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BULLETIN  
Issue 822**

*The* **NORTH  
SHORE**



**ORCHID  
BULLETIN**

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**Website** <https://northshoreorchidsociety.org/>

**Next Meeting** Until further notice the North Shore Orchid Society has cancelled its monthly meetings, but we will still be publishing a monthly bulletin to show members what has flowered during the month.

**Annual Subscriptions**

Annual subscriptions were due 1st January and remain the same as last year. Fees are \$16.00 per single member and \$18.00 per couple or family membership. Fees may be paid to the Treasurer by mailing to our Post Office Box 212, Forestville, 2087 or by direct credit straight into North Shore Orchid Society's account BSB 082 201 ACCOUNT NO. 509021920, using your name as the reference. If you use internet banking please send an email to the Treasurer, Nick Gill at [gillnr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gillnr@optusnet.com.au) confirming your payment using your name as a reference.

If you do not have a cheque account or do internet banking please contact Nick Gill or a committee members to make other arrangements.

**Dear Members, as many of our meetings are being cancelled and also some of our shows the committee of the North Shore Orchid Society has decided that any member who has or will renew their annual subscription before the 30<sup>th</sup> June this year will receive a bonus year's subscription. This means pay now and there is no need to pay again until 2022.**



This is a selection of orchids grown by Gloria and Allan Cushway and photographed on their back patio.

**Top row**

LHS Rlc, Brunswick Gem  
Coral'

centre Rlc. Adelaide Queen  
RHS Gtt Little Susie 'Orchidglen'

**middle of display**

Lc Angel Heart 'Sumi'

**Bottom row**

LHS Rlc. Donna Kimura  
Centre Rlc. Tanya T'nt

RHS Rlc. Lisa Taylor Gallis

## How orchids are judged

Hybrid orchids and species orchids are judged differently. Hybrids are judged by mainly shape and colour with lesser points being given for size, substance and texture, habit and arrangement & floriferousness), the flowers should also be fresh and clean not old or have marks on them. When show bench judging sometimes all flowers may have faults and it is up to the judge to decide which faults are the worst.

Shape for many hybrids should be circular in outline and filled in no gaps between the petals and sepals, and the flower should be symmetrical

Colour should be clear not muddy and can be any other colour including white and it can have flares or spots, The colour can be bold or soft and gentle, but if it has flares they should be fairly similar on both sides of the flower but they do not need to be totally identical.

Size, depends on its breeding.

Substance and Texture mean the firmness of the flower and the finish on the surface of the flower. Some flowers, like *Sarcocylus* have a crystalline appearance.

Habit and Arrangement means how well the flowers display themselves along the flower spike, the length of the spike so that the flowers are above the foliage and, whether they are crowded along the spike.

Floriferousness means the number of flowers on a spike or plant.



Looking at the 4 cattleyas above you can see the difference in the size of the petals, sepals and labellums, these are all looked at as well as whether the tips of the labellums turn under and whether the petals and sepal reflex back.



The Oncidium alliance are difficult to judge as they vary greatly not having a basic shape like many other orchids, again you look at the flower to see if it is symmetrical and that the labellums are flat and all flowers are consistent.



With paphiopedilums the dorsal is important and must not reflex back at the sides it is better to have the petals not coming too far forward and the pouch balancing the flower not jutting straight out in front again a symmetrical flower



Cymbidiums again you look at the shape and size of the segments and the labellum should not be pinched but rounded and not curling under. Number of flowers is important as well as how they display themselves.

Judging orchids is not always easy. That is why we prefer to have 3 judges on each panel so that at least 1 can stand aside if they have plants in a class; either that or ask another judge to step in.





