



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

March 2022

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Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

It is good to see that the number of positive tests for COVID-19 have been decreasing. No word on the use of public schools for any outside activities being held on campus yet. We look forward to being able to meet safely and confidently in the months to come.

Our KOS Board of Directors have approved an Orchid and Plant Sales to take place at Dot's parking lot in Wahiawa on Saturday, May 7, the day before Mother's Day. The purpose is to raise money to meet our educational and insurance expenses for this year and the next. The plan is to sell the orchid plants donated by Henry & Penny Hattal that we have been growing. Adding to the list of items for sale, would be orchid plants and any other plants that our members would be willing to donate. Please look through your orchid and backyard plant collection now for possible items that you can contribute for this event. Whatever plants that are donated and are not sold, we would like to return them to the donor. There are also orchid items that we had prepared for sale at our last show that we could also offer for sale. Once we know the amount of space we will have, we might be able to consider having possible member vendor participation. Vendors that might be interested, anyone willing to be part of the planning committee or can help with this event please contact me.

We regret to announce the passing of our oldest KOS member, Mercedes Rabago. She passed away on February 4, at the age of 101 years old. She had the designated honor of being a "Lifetime Member" in recognition of her many years of activity and service to the Kunia Orchid Society. Mercedes was an exemplary vendor at our annual show, selling plants that she had grown. We will certainly miss her.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at 7:00 pm. I love Vandas and I love hearing Leland Nakai share his secrets about growing incredible Vandas.

Aloha,
Ken Ching

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
March 1, at 7:00 pm**



Vandas - Their history, botany & culture.

Leland Nakai is a "Townie" who grew up in Makiki but now resides in Mililani with his wife Diane. After extensive schooling, Leland served a career on active duty with the U.S. Army as a Chemical Officer, retiring as a Colonel. His second career was with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management as the Hazardous Materials Officer. Since 2008, Leland has been enjoying the good life of retirement. He joined the Kunia Orchid Society and has developed a reputation for his incredibly healthy and spectacular specimen vandas. He now focuses on *Vanda falcata* and will share his vanda culture practices at Kunia's March 1, 2022, zoom meeting. Be sure to join us!



KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE



Onc. Ampillatum
Aileen & Ken Ching



C. lueddemaniana
Bill & Hilda Takamatsu



Aliceara Stella 'Hoku'- Dale and Paul Mahi



Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ford Cascade'
Dale and Paul Mahi



Blc. Golden Tang by Phyllis Shetler



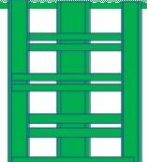
Bc Mt. Hood Orchidglade
by JocelynMokulehua



Asctn. Mimiatumby LelandNakai



Kunia Orchid Society Member's Corner



Leland Nakai

Leland's contributions:

- KOS Secretary
- Education committee
- Vanda Presentations



Vanda Tokyo Blue
'Sapphire'
AM HOS
80.6 points
HOS Show 2013
11 Flowers, 2 Buds on 1
inflorescence



Vanda Albert
Roguenant
'Diane'
HCC AOS
77 points
Ewa Show 2017
9 Flowers on
1 inflorescence



Amanogawa



Yellow



Koganeshiki



Shutennou x Koto



Yodo no matsu



V. Twinkle

Bud Blast

By Susan Jones



It can be heartbreaking to watch helplessly as long-awaited orchid buds brown, die and drop instead of becoming those much-anticipated flowers. Bud blast, when buds wither and fall from an otherwise healthy plant, may occur through any of a number of causes. Buds are the most sensitive part of an orchid, and are easily affected by unsuitable conditions in the growing environment. Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums seem particularly susceptible to this problem. The most frequent reasons for this are as follows. Orchid flowers can abort for a variety of reasons, but the end result is always the same.

Fortunately, precautions can be taken.

Water

Under- or overwatering is a common cause of bud blast. If a plant becomes too dry, it may withdraw moisture from buds as a survival mechanism. Overwatering can damage the orchid's root system, with the end result being a lack of water to the plant. As with underwatering, when the plant is unable to absorb sufficient quantities of water, it will withdraw water from the buds, bringing about their demise. Budding Cattleyas are particularly sensitive to overwatering, which can cause buds to blacken and die while still in their sheath. Water that is allowed to sit on buds or in bud sheaths provides the perfect environment for fungi and bacterial growth, generating rots that will blast buds. Watering with cold water can shock a plant, causing bud drop.

