# SIOS

**SEPTEMBER, 2010**
**Volume XXXIII, Issue 9**

NEWSLETTER





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The SIOS meets on the
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church,
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

## Next meeting SEPTEMBER 21ST 7pm

## *A Message from John*

Hello Friends,

I hope you are all well.

I'm still here and getting around (slowly).

Even made a trip to AC last week.

I hope you survived the summer. The HEAT the RAIN and Winds. I felt like I was back on the Gulf Coast...without the oil.

Our speaker this month was supposed to be John Sullivan. He neglected to put us on his calendar...Can't come.

Cara and I are working on a replacement...we may have a pleasant surprise for you.

Come on by on the 21st and see what we came up with.

I'll see you then.

Till then

Be Good and be WELL

~John

**DCOS is happy to announce**

**DCOS Annual Fall Auction**
**October 9th from 10 am to 3 pm**

**at the Colts Neck Fire House #1,**
**86 Country Rd 537, Colts Neck, NJ 07722**

This year we will have over 400 plants from Silva Orchids, Waldor Orchids, Cal-Orchid, Piping Rock, Carmela, Parkside, Kawamoto, Komoda, Krull Smith, Mountain Orchids, Bloomfield, H&R and local DCOS members. Something for everyone.

A list of available plants will be listed on our website on October 3rd.
For more info
http://sites.google.com/site/deepcutorchids/Home/events/auction

# *SHOW TABLE AUGUST*

## GREENHOUSE

Dave O'Dell - 18
Colman Rutkin - 14

## LIGHTS

Patrick Cammarano - 30
Joseph Schwab - 26

## WINDOWSILL

Michael Corace - 24
Judy Hafner - 6
Cara Minucci - 10
Kathleen Ruoti - 5
Jeff Li - 9
Amy Trautwein - 13













# FEED ME!


If their other requirements are met, orchids will grow and flower for fairly long periods without fertilizer. Witness the many people in tropical areas such as South Florida who grow them mounted on trees and let nature do the rest. Indeed, that is how epiphytic orchids grow in nature! But orchid hobbyists generally try to give their orchids more than bare minimum so that the plants flower at or above their potential.

There are many different points of view on how to fertilize orchids and what fertilizer to use. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer or supplement. There are so many variables that how and when you fertilize depends on what kinds of orchids you grow and how and where you grow them. This newsletter will offer a brief explanation and general guidelines on fertilizing orchids. For more specific application, join your local orchid society and ask someone there who grows the same kind of orchids as you. It is unlikely that you will kill any orchids with orchid fertilizer so following the recommendations here will provide your plants needed nutrition.

If you are a gardener you are probably familiar with the N-P-K listings on fertilizer bags. Orchid fertilizers have them too! Let's go over these three elements and see how they affect plant growth. "N" stands for nitrogen. Nitrogen helps make plants green, and helps them grow faster. It is the element responsible for vegetative growth – the leafy parts. "P" stands for phosphorus which is good for root growth, disease resistance, seed and fruit growth, and especially for blooming and flowering. "K" is for potassium which helps with increasing root growth, drought resistance, and disease resistance.

There are three main types of fertilizers used for orchids: balanced, high nitrogen and bloom booster. Balanced fertilizers have been traditionally recommended for use with orchids potted in inorganic potting media such as lava rock and Aliflor, and tree fern (which has fallen out of favor due to conservation concerns). Plants mounted on cork bark or other substrates also benefit from using a balanced fertilizer. An example of a balanced fertilizer would be represented by the numbers, 20–20–20. High nitrogen fertilizers have long been recommended for use with orchids potted in fir bark or fir bark mixes. The reason for extra nitrogen is that the bacteria which cause the bark to decay use up much of the available nitrogen, thus depleting the orchid. This practice has recently come into question. Nonetheless, using a high nitrogen fertilizer, especially in spring at the beginning of the growing season, can promote strong vegetative growth under ideal growing conditions. An example of high nitrogen fertilizer would be 30–10–10. Bloom, or blossom booster formulas are high in phosphorus. Typically, high phosphorus fertilizers are applied every other week for 4–6 applications the season before expected bloom. For winter-spring blooming orchids bloom booster is usually applied in the fall. Vandaceous hybrids and other orchids that bloom throughout the year can be given bloom booster every third or fourth feeding. An example of a bloom booster would be 10–30–20. 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 useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.