*Paph. purpuratum*



*Paph. charlesworthii*

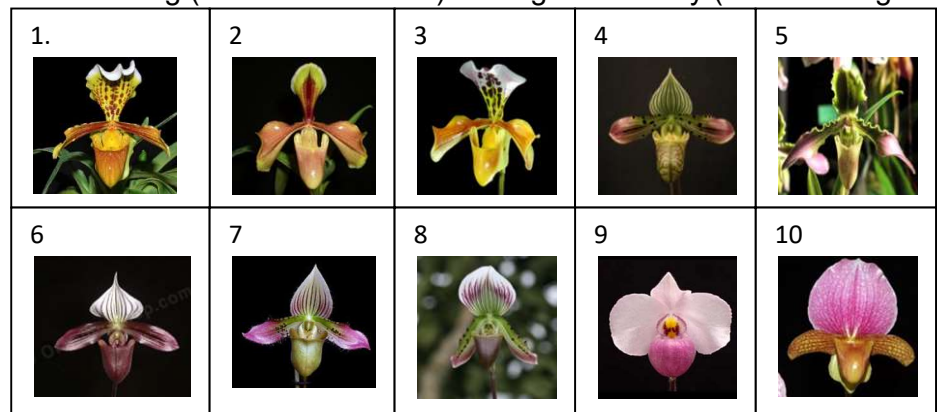
For the novice grower who would like to grow some paphiopedilums I would recommend the oldies such as *Paph. Nitens* (*Paph. insigne* x *Paph. villosum*) and *Paph. Invincible* which is [*Paph. hirsutissimum* x *Paph. Monsieur de Curte* (*Paph. insigne* x *Paph. villosum*)]. The species in common here are *insigne* and *villosum* and usually easy to acquire. These are basically primary hybrids.

I have included a couple of photos of *Paph. charlesworthii* and *Paph. purpuratum* which are in flower at the moment. The *villosums* and *gratrixianums* are just opening. These are all very easy to grow and do not need heat (but no frost) and about 60% shade will do just fine.

Parvisaplums like Magic Lantern and Fanaticum and the complex Paphs are also easy to grow. So are the Maudiae but they prefer some heating of above 10°C. In fact, all Paphs are easy to grow if one knows how.

Paphs that are easy to grow without heating (in frost-free areas) for beginners to try (in ascending order):

1. *Paph. insigne*
2. *Paph. villosum*
3. *Paph. gratrixianum*
4. *Paph. venustum*
5. *Paph. hirsutissimum*
6. *Paph. purpuratum*
7. *Paph. acmodontum*
8. *Paph. callosum*
9. *Paph. delenatii*
10. *Paph. charlesworthii*



Pointers from Seong Tay on repotting your Paphiopedilums.

1. It is preferable to water your plants a couple of days before repotting so that they are well hydrated and able to stand the stress of repotting.
2. Preferred time to repot is when the new growths are starting to appear or soon after flowering, but be careful as they can be easily knocked off.
3. Remove plant gently from old pot and remove old potting mix from roots.
4. Remove dead roots only, do not cut healthy roots as there is some evidence that Paph roots do not regenerate.
5. Select pot size by size of root ball, Seong likes to pot in clear pots to see root growth.
6. Repot Paphs slightly lower in the pot as new growths tend to be higher than old plant.
7. Always use a face mask when potting with perlite as the dry dust is dangerous when inhaled.
8. Water thoroughly after repotting if dry potting mix is used. Water again in 2 to 3 days time, then normal watering frequency. Do not allow potting mix to dry out completely. Clear pots allow you to assess when to water.



# HERE ARE SOME ORCHIDS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE BENCH THIS MONTH



Rlc. Brunswick Gem G & A Cushway



Rlc. California Girl M Drummond



Ryg. Mary Eliza L & G Bromley



Mps Kelly L & G Bromley



Bst. Summit L & G Bromley



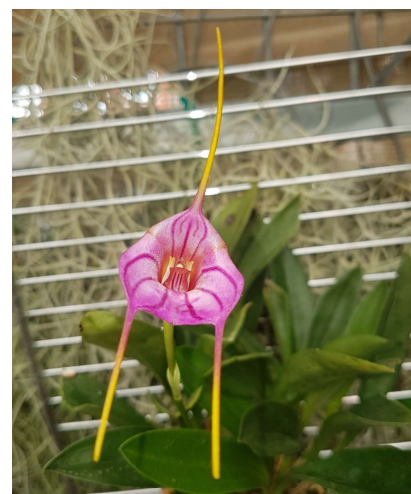
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann M Drummond



