

The Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

PO Box 3334 Batehaven NSW 2536

President: Garry Callaghan 44711848

Secretary: Ron Boyd 44721934

Treasurer: Margaret Turner 44725771

Editor, Newsletter: Ron Boyd



Next Club Meeting Monday 4th MARCH 2013

Hi Members,

Welcome to our March newsletter.

Guest speaker for March meeting will be Scott Barrie of Baritta Orchids.

We all remember the wonderful talk Scott gave at our workshop last March 2012, now Scott is coming back to give a talk for those who missed out and a refresher talk to those who went.

Scott will be giving a talk on how he grows his Sarcophilus and Oncidiums commercially.

Plants will be available at this meeting; Red Sarc and other combinations of colours including his famous Sarc Kulnura Dragonfly.

Grow Comp plant Tolumnia flowered



June Dawes has flowered her grow comp plant Tolumnia, so that competition is now finished.

Membership fees are now due

Please see our Treasurer Margaret for payments: \$12 single & \$17 family. Those who joined the club after 1st July 2012 do not have to pay as they are covered until January 1st 2014.

Those members who have a **RED DOT** on the top of their newsletter are now non-financial and this (March) will be their last newsletter until membership is renewed. If you feel you have been **RED dotted** unfairly and have paid, please contact me or Margaret.

BBQ at Brian & Judy Perkins' home on Sunday 17th February went very well, a nice group of members descended on Brian's place to discover how well he grows his orchids. First up we could not find a thing wrong with his Dendrobium speciosums, so we all headed to his greenhouse. No disasters there either! Nice to see several big pots of Paphiopedilum insigne growing well with big green healthy leaves. Saw several big pots of Stanhopeas with big flower spikes poking through the bottom of the pot nearly open, all well grown.

So we all retired to his front lawn looking out over the bay to discuss what he was doing growing his orchids so well. Soon the BBQ was calling and we headed up to enjoy a great BBQ topped off with apple pie and ice cream.

What a great and friendly day, thanks to Brian & Judy.



Plant of the Night Open Section

Equal winners Rob & Sue Fish with DTSPS Shiu Dong 'Beauty Queen' and Phil & Jill Bailey with Cattleya unknown and Phal unknown.

.....
Eurobodalla Orchid Club 2013 Workshop
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th March at the Narooma Golf Club, Narooma.

This is a great opportunity to learn from two very professional growers, and buy some new plants for your collection. For further info contact Club Secretary Diane Hay on 44739547

John & Judy Baldock are now selling off their show quality orchids as they are moving. The collection includes Cymbidiums, Oncidiums, Sarc, Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Masdevalias, Paphs, Aust Natives and Speciosums (Including the one that won Grand Champion at Bega 2012). All orchids are show quality; please ring Judy or John on 44727913 or at 44 Vista Av. Catalina NSW

What's up in the 'Greenhouse'

Summer has certainly hit early with the hot sunny days now upon us.

In the Cymbidium shade house, keep up your water and fertilizer program as the next few months are so important to get the bulbs up to the size of a small apple, hopefully then it will produce a large well grown flower spike, maybe Grand-Champion of the show.

Keep a good look out for newly emerging flower spikes. If upright growers, start training them early so as to produce a nice upright spike and a good show of flowers.

One good tip in training upright growing spikes, water well the day before and go out on a warm sunny day when the spikes are supple, best around 1 to 2pm, slowly straighten about 1/2 inch at a time if growing at an angle, do this every day and in about 4 days or so it should be growing upright.

I use a plastic coated tie wire tied around the growth and back onto the stake I use for tying the flower spike onto.

Humor

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70!!! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

What Do Fertilizer Components Do? PART 4

Copper (Cu) is concentrated in roots of plants and plays a part in nitrogen metabolism. It is a component of several enzymes and may be part of the enzyme systems that use carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiencies can result in the die back of the tips of new growths.

Molybdenum (Mo) is a structural component of the enzyme that reduces nitrates to ammonia. Without it, the synthesis of proteins is blocked and plant growth ceases. Seeds may not form completely, and nitrogen deficiency may occur if plants are lacking molybdenum. Symptoms may include pale green leaves with rolled or cupped margins.

Chlorine (Cl) is involved in osmosis, the ionic balance necessary for plants to take up mineral elements and in photosynthesis. Deficiency symptoms include wilting, stubby roots, chlorosis (yellowing) and bronzing. Flower scent may be decreased.

Nickel (Ni) is required for iron absorption. Plants grown without additional nickel will gradually reach a deficient level at about the time they mature and begin reproductive growth. If nickel is deficient, plants may fail to produce viable seeds.

Sodium (Na) is involved in osmotic (water movement) and ionic balance in plants (much as it is in people).

Cobalt (Co) is required for nitrogen fixation, so a deficiency could result in nitrogen deficiency symptoms.

Silicon (Si) is found as a component of cell walls. Plants with supplies of soluble silicon produce stronger, tougher cell walls making them more heat and drought tolerant. There is also some evidence that silicon plays a role in the prevention of fungal infections in the case of tissue damage.

How Much Fertilizer should be Used?

Like pretty much all other factors of orchids growing, there's no set answer, and "it depends."

As a general rule, fast growers in bright conditions require more food than do slow growers in heavy shade. Similarly, those trends can apply to your specific lighting conditions. A grower in NSW has more light flux than they do in Tasmania, and we have more than someone in Victoria, so the food requirements increase as you move north. That analogy may be applied elsewhere as well, for example to HPS versus fluorescent lighting.

While that may suggest general trends, it doesn't provide the quantitative answer we need. Many professional growers base their nutrient concentrations on the amount of nitrogen provided to the plants, with 100 to 250 ppm N being common. Most shoot for roughly 100-150 ppm N, and feed at that rate at every watering. We settled in on that level because of our varied collection - Vandas may like more and Phrags less, but we're way too busy to cater to the individual, so came up with an average. Others find that increasing the concentration is beneficial, but irrigate with fresh water periodically to flush residual minerals from the medium..

.....

“For all of our members not feeling well, we hope you get well quickly and see you back at our meeting soon.”



The cultural information offered in this newsletter is intended as a guide only. Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Soc. Inc. cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to plants as a result of using this information.