



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2022

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Edited by Denise Stewart

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

Thanks to our Education Committee, the Kunia Orchid Society has been able to provide continuous, and interesting orchid presentations during the pandemic. Due to concerns for our members well-being, we have delayed in-person meetings, but have been able to stay in touch and continue our orchid education via Zoom Video Conference.

For those who have not joined our general meetings via Zoom, you have missed out on a lot of great information. Our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for September 6, at 7:00 pm. There is always a link in our newsletter to click on to join the meetings. I hope to see you on Zoom! I always look forward to the lucky number giveaways at the conclusion of each evening.

The First Oahu Orchid Show in Years

The Kunia Orchid Society has been invited to participate in the first orchid show on Oahu in years. It is the Honolulu Orchid Society Show, scheduled for October 7 & 8, 2022 at Washington Middle School. Your Board of Directors have approved our participation in the show and have chosen to create a floor display.

For us to setup a successful display with such short notice, we will need all the help that we can get from our members and friends. We are in the process of calling on our past Show Display Committee members to come together. We need blooming plants for our display, so members please prepare any of your near blooming plants for this event. You can prepare your plants by guarding them against snails, slugs, insects, birds and staking your plant inflorescences. I will be the contact person for this event so let me know if you have plants for the display, can help us with display ideas, and/or set up on Thursday, October 6, at 10:00 am or take down on Saturday, October 8, at 4:00 pm.

I have been so busy with work that I have not been caring for my orchid plants too well. This is a wakeup call for me, and maybe for you, to pay more attention to our orchid plant collection by applying more care and better orchid fundamentals.

For an enjoyable and an ever-improving Kunia Orchid Society, your help and support in all facets of our society activities and events are greatly appreciated.

Mahalo,
Ken Ching

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
September 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm**



“Cattleya bicolor, A Variable and Valuable Species”

Karen Kimmerle has been growing orchids for over 40 years, first as a hobbyist and now as a commercial grower. Love of orchids has led Karen and husband Dale to own and operate Island Sun Orchids, a potted orchid nursery that specializes in quality and variety. Located at 150 feet elevation on the eastern point of the Big Island, the climate is particularly good for growing and flowering a broad variety of orchids. Karen is an accredited AOS judge and has researched certain species for the judging program's continuing education requirement. She will present portions of her research in this introduction to *Cattleya bicolor* and will also provide casual commentary for awards and photos from the Hilo Orchid Society's July show.

HONOLULU ORCHID SOCIETY - 2022 ORCHID SHOW, October 7-8, ANNOUNCEMENT/INVITATION

Honolulu Orchid Society is pleased to announce the 2022 HOS Orchid Show at Washington Middle School on October 7 and 8, 2022.

Show Theme: “Return of the Orchids”

We are inviting all of the orchid societies and clubs on Oahu to participate at the show with a floor or table display. Any of your members are invited to submit an individual 16”x16” orchid display. Please respond to this invitation by email. Deadline is 9/9/2022.

Invited – Oahu Orchid groups and members:

Aiea Orchid Club

Ewa Orchid Society

Hawaii Kai Orchid Society

Hui Okika O Kunia

Kaimuki Orchid Society

La Hui Okika

Orchid Society of Manoa

Mililani Orchid Club

Windward Orchd Society

Note that the Show is only **two full days** Friday and Saturday. Breakdown and cleanup at 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Deadline for responses for Orchid clubs to participate or individuals to apply for display space is September 9, 2022. Note: Individual displays may have any theme.

Honolulu Orchid Society Orchid Show – General Information

Show Theme: Return of the Orchids

Show Schedule: October 7, 2022, Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
October 8, 2022, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Set-Up Schedule: October 6, 2022, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Set Up Displays

Admission: FREE

Displays: Exhibits must contain a sufficient number of flowering orchid plants.

Displays must remain intact and undisturbed until the show officially closes on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

Plant Registration: October 6, 2022, Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Damage or Loss of Plants, Flowers, and Materials: The Honolulu Orchid Society, Inc. is not responsible for the loss or damage of any plant, flower or other properties of the exhibitors, however every precaution will be exercised for their safekeeping.

