Maui Orchid Society

Where Flowers and Fellowship Blossom

Some Facts About Our Society

Mission Statement: The Maui Orchid Society is dedicated to the education, preservation and cultivation of Orchids.

Monthly Meeting Dates: The Maui Orchid Society's general membership meetings are open to the public and held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Wailuku Community Center, 395 Waena Street, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 9673.

Mailing Address: The mailing address is P.O. Box 2061, Kahului, Hawaii 96733.

Website: Please visit our website at www.MauiOrchidSociety.org. It contains a wealth of information on past, current and future events.

Membership Dues: Annual membership dues are $15.00 per individual and $25.00 per couple. Freee membership if you are over 80 years of age.

Non-Profit Status: The Maui Orchid Society is classified by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This Code section deals with charitable, educational, religious and scientific organizations.

75 Years Ago, on Tuesday evening March 4, 1941, twenty amateur orchid enthusiasts met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. K. Izumi, for the purpose of creating the Maui Orchid Society. The year's program was drawn up, which included an orchid exhibit, demonstrations, potting, field trips, orchid movies, talks, and discussions.

General Orchid Culture

Lighting and Shade: Ideal lighting for maximum growth is a full day of unobstructed sunlight with a shade of about 55%. Accomplish this by using shade cloth, wooden lath, Phylon, fiberglass, or other similar roofing material that will provide the required amount of shade. A light meter is helpful in determining the amount of light available to the plants. Provide micro-climates (with more or less shading in certain areas) to grow a larger variety of genera. Indoors or in a lanai/patio location, maximize the length of time the orchids receive light. If the light source is too intense, the use of lace curtains may help to filter the light without disturbing the appearance of your home. Without the appropriated amount of light, your orchids will not be able to produce flowers in its next season, nor will it be able to produce strong, healthy new growths necessary for flowering.

Temperature and Humidity: In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have near ideal temperatures and humidity for most tropical orchids (low60's to upper 80's in temperature and 60%-90% humidity). Be aware of heat stress in the summer months especially in the leeward areas. Avoid heat stress by watering in the morning The evaporation will cool the orchids and increase humidity. In hot and dry climates, you can place your orchids on evaporation trays (trays filled with gravel and water). Good air circulation is also very important in keeping the orchids cool.

Watering: Most orchids are killed by over-watering, often resulting in fungal and bacterial infections associated with over-watering. Orchid roots need air as much as they need water. Allow the media to dry slightly before watering again. When it is time to water, it should be done thoroughly, allowing water to flush through the pot to remove any accumulated salts from the water source or fertilizers. Salt damage to roots can weaken or kill an orchid. A sign of salt build-up is the browning of the tips of the leaves. If this should occur, change the media immediately. As the media begins to break down, it will hold moisture for a longer period. Check the weight of the pot to aid you in determining if water is needed.

Repotting: Re-potting is essential to the health of your orchids. Organic media and rotting roots will accelerate the decomposition of the media and start root rot, eventually killing the whole plant. Some orchid growers will re-pot their orchids as soon as they arrive (after the flowers fall off), replacing the old media, checking roots for rot, as well as any possible infestation of pests or diseases. Tip: write the date f the re-potting on the tags of your plants. Replace/re-pot the media every two years. In Hawaii, except for winter, when some orchids are dormant and not actively growing, orchids can be re-potted during most of the year.

Fertilizing: Various forms of fertilizers are available in the market today. Orchid growers typically use water soluble fertilizer from a concentrate. It is hooked up to a siphon or container attached to a hose or distributed by sprinklers with proportioner. An alternative is a time-release type, i.e., Nutricote or Osmocote. Both brands have different blends that will last from 30 to 350 days. Whichever type you select, alternate different brands because each brand will contain different micronutrients such as calcium, magnesium, iron, etc. Fertilizing is similar to taking a vitamin supplement; your plants need a well-rounded diet. If you collection consists of mature, flowering-sized plants, a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or a similar

combination) is all that is required. For younger orchids, occasionally switch to a fertilizer with a higher nitrogen content, to aid its growth. As long as you meet the other conditions, mature, flowering-sized plants do not require high phosphorus content to flower. One last one on fertilizers: the formula, such as 15-16-17, represents Nitrogen-Phosphate-Potassium. Nitrogen helps the plants to grow; Phosphate helps the plant to flower, and Potassium promotes disease resistance and is important for the food manufacturing with it plants.

Sanitation: Take extra care in the growing area and when orchids are handled or transplanted. To reduce chances of the spread of bacteria, fungal, and viruses:

1) Re-pot when the medium is slightly moist to reduce root damage
2) Work on a clean tabletop covered with newspaper. Replace the newspaper sheets between plants.
3) Sterilize shears and other potting utensils by using a propane torch, heating tools before cutting and between each plant
4) Wash hands with soap and water between plants
5) Sterilize used pots by soaking them in a 10% solution of Clorox and water for 15 minutes. Scrub the pots thoroughly and remove all plant residue before soaking.
6) Dispose of all dead material surrounding your plants & on the floor preventing fungus spores & bacteria from spreading.
7) Keep algae from growing in your pots or on the nursery floor to avoid slug and snail infestation, as well as fungus gnats and shore flies. jThey will spread any diseases among your plants.

Types of Media: There are many varieties of orchid media in use today, and it is important to remember that the media is solely for the purpose of allowing the plant roots to attach to something for support, not to gain any nutrients from the media itself. It is best that each grower experiment at first to see what works best in your nursery, for you plants and your cultural habits. Commercial growers today use mostly seedling or medium orchid bark, depending on the genus. Others will use peat mixed with the bark, or perlite. #3 blue rock is good for tall plants in windy areas to prevent toppling. This medium will hold water, so use caution when using this. Do not fill the pot with the rock, and monitor your watering. Hapu'u or tree fern fiber was the medium of choice when it was readily available. When the fibers are aligned vertically, it allows the water to seep through the pot instantly. New Zealand Sphagnum moss helps to establish young plants or aid an old plant to develop roots. It will hold moisture longer depending on the quantity used, so watering should be limited. Black cinders purchased at garden shops fumigated before shipping and are therefore approved by the Department of Agriculture for use in nurseries. It provides good drainage, but because of its porosity, it can be challenging to flush out accumulated salts. Whichever medium you choose, if it is working under your conditions, never change your media every time you hear a speaker promote another one without first experimenting with it. Many orchid collections are because of this.