How fertilizer is applied varies as much as orchids themselves. Typically,


How fertilizer is applied varies as much as orchids themselves. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during spring and summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose to use, most experienced growers use ½ the label-recommended strength. Remember, in nature epiphytic orchids' roots are exposed and the only nutrients they get are bird and animal droppings, decaying insects and detritus. The old saying fertilizing orchids is: feed them weekly weakly. Fertilizer is best applied in the morning on sunny days. For mounted orchids, or orchids with their roots exposed such as vandas in empty baskets, many growers routinely pre-water the plants and then follow with fertilizer a half hour later. The pre-watering prepares the spongy velamen of the orchid roots to better utilize the fertilizer. Orchids in pots are usually not pre-watered but some growers have their own techniques.

There are requirements specific to certain orchids. For instance, do not fertilize nobile dendrobiums after early autumn. This rule actually applies to all orchids that have decided rest periods and all deciduous orchids. Fertilizing them while in their rest period keeps them in continual growth instead of resting before producing flowers. In other words, you may get a lot of growth and no flowers.

There are also many "secret recipes" growers use that supposedly produce stronger plants or more flowers. Certainly vitamins and micro-nutrients are as essential as the building blocks of plant growth mentioned above. Elements such as magnesium, boron, calcium, carbon etc. are required for strong plant growth, but their discussion is beyond this newsletter. All in all, although there are certain practices that are documented as being helpful, it has not been proven that supplements actually contribute to improved growth in orchids...but it probably doesn't hurt to use them!
There is a more detailed explanation about fertilizer here on the MSU website.

http://www.canr.msu.edu/vanburen/e-896.htm

**The AOS Orchid Forum is a great place to find quick answers to your questions. Helpful growers from around the world share their orchids and experience.**

# ORCHID PRONUNCIATION *How do you say . . .*

| | |
|---|---|
| Acacallis | a-ka-KALL-iss |
| Acampe | a-Kam-pe |
| Acineta | a-sin-EE-ta |
| Ada | AY-da |
| Aerangis | ay-er-RANG-giss |
| Aeranthes | ay-er-AN-theez |
| Aerides | AIR-i-deez |
| Aganisia | ag-an-IZ-ee-a |
| Angraecum | an-GRYE-kum |
| Anguloa | an-gyew-LOH-a |
| Ansellia | an-SELL-ee-a |
| Arethusa | a-reh-THEW-za |
| Arpophyllum | ar-poh-FILL-um |
| Arundina | a-run-DEE-na |
| Ascocentrum | ass-koh-SEN-trum |
| Aspasia | a-SPAY-zi-a |
| Batemannia | bayt-MAN-nee-a |
| Bifrenaria | bye-fren-AIR-i-a |
| Bletia | BLEE-shia |
| Bletilla | ble-TILL-a |
| Brassavola | bra-SAH-vo-la |
| Brassia | BRASS-ee-ah |
| Broughtonia | brow-TOH-nee-a |
| Bulbophyllum | bulb-oh-FILL-um |
| Caladenia | kal-a-DEE-nee-a |
| Calanthe | kal-AN-thee |
| Caleana | kal-ee-AN-a |
| Calopogon | kal-o-POH-gon |
| Calypso | ka-LIP-so |
| Catasetum | kat-a-SEE-tum |
| Cattleya | KAT-lee-a |
| Cattleyopsis | kat-lee-op-sis |
| Caularthron | kawl-ar-thron |
| Chondrorhyncha | kon-droh-RINK-a |
| Chysis | KYE-siss |
| Cochleanthes | kok-lee-AN-theez |
| Cochlioda | kok-lee-OH-da |
| Coelia | SEE-li-a |
| Coelogyne | see-LOJ-in-ee |
| Colax | KOH-laks |
| Comparettia | kom-pa-RET-ee-a |
| Corallorrhiza | kor-al-lo-RYE-za |
| Coryanthes | ko-ree-AN-theez |
| Cycnoches | SIK-no-keez |
| Cymbidium | sim-BID-ee-em |
| Cypripedium | sip-ree-PEE-dee-um |
| Cyrtorchis | SIR-tor-kiss |
| Dendrobium | den-DROH-bee-um |
| Dendrochilum | den-droh-KYE-lum |
| Dichaea | dye-KEE-a |
| Dilochia | dye-LOH-kee-a |
| Dipodium | dye-POH-dee-um |
| Disa | DYE-sa |
| Diuris | Dye-YEWR-is |
| Domingoa | do-ming-GOH-a |
| Doritis | doh-RYE-tis |
| Dossinia | doss-IN-ee-a |
| Drakaea | DRAY-kee-a |
| Earina | EER-ee-na |
| Encyclia | en-SEE-clee-ah |
| Epidendrum | eh-pi-DEN-drum |
| Eria | EAR-ee-a |
| Eriopsis | ear-ee-OP-siss |
| Erythrodes | err-i-THROH-deez |
| Euanthe | yew-AN-thee |
| Eulophia | yew-LOH-fee-a |
| Eulophidium | yew-loh-FID-ee-um |
| Eulophiella | yew-loh-fee-EL-a |
| Gastrochilus | gas-tro-KYE-lus |
| Grammatophyllum | gram-mat-o-FILL-um |
| Habenaria | hab-en-AY-ri-a |
| Hexisea | heks-ISS-ea-a |
| Homalopetalum | ho-mal-oh-PET-al-um |
| Houlletia | hoo-LET-ee-a |
| Huntleya | HUNT-lee-a |
| Ionopsis | eye-o-NOP-siss |
| Ipsea | IP-see-a |
| Isabelia | iz-a-BELL-ee-a |