Temperature

Temperature extremes or rapid temperature changes are often a culprit in bud blast. If a budding orchid receives drafts from a window, an air conditioning or heating vent, or even a rush of air from a hot oven, it may drop buds. Similarly, buds may blast when exposed to temperature fluctuations that occur when taking a plant in from the car or outside during hot or cold weather, bringing plants back into a heated house after a summer outdoors, or temperature extremes caused by running heating or air conditioning for only part of the day.

Atmosphere

Orchid buds are sensitive to fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals. Once pollinated, flowers generate methane gas, causing them to collapse and saving energy for seed production. Methane or ethylene gas from other sources may also trigger bud or flower collapse. Ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit; gas leaks; inefficient burning of gas stoves or heaters; engine exhaust; cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke; open fires; smog or air pollution can also cause bud blast and age and distort open flowers.

Light

If lighting available to its developing buds is inadequate, an orchid won't flower properly. Low lighting can cause buds to abort. Too much lighting may also cause trouble; direct sunlight on developing buds can overheat and desiccate them, leading to bud blast.

Chemical Damage

Fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide applied at dosages above a plant's tolerance or in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer's instructions may damage buds, causing them to drop.

Humidity

Developing buds need high humidity. If their environment is too dry, or the ambient humidity fluctuates a great deal, buds may be adversely affected and drop.

Insects

Aphids and thrips can cause bud blast. These insects feed on flowers and flower buds, sucking the plant juices. The buds of infested plants fail to develop properly, dropping from the plant or opening to damaged and disfigured flowers. Thrips can be controlled using Diazinon or Malathion. Aphid control often involves not only eliminating the aphids themselves, but also the ants that farm them. Insecticidal sprays and sugar-based ant baits are recommended. For a few aphids, dab with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. Other means of control include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils (Neem or Sunspray), growth regulators and chitin inhibitors (Enstar II), Pyrethrum-based insecticidal sprays, stronger insecticides (Malathion), and systemic insecticides (Orthene, Shield).

Repeat any treatment method twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test new controls on a small population of plants before widespread use. When using insecticides, check labels to be certain the insecticide works against the particular pest and that it is approved for use on orchids. Always use any chemical in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Genetics

Occasionally, even under perfect cultural conditions, an orchid will continually abort buds. There may be a genetic mutation responsible for its inability to produce viable blooms, in which case the plant should be discarded.

References

[Bud Blast. 2002. Helpfuls and Tips.](#)

Hamon, Avas B., PhD. 2002. Orchid Pests. In: Orchid Pests and Diseases. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach.

judywhite. 1996. Taylor's Guide to Orchids. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York.

White, Phillip Z. Questions from Users Answered, Orchid Pages.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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**KOS General Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:00pm**

**Click [HERE](#) to join meeting
Meeting ID: 845 8320 1130
Passcode: No passcode needed**

If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Adam a message at 808-295-4842 or email him at adam.almeida@gmail.com.



The time has come to renew your 2022 Kunia Orchid Society membership. Last year, your membership dues and donations helped fund our KOS monthly meetings, newsletters and other KOS expenses. With the challenges and restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we still plan to provide continued orchid education opportunities for our members and the general public for the coming year. As soon as permitted, we would like to resume our past fund raising efforts, such as our annual orchid show and other fund raiser opportunities to meet our future association expenses. Until then we appreciate your kokua by completing the membership renewal form found at the end of this newsletter and sending it back with your check. Please encourage any of our past members to join us once again.

Mahalo,
Kunia Orchid Society Board of Directors



Kunia Orchid Society – 2022 Membership Application

\$20 New/Renewing Membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Tax Deductible Donation, if any:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Complete and mail to: _____ \$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Please make Check Payable to: Kunia Orchid Society Your Cancelled Check will be your receipt
Mail to P.O. Box 893956, Mililani, HI 96789

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____