

Orchid Tips Are Back – With Scot Mitamura!



We're excited to welcome back Scot Mitamura as a regular contributor to our monthly newsletter! After a brief break, Scot is returning to share his expert orchid tips with us once again. Many of you may remember his informative and engaging presentations at our general meetings. Now, you can look forward to his insights right here each month. Don't miss out on this valuable resource for growing and caring for your orchids!

Scot Mitamura's September Orchid Tips

Long hot summer days are here. In fact August and September are our warmest months. I hope we are taking advantage of this by keeping our orchids and ourselves well hydrated and fertilized.

Whenever we have warm dry weather, insects become problematic. Flower Thrips (see photos), Spider Mites, and Scales, seem to be the most common. To help control them, increase watering (including under their leaves) and practice good sanitation. Remove all infected plant parts, pick up dried flowers and leaves off the ground, these are the main causes of re-infection. Spraying of insecticide is just one part of the control equation. The Bayer Bioadvance (3 n 1) is a good all around insecticide, miticide, and fungicide. This should help control most of your orchid ailments. Controlling ants are another problem because they will feed on the sugars produced by the orchid, and they often introduce insects pests with them. Almost all of the time the problem is that the orchid needs re-potting. As your media gets old ants will form nests in the air pockets of old decaying media. Just another reason to re-pot often.



In summary, keep a watchful eye out for insect problems in the summer. Fungal and bacterial problems normally occur in the winter months. Water your orchids well, keep things tidy, and continue re-potting, and you too will be successful in your orchid hobby!

Aloha,
Scot