Show Awards & Trophies:

1. Best in Show (Florence Kodama Memorial Trophy)
2. Best Cattleya in Show (Richard Takafuji Memorial Trophy)
3. Best of White Cattleyas (Francis & Blanche Aisaka Memorial Trophy)
4. Best Vanda in Show (Dr. Yoneo Sagawa Memorial Trophy)
5. Best Dendrobium in Show (Takami Kodama Memorial Trophy)
6. Best of Phalaenopsis (including Doritis and its hybrids)
7. Best of Single-Flowered Slipper Orchids (Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, etc.) (Ruth Chun Trophy)
8. Best of Multi-Floral Slipper Orchids (Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, etc.)
9. Best of Oncidiums
10. Best of Bulbophyllum (Kate Leonard & Ian Sandison Trophy)
11. Best of Other Genera (Dave Bealer Memorial Trophy)
12. Best Miniature in Show
13. Best Species (Dr. Stephen Saul Memorial Trophy)
14. Best Flowering Specimen Plant (Dorothy T. Oka Memorial Trophy)

Miniature: To qualify as a Miniature, the natural height of a plant growth from the base to the top of the plant must not exceed 7" and the natural length of a leaf must not exceed 7".

Fertilizer Burn

By Susan Jones

The saying "If some is good, more is better" is not necessarily a beneficial approach to fertilizing orchids. Plants will only absorb the amount of mineral nutrients they need, which is determined in part by the amount of light they receive, the temperatures they are grown in and the quantity of water available. Just as with people, too much food can cause serious health problems in orchids — excess mineral salts can build up, which they cannot tolerate. It is a gradual problem, affecting orchids that have been consistently overfertilized or have gone too long without repotting, allowing mineral salts to accumulate and concentrate over time.

Fertilizing



If you grow a mixed collection, one in which a variety of genera are represented, the fertilizing needs of your plants may vary considerably. The general rule of thumb — applying a balanced fertilizer weekly, weakly — is a good starting point.

Too much or too strong fertilizer can burn orchid leaves and roots. Many growers recommend that plants be watered with plain water, then watered a second time with a fertilizer solution. This ensures that the medium is thoroughly wet before fertilizer is applied. Some mixes, especially those containing pine bark, can be difficult to wet through, and so should be prewatered with plain water and left to sit a few minutes until the medium is completely damp. This helps reduce salt buildup and the possibility of root burn.

Most vandaceous orchids do best with copious amounts of fertilizer, and during growth may benefit from dilute applications of fertilizer as often as twice a week. Pleurothallids, on the other hand, do not require nearly the same quantity of nutrients, and may be better off with a biweekly schedule. In addition, any orchid will require more nutrients during periods of active growth, less during periods of slower growth and possibly none during dormancy.

Fertilizer can be applied weekly to biweekly at half or even a quarter of the strength recommended by its manufacturer. When in doubt, start with a more dilute solution and observe the results on your plants. Should the beginning quantity prove insufficient, the amount of fertilizer may be adjusted upward with fewer repercussions than burning the plant through over-fertilization.

There are many high-quality fertilizers available, but be sure the one you choose for your orchids is labeled specifically for their use, rather than an all-purpose garden or houseplant fertilizer. It should also include a balance of the three main elements: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) (the percentage of each element usually appears on the label in numeric form, such as "7-7-7"; the remaining percentage is composed of inert ingredients), and ideally micronutrients as well.

Water quality

Water quality is important, and contributes to the overall health of plants. Rainwater, melted snow, deionized water or reverse-osmosis (RO) water with a bit of tap water added are all low in dissolved mineral salts and considered safe for watering orchids. Chlorine damages orchids, but chlorinated tap water may still be used. Fill a container with the water for the plants and allow it to sit open overnight before watering. This allows the chlorine to dissipate. Well water and softened water are more tricky.

Well water may have a high mineral content and softened water has sodium added, both of which can damage orchid roots. They may be treated with a reverse-osmosis system to filter out harmful salts.

Salt buildup

Starting with water of excellent quality is important, but salts from added fertilizers may still accumulate over a period of time. Salt buildup looks like whitish to brownish crusts on the medium and around the pot, or on the surface of the mounting substrate on mounted orchids, and can be a sign of over-fertilizing. If allowed to remain, those salts will negatively impact the health of your plant. Fertilizer salts burn and kill orchids, especially in more sensitive genera like paphiopedilums, phragmipediums, pleurothallids and bulbophyllums.

Fertilizer burn symptoms

Lack of root growth may indicate an unhealthy concentration of mineral salts in the medium, on up to full fertilizer burn. If this is suspected, decant the plant and check its roots. Dead root tips, brown roots or salt crust on the potting medium surface are signs of trouble. In later stages, brown leaf tips may appear, indicating burned roots. Leaves, and eventually pseudobulbs on sympodial orchids, can become yellow. If allowed to continue, fertilizer burn will eventually kill the plant.



