

FOR YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Remember to let your society members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful.

It's a Celebration! You can be a part of it!

The American Orchid Society headquarters at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, has been chosen by The United States Postal Service as the host site for the release of new stamps in 2020 - Wild Orchids! The postal service holds a First Day of Issue Ceremony for each new stamp release the day the stamps go on sale across the USA. The new stamps will be available to purchase during this event. The AOS will host the First Day of Issue Ceremony for these stamps on February 21, 2020 at 11:00 am. The celebration will take place at the AOS Library located inside [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens](https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Horticulture/American-Orchid-Society-at-FairchildGardens). <https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Horticulture/American-Orchid-Society-at-FairchildGardens>.

Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grows wild in the United States. Identified *left to right row one*: 1 *Triphora trianthophoros*, 2 *Cypripedium californicum*, 3 *Hexalectris spicata*, 4 *Cypripedium reginae*, 5 *Spiranthes odorata* Identified *left to right row two*: 6 *Platanthera leucophaea*, 7 *Triphora trianthophoros*, 8 *Platanthera grandiflora*, 9 *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, 10 *Calopogon tuberosus*



CULTURE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE, to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/january-february-checklist.aspx>

February:

BEGINNERS START HERE Basic Orchid Care Tips for Successfully Growing and Flowering Plants By Ron McHatton, PhD

KNOWING WHICH ORCHID YOU ARE trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well. Let's examine each of these elements.

LIGHT Without enough light, orchids may produce lush-looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have developed as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

Provide orchids with as much light as they will take without burning. This means that the foliage should not be a lush, dark green. Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

AIR Orchid roots, and eventually the entire plant, will die if they do not receive air. This is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, they do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. Orchid plants are also intolerant of a stale, stagnant environment. You should strive for a buoyant atmosphere and gentle air movement must be provided at all times. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on its lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed away from the plants.

WATER Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components: quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6- inch (15-cm) pot every seven days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role.

There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) The surface of the potting mix will appear dry. 2) Dry pots will feel lighter. 3) Clay pots feel dry. 4) A wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant.

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water plants at least once a month.

Watering frequency can be controlled by the choice of pot. For those who really like to water their plants or live in humid, rainy areas, clay pots, especially slotted pots are a good choice. Growers in drier climates or those who tend not to water often enough might want to use plastic pots to hold moisture longer.

FERTILIZER Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of fertilizing. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the autumn and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose to use, most experienced growers use no more than half the label- recommended strength. It's best to water first to wet the potting medium before you fertilize.

Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form usable by plants, and because orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently. The old conventional wisdom used to be that orchids grown in bark mixes needed to be fertilized with formulations high in nitrogen, i.e., 30-10-10. We now understand that these high-nitrogen fertilizers aren't necessary. For a more detailed discussion of fertilizer and its dependence on water quality, see the June 2003 and February 2008 issues of Orchids magazine or view copies of pertinent articles on line at the Society's Web site (www.aos.org).

OBSERVATION Most experienced growers will agree that observation is the most important key to growing orchids well. Examining your plants on a regular basis will allow you to adjust and correct any problems before they become severe. *(As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 77 NO.8 AUGUST 2008)*

AOS members have access to over 2,050 articles published between the years 2003 - 2009 and 2011 - 2018 through the digital archives. <http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

Worth the Read - ORCHIDS February Preview Here be Dragons - Fantastic New Catamodes Hybrids by Fred Clarke

In the February issue of ORCHIDS, Fred Clarke rolls out another insightful article on the wild world of Catasetinae hybrids. After reading about Catamodes, you will be yearning to grow some of your own! Once you see the beauty and learn the cultural needs of the Catasetinae you will want to give them a try.

This series of articles in **ORCHIDS** began June 2019 with [The Catasetinae — Part 1 - The Cat's Meow: New Developments in Breeding and Growing Catasetums](#). August featured [The Catasetinae — The Catasetinae — Part 2 - Clowesetums — Breeding Clowesias with Catasetums](#) and October offered [The Catasetinae — Part 3 - Breeding with Goblins — The Latest Developments in Mormodes Hybrids](#).

[AOS members have exclusive access to thousands of awarded photos in OrchidPro!](#)

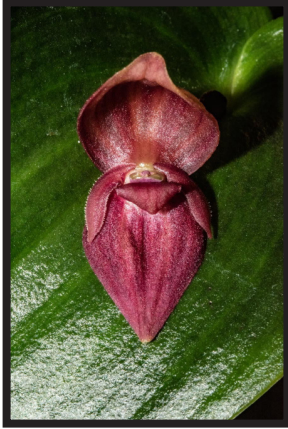
[Sign on to the AOS website. Click on your name on the top right side of the page to find the dropdown menu. Select OrchidPro. Be inspired!](#)

Don't miss out! Membership offers something for everyone - Coming in February 2020

- For the Novice - Artificial Light Intensity and Supplemental Lighting by Ray Barkalow
- Collector's Item - *Bulbophyllum beccarii* by Jerry Lee Fisher
- GREAT Ideas - Foundations for Greenhouses by Jean Allen-Ikeson
- A New Lighting Option for Indoor Orchid Growing: T5 HO LED Replacements for Fluorescent Grow Lights by A'na Sa'tara
- *Liparis liliifolia* - A "lily" of an Orchid by Soraya Cates Parr
- *Lindleyana* - ×*Cattlianthe dabeibaensis* - A New Intergeneric Natural Hybrid in Colombia by Ruben Sauleda, Andrea Niessen and Juan Carlos Uribe
- Book Review - Orchids as Aphrodisiac, Medicine or Food



OrchidPro™



Pleurothallis Memoria Carlyle Luer
'Bryon' HCC | AOS (78 points)
Pleurothallis teaguei x
Pleurothallis bivalvis
Award No: 20193059 Date: Dec
21, 2019 Event: Great Plains
Center Monthly Judging Judging
Center: Great Plains Judging
Center Exhibitor: Bryon K. Rinke
Photographer: Bryon K. Rinke



Maxillaria luteograndiflora 'Windy Hill' HCC | AOS (77 points)
Award No: 20193758 Date: Dec 14, 2019 Event: Mid-America
Center Monthly Judging Judging Center: Mid-America
Judging Center Exhibitor: Marilyn LeDoux Photographer:
Matthew Nutt



American Orchid Society Show Trophy
'Howard P. Martin' ST | AOS (83 points)
Award No: 20196250 Date: Nov 09, 2019
Event: Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Show (Hamburg, NY) Judging Center:
Toronto Judging Center Exhibitor: Howard
Peter Martin Photographer: Ed Cott

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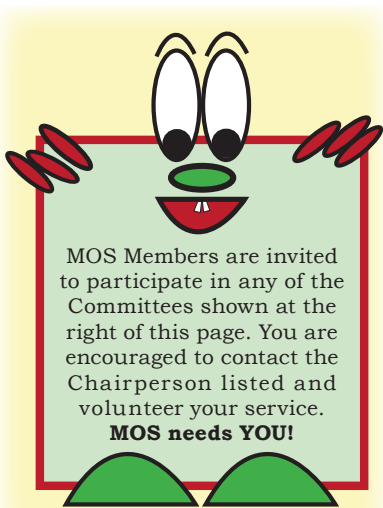
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MOS needs YOU!

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The MOS meets at the Woodbrook Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212, the third Thursday of each month, September through June. The Show Table setup begins at 7:00 p.m. followed by judging at 7:30 p.m. The Education Corner and Library open at 7:15 p.m. The program commences at 8:00 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m.