

Greater Akron Orchid Society

18th Annual Spring Orchid Show



Donzell's Flower and Garden Center

937 E. Waterloo Road, Akron, Ohio, 44306

Saturday: March 2nd 2019: 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday: March 3rd 2019: 11 am – 4 pm

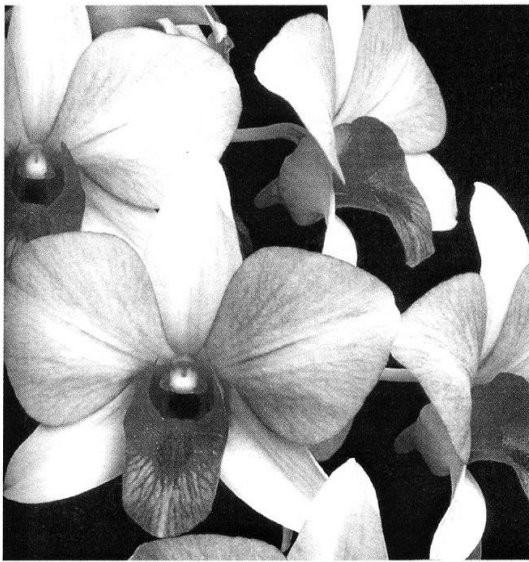
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ABOUT ORCHIDS

About 30,000 or so species of Orchids make up an exceedingly diverse family. In addition to the species found in nature, man has created over 100,000 hybrids in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and growth habits. Orchids may generally be classified as either epiphytes (“air plants”), that is, those that grow on the branches or trunks of trees and receive nutrients from organic matter washed over the roots by rainfall, or terrestrials, which grow with their roots in the soil. Of the two, the epiphytes are the more common. Most epiphytes are grown by hobbyists in plastic or clay pots filled with fir bark mixtures, although many types will do very well when mounted on slabs of cork or other suitable supports.

Those new to orchid growing are often daunted by the reputation that the plants are finicky and difficult to grow. While it is true that some varieties are demanding of specific environmental conditions, many types will grow quite well under conditions suitable for African violets. *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilums*, in particular, are well-suited to artificial light culture, as are certain varieties of the “mini-Cattleyas”. A sunny windowsill will suffice nicely for those requiring moderate light levels. Some types, however, require very high light levels and are not generally suitable for in-home culture, but will do well for those lucky enough to have a greenhouse. Many indoor growers move their plants outside for the summer to take advantage of the buoyant air and light levels that only sunshine can adequately provide.

Orchids do require humid air to thrive, but 40-60% relative humidity is generally sufficient, so you need not turn your home into a steaming jungle. Setting plants over – not in – gravel-filled trays holding excess water or misting the plants with a sprayer can help to offset low humidity. And because epiphytes are air plants, good air circulation is essential to plant health. A small fan in the growing area will provide sufficient air movement to keep your plants happy.

Just as different families of orchids differ in light requirements, the proper temperature range is crucial to blooming. Broadly speaking, orchids are classified as either cool, intermediate, or warm growers, depending upon the heritage of the plant. A species found natively in the hot jungles of the Amazon River basin will naturally prefer a warmer climate than one at home in the high altitudes of the Andes mountains. By crossing species from different climates, however, hybrids are created which are less demanding of specific environmental conditions than are the parent plants. This “hybrid vigor” makes hybrids – rather than species – generally better choices for the beginner. There are a few species, however, which are exceptionally forgiving and make excellent beginner’s plants.

The growers at our show can give you more information about the cultural requirements of those plants which strike your fancy.

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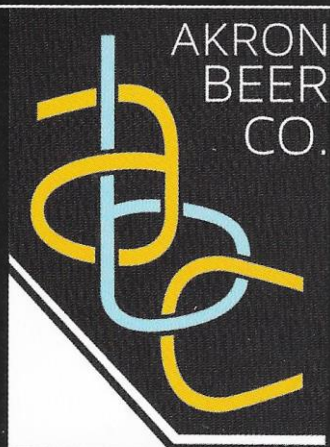
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Greater Akron Orchid Society



2019 GAOS Program Calendar

- Jan 14 Round Robin on Orchid Care (3 small group presentations)
- Feb 11 "Preparing Plants for Show" &
"Miniatures" with Edgar Stehli
- Mar 11 Get Acquainted with New Members &
"Orchids 101"
- Apr 8 Repot Your Orchid &
Mounting an Orchid
- May 13 "Orchids of Peru" with *Leon Glicenstein*
- Jun 10 Summer Picnic
1st Member Plant Auction
- Jul 8 "How We Grow Our Orchids" with Dave Miller
- Aug 12 Game Night: "Orchid Jeopardy"
- Sep 9 2nd Member Plant Auction
"Orchid Diseases, Part 1" with Jane Bush
- Oct 14 "Orchid Diseases, Part 2" with Jane Bush
- Nov 11 Holiday banquet / Elections
- Dec 9 no meeting

Greater Akron Orchid Society

Membership Application

To become a GAOS member, complete the following form and present it or mail it to the treasurer with your dues.