Prevention

When beginning a fertilization regime, it is safer to err on the side of a weaker solution for several months until it is determined how much fertilizer the plant needs and can use. Starting out slowly reduces the risk of damaging tender young roots, especially on seedlings or more sensitive plants, with too strong a concentration of fertilizer.

Larger applications of fertilizer can increase plant growth in heavy feeders such as vandas, but when this is done plenty of water should be available to the plant at all times. The concentration of fertilizer salts increases as the amount of water decreases, which can damage the roots if they are allowed to dry too much.

Plants that require a dry winter rest period should not be fertilized for a few weeks before that rest period is initiated. Otherwise, roots may burn when fertilizer salts remaining in the pot and mix concentrate as water is cut back.

Dry or sunburned plants are most susceptible to fertilizer burn. Fertilizer salts are hard on dehydrated plants, as they are not able to absorb fertilizers properly. Use a dilute solution (one quarter of the recommended strength), water well between feedings, and check regularly for salt buildup on your pots and potting medium as your plant recovers.

Flushing media and root zones with plain, fresh water at least once a month will dissolve and remove mineral salts that can otherwise build up in the pot and media and harm plants. Mounted plants need regular leeching as well, and should have their mounts and roots flushed regularly. Some growers incorporate this into their care regime, fertilizing orchids at every other watering so that the media is automatically flushed clean in between.

Treatment

If the damage is done and an orchid injured through overfertilizing, the road to recovery starts with decanting the orchid, removing all of the old medium and thoroughly flushing the roots with plain water to remove accumulated salts. Next, repot the orchid using fresh clean medium and a new pot. Keep the plant shaded and shield it from temperature extremes as you would any recently repotted plant, watering regularly and reintroducing a dilute fertilizer once the plant begins to establish. Soft-leaved orchids are especially susceptible to leaf burn.

References

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

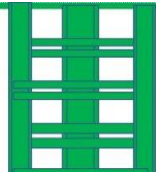
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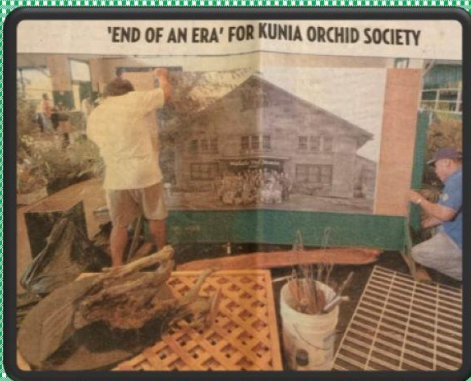
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Kunia Orchid Society Member's Corner



Arnulfo & Annie Patoc



Arnulfo Patoc & Ernie Labouen prepare the entrance for the final show at the Kunia Gym. A photo of the members are at the gym entrance.

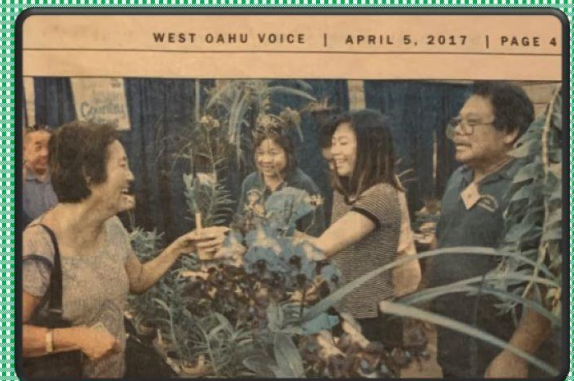
Photographer Bruce Asato
Honolulu Advertiser 3/9/2007



Patoc Family

Arnulfo, Annie, Arden, Aileen

Kunia Show Vendors



Kunia Show March 26, 2017
at Leilehua High School

Shirley Kawakami buying Epi Wedding Valley 'Sakura' from Aileen and Arnulfo Patoc.

Photo by Lawrence Tabudlo
Midweek, April 5, 2017.

KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE



Ctna. Why Not
Blc. Hilda Takamatsu

Bill Takamatsu



Vkt. Nalo Bouquet 'Puanani'
Epc. Plicaboa



KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE

Ken & Aileen
Ching



Cym. Summer Love 'Hawaiian Paradise'



Den. Sutiknoi



Eria Ornata

KOS SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

7:00 PM

Meeting ID: 845 8320 1130

Click link to join meeting: [KOS General Meeting](#)

If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Denise a message at 818-679-2369.

Kunia Orchid Society – 2022 Membership Application

\$20 New 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: _____