# ORCHID PRONUNCIATION *continued*

| | |
|---|---|
| Isochilus | eye-so-KYE-lus |
| Isotria | eye-SOH-tree-a |
| Jaquiniella | jack-i-nee-ELL-a |
| Jumellea | joo-MELL-ee-a |
| Laelia | LAY-lee-ah or LIE-lee-a |
| Laeliopsis | LAY-li-OP-sis |
| Lankesterella | LANK-es-ter-ELL-a |
| Leochilus | lee-o-KYE-luss |
| Lepanthes | lee-PAN-theez |
| Lepanthopsis | lee-pan-THOP-siss |
| Leptotes | lep-TOH-teez |
| Liparis | LIP-a-riss |
| Listera | LISS-ter-a |
| Lockhartia | lok-HART-ee-a |
| Lycaste | lye-KASS-tee |
| Masdevallia | mas-de-VAL-lee-a |
| Miltonia | mil-TOH-nee-a |
| Nageliella | NAY-gel-i-ELL-a |
| Neofinetia | nee-o-fin-AY-tee-a |
| Neottia | nee-OTT-ee-a |
| Notylia | no-TILL-ee-a |
| Oberonia | o-ber-ROH-nee-a |
| Odontoglossum | o-don-toh-GLOSS-um |
| Oncidium | on-SID-ee-um |
| Paphiopedilum | paff-ee-oh-PEE-di-lum |
| Phalaenopsis | fal-en-OP-sis |
| Pleione | plye-OH-nee |
| Rhynchostylis | rink-oh-STYE-liss |
| Sophronitis | sof-roh-NYE-tiss |
| Spathoglottis | spath-oh-GLOT-tiss |
| Vanda | VAN-da |

# *Orchid Pot*

***Using a Clorox solution as an effective sterilizer for orchid viruses. How long must a tool remain in this solution to become sterilized ?***

***5% Clorox for 5-10 minutes.***

***In repotting a mature orchid plant, should the older pseudobuld called back-bulbs be removed ?***

***If the older pseudobulds have leaves, then keep them. If they have no leaves but are firm, then you can pot them up separately and they usually will send out new growths.***

***Could you elaborate on non-flowering sheaths in cattleys, particularly regarding daylength (what is to long?) and temperature ( what is to high ?)***

***Cattleyas are short-day plants. In general they do not set flower buds when the daylength is kept at more then 18 hours, and night temperature exceeds 70 degrees F.***

***What are  advantages of charcoal as an orchid mix ?***

***Charcoal is used to improve the aeration of potting mix. It is known to absorb some materials supposed to be harmful to orchids. Absorbing moisture and holding it for use by the roots, along with aerating properties, are the main advantages of charcoal.***