Dues are \$20 for a single member and
\$30 for a family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

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Basic Orchid Culture

Knowing which orchid you are trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well.

Light

Without enough light, orchids may produce lush looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have evolved as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

How much light is enough? The answer to this seemingly simple question is "as much as they will take without burning." Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

Air

Orchids roots will die if they do not get air and this is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, orchids do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. You should provide gentle air movement. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on its lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed AWAY from the plants.

Water

Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components; quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. Humidity, air movement, potting medium and light levels all play a role. When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate.

Fertilizer

Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of feeding. Typically plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you chose to use, most experienced growers use no more than ½ the label-recommended strength. Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.

Summering Orchids Outside

By Darlene Thompson

Whether you are a windowsill or greenhouse grower, the summer presents a great opportunity to let your orchids enjoy the natural light, air movement, and humidity.

Before taking your plants outside, you should monitor the temperature, you want to make sure the minimum night temperatures outside do not go below the suggested temperatures for your orchids. If you have a variety of orchids, they may not be able to all go outside at once. A good rule of thumb is to not put out your warm growers, like phalaenopsis, until you can plant tomatoes, which is between 50°F and 55°F.

Just as you do anywhere else, you want to make sure your growing area has the right balance of shade and sun. Some outside growers have shade houses for their orchids. For the rest of us, we have to find an alternate way of providing our plants with the right amount of shade. Placing orchids under a shade tree or hanging the orchids from the tree is a great option. Last year, I covered a wire shelving rack with a sheer curtain to protect my orchids from the direct sunlight on my balcony. Be creative and resourceful when finding a safe summer home for your orchids. Avoid placing them directly on the ground as this is an open invitation for creepy critters to invade your pots.

The higher summer temperatures mean more watering. Thankfully, rainfall will help you out a little here. While your orchids will love the occasional shower of fresh, clean rain water, Mother Nature can also over water. When there is heavy rainfall, orchids can become waterlogged, especially if you have potted plants. Waterlogged pots increase the probability for roots and new growth to rot. This is especially true when the rain is accompanied by a cool front. To protect orchids, you can simply place something made of water proof material over your plants when the rains are heavy. This could be a piece of fiberglass or a small tarp. If you have saucers under your pots, empty them after each rainfall or you risk rotting the roots.

Some heat loving plants appreciate the higher summer temperatures. However, those that tend to grow in cool conditions will not. To give my cooler-growing Colmanara some heat relief, a friendly local grower suggested that I place it inside a large clay pot. I then put the clay pot in a saucer of water. The clay pot wicks up the water from the saucer to help keep the Colmanara cooler on warm days. If you do this, be sure to put stones or packing peanuts between the clay pot and the plastic pot. I found this technique very helpful and plan to repeat it this summer.

Finally, you want to watch out for pests. Make sure you are checking your plants and your growing area ever so often for pests. This includes checking under pots where snails like to hide. Remember the best defense against pests is a healthy plant. Pests target stressed plants, so monitor the condition of your plants. Make sure they are getting the right amount of water, fertilizer, light, and shade.

In addition to these suggestions, be sure to talk to other society members to get additional advice and more specifics about summering your orchids outside in northeast Ohio. Your orchids will love you for it.

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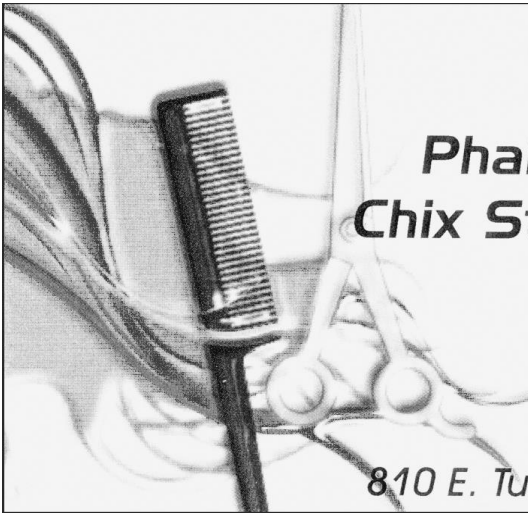
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