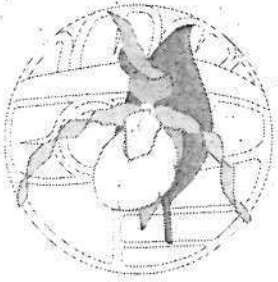


ODONTOGLOSSUM CULTURE



16th
World
Orchid
Conference

April 1999

Vancouver
British Columbia
Canada

MEDIUM: Start using a medium that has shown local success. Examples of media used are, Peat/Perlite50/50, FineRockwool(absorbent)/perlite 80/20 vol., Fine Bark mixes such as 4 Bark/1 coarse sand/1perlite and 1peat.

For Perlite--use ordinary horticultural perlite--dump in a tub of water--use the floating material--1&2 quart Yogurt type pots-- 5" or more in depth, make a reservoir by drilling two 3/8" holes 1" up from base. Use a heavy pea gravel layer on top and **Flush Fertilize Every Time**. Seedlings thrive in 'close association' till ready for 4" pots -- maintain them 5-100 F (3-6C)higher than adult plants --bottom water for 6 weeks.

LIGHT: Diffuse light is best -- e.g. use REMAY-- SL red tinge to leaf is the very maximum! Use your camera as a light meter-- point at leaves or better at a gray card at noon. Set film speed at ASA 100 -- and exposure at f8 -- optimal light = reading of 1/125 sec. Seedlings receive only 1/2 light for first 3 months

TEMPERATURE: Ideal 52F(12C) min. 70F(20C) max. -- tolerate 40F - 90F for adult plants -- Seedlings min. 55F.

WATER: Rain water or soft water is best - at least to flush--

They need water all the time -- always growing

METERS: E.C.-TDS Testr 3 and pH - pH Testr 2(TM) with ATC--From Cole Parmer Co, 1425 North Oak Park, Niles Ill. 60714 or locally.

FERTILIZER: Based on soft water, use Dyna Gro 7-9-5- 1/3 tsp. /gal, or Plantex 7-11-27 or Peters 6-10-26- (3 parts) & Calcium Nitrate(2 parts) by weight. diluted to give an E.C. of 600 micro Seimens(uS) (Micro mhos)(max. total 800uS). pH range of 5.7-6.4. Small quantities-- use 1/2 tsp. 7-11-27 and 1/3 tsp. calcium nitrate in 2 gal.-use immediately. Keep seedlings at an E.C. of 300 uS for 3 months.

REPOTTING: handle plant every 6 months..repot every 1- 2 years (perlite 2-3 years). Sear all cuts using the broad blade of the cutters that has been flamed with a Propane gun,

Bernzomatic Model TS 7000MT is a good one. Use a plastic base for propane canister and turn off after use.

STAKING: Sterilize stakes between use, bleach or peroxide- stake early and loosely - No 9 Green Plastic Wire

PESTS: Red spider and Aphids are troublesome --1% liquid soap solution is helpful but must be repeated. Otherwise use Kelthane 2 tsp./gal for the spiders and Cygon 2E 2tsp./gal. for the aphids and weevils. The flower buds may be sprayed with the Cygon without damage-. Kelthane and Cygon should both be considered toxic and used with care.

DISPLAY: If the bulb shrivels seriously when in bloom, cut off stem, remove flowers and float them in shallow water--they will keep for 2 weeks or to keep flowers for later corsage making, put them in a plastic bag, inflate and seal with a twistem-- put in the refrigerator--pristine for 7-10 days.

Wally and Barb Thomas

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