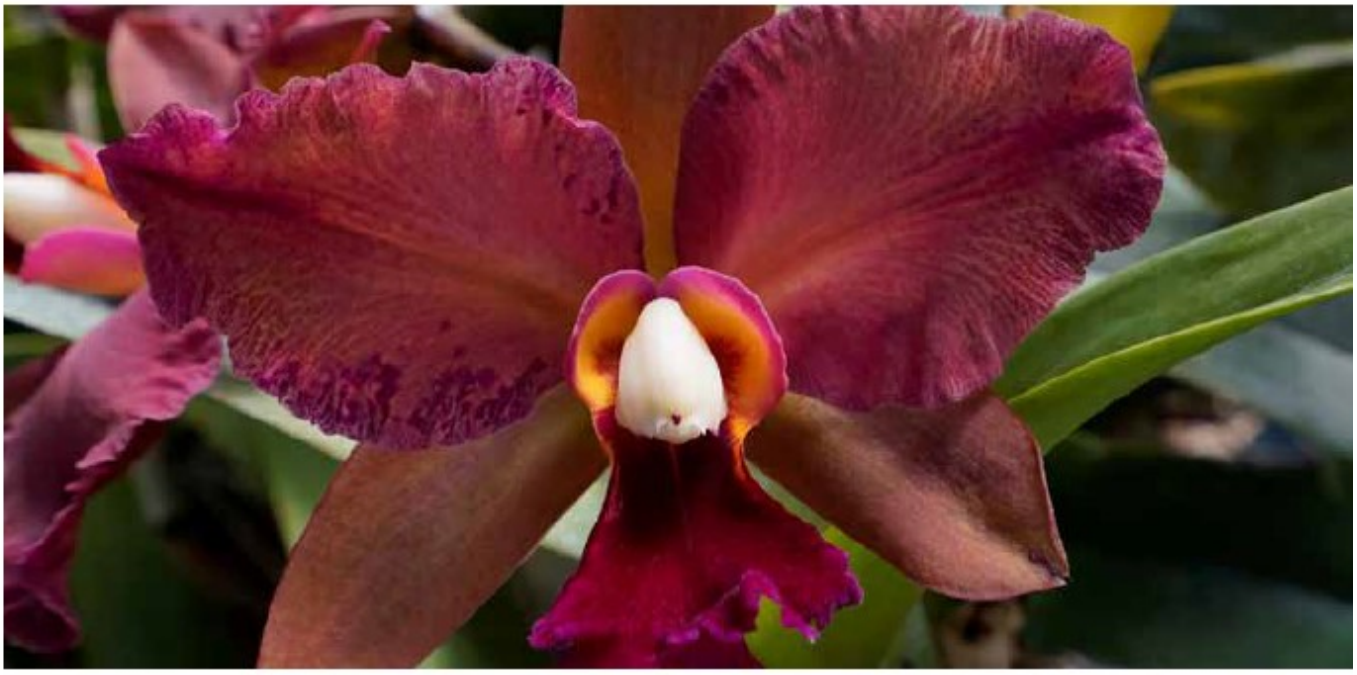
> *When the virus reaches the vascular tissue, it is distributed rapidly through the plant via the phloem and becomes systemic. Viruses generally move first to the roots and top leaves before infecting the remaining leaves from the top of the plants downwards.*

Sometimes Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus causes circular to angular patterns on the leaves with the discoloration ranging from yellowish to reddish to brownish in color.

The phloem, which transports sugars and carbohydrates throughout the plant and fuels the growth of newly developing tissue, also carries the viral particles concentrating them in the new growths. It is possible for the virus present in the older parts to become dormant and test negative, even though the virus is present in the plant.

To get the best flowering, you need a vigorously growing plant that has enough energy in reserve to bloom to perfection. The corollary of this is a poorly growing plant will never have the wow factor. It may grow poorly as a result of a disease from which it can recover, or from a virus from which it will ultimately fade away, and possibly infect other plants along the way. In that the greenhouse is not a hospital for sick orchids, plants that have unexplained poor growth are simply discarded. If you find this too painful, keep a small inventory of test strips on hand so that you can test suspect plants and make an informed decision as to whether you want to discard the virused plant, isolate the virused plant or try to nurse the non-virused plant back to health.

Blossom brown necrotic streak from CyMV (generally thought to be in combination with ORSV) shows up 5 to 10 days after the flower opens, resulting in unsightly discoloration on the floral segments



Color break from ORSV is an irregular, nonsymmetrical marking on the flower. You might simply discard the plant with apparent color break, but thrips and chemicals can cause similar blemishes on the flower.

Citations

Randles J, Ogle H. 1997. Viruses and viroids as agents of plant disease. In: Brown JF, Ogle HJ, eds. Plant pathogens and plant diseases . Australia: Rockvale Publications, 104–126.

Orchids are good for you. But ORCHID GROWERS tend to be a little over zelous buying plants. I guess we know they are good for us. One plant good two plants better. 100 plants?

Your Brain on Houseplants

An indoor garden enhances more than just the decor

HAVING PRETTY plants in your home is a nice perk of indoor gardening, but research suggests that maintaining them can boost your health, too. "Gardening has been shown in multiple studies to be associated with a reduced risk of cognitive decline or dementia in older adults," says David Carr, M.D., a professor of geriatric medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. "Plants help you become more competent and give you something meaningful to do and take care of," notes Patty Cassidy, a registered horticulture therapist. Try these.

1. Peace lilies They help to purify air, removing toxins such as trichloroethylene, found in paint and varnish.

2. Orchids These are good gifts for hospital patients. Seeing plants during recovery can reduce pain and anxiety.

3. Rosemary The scent of this herb may assist with memory by increasing a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine.

4. Lavender Grow this plant in your bedroom, as it's said to improve sleep quality and promote relaxation.

5. Spider plants These hardy plants can help to remove formaldehyde from your home's air.

AARP Magazine Dec 2019/Jan 2020