



ORCHID NEWS

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VENUE: Next Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, 26th January and then on the 23rd February 2009 @ Ermington Community Hall, River Road, Ermington, NSW 2115.

Guest Speaker: Sam & Peter from The Orchid Trays Company.
Theme: "What's New.....and How to use it!"

What's Coming Up in 2009?

23rd February: South Coast Organic Fertilisers....Terry Simpson will talk vermiculture 'Giving nature a helping hand' (or Worm farming)

Judges' Roster - January 2009.

Panel 1	K Siew, D Brooks, T Beehag, D Burns
Panel 2	G Hart, W Chapman, M Karayannis, T Yee
Panel 3	L Bromley, A Cushway, C Polis, S Yuen
Reserve	J Fulcher, K Koutsoukis, P Stubbs, H Choo

Please Note:

There will be no Orchid News in February as some of the key members of OSNSW committee will be away trekking South America, on the 'orchid trail'. However, a double issue of point scores and minutes will be published in March. Also, the Judges' roster for February has been set out below.

Judges' Roster - February 2009.

Panel 1	P Anderson, A Midgley, A Cushway, C Scott-Harden
Panel 2	K Koutsoukis, J Keenan, B Long, P Stubbs
Panel 3	P Miszalski, B Richens, G Hart, N Roper
Reserve	W Chapman, K Siew, M Aldridge, S Yuen, G Scott-Harden

Calendar of Care

Summer:

- Keep an eye on the temperatures to ensure that your orchids are not getting too hot during the day. If you prefer, take the plants out of the glasshouse and place them outdoors in a shady position. Keep well watered and increase the feed to once every other watering.
- Remove any old flower spikes after flowers have finished.
- Keep a watch for slugs and snails and other pests, which will be more active.
- Maintain a good humidity around the plants left in the glasshouse and mist the leaves.
- If necessary increase the shade over orchids.

Autumn:

- Return orchids summering out of doors to their winter quarters before the first frosts appear.
- Check plants over for any pests and clean them up before taking them back indoors.
- Repot any young