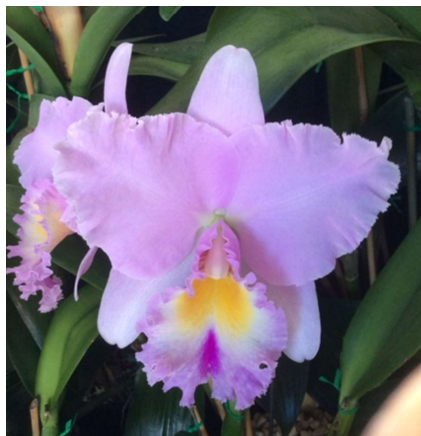
Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash'  
L & G Bromley



Rth. Burana Angel L & G Bromley



Masd. Peppermint Glow S Butler



Rlc. Hawaiian Future G & A Cushway



Paph. Carolyn Butcher Seong Tay



Phal. violacea L & G Bromley

**Please send in your photos to be  
included in this page.**

## **DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ANTS AND OTHER INSECTS**

Recently I have received 2 articles on dealing with ants etc. the first part has come from Susie Butler and the second part, I cannot remember where I found it but it sounds good safe and simple and I know some orchid growers who use it.

### **1. From Susie who just had to share this.**

I am excited about this one: our yard is quite alive with ants, so keeping them out of the orchid house has been the bane of my life. I've tried spraying the interior and exterior all around, sprinkling ant dust but no luck.

I now use Borax 1 to 2 tbsp, 1/2 Cup sugar and 1.5 Ltr warm water. You can soak cotton balls in the mixture and put them out near the mess of ants. The sugar attracts the ants and they'll take the Borax with it back to their home.

I put cotton wool in bottle caps (courtesy of Tony's beer) and filled the caps often. Placed at intervals on the benches, It has taken quite a few weeks but I now don't see the ants. Hopefully the scale will be under control somewhat.

### **2. Via the internet, Horticultural Molasses**

Cheap, easy and does it all, not your kitchen molasses! Horticultural molasses does things for your plants like nothing else can and it is cheap, just mix up and start spraying everywhere. You simply can't overdo it, but you get to the point of diminishing returns. Molasses can kill insects and does not make your plants sticky it also causes a massive micro bloom in the soil.

Sweeter plant. Sugars are how plants store energy for rainy days and winter hibernation, so why is this important as a gardener? Aside from giving your plants a power boost, you are stopping bugs. Yes it stops bugs. Insects are very simple creatures; they can only feed within a narrow window of sugar content. When the sugar content of plants is raised, insects can't feed on them. They take one bite and move on.

The second way molasses controls insects is by being directly ingested by the insect. What most people don't know is that only Bees and Sugar Ants can process simple sugars. Insects have no way of expelling the gas that builds up from fermenting sugar and the vegetation in their gut (draw your own mental picture please) plus, they have exoskeletons and can't get bloated, their delicate internal organs are crushed from the inside out.

All a bug needs to do is walk through, or try to feed on a molasses covered plant. As they are constantly cleaning themselves the insects will try to lick the molasses off their feet and swallow it, or if they take a bite of a plant they will swallow it.

Microbial Bloom. As microbes go through their life circle, they add organic matter and micro nutrients to the soil, improving the soil and making nutrients more available to your plants. Regularly applying molasses to your soil and plants greatly improves the quality of the soil over time.

Mixture        3 tbsp molasses  
                  1 tbsp liquid organic fertilizer (seaweed, fish emulsion etc)  
                  into 4 litres of water spray with abandon every week or two. It also works like a charm on lace bugs on azaleas and lantana for the garden enthusiast

This is the information that I saved about molasses. I have just removed the bit about fire ants as we don't have them in Sydney, but it really sounds good for any garden that needs a boost as well as your orchids and it is safe for bees.

We have started to use molasses at 1ml per litre of water in with the fertilizer weekly, but know of some orchid growers who use up to 5ml per litre only using it 3 to 4 times per year.

We have purchased it from Better Produce which is behind the flower market, 287 Mona Vale Rd, Terrey Hill. Take your own bottle to have it filled, we used a 3 litre juice bottle and it cost \$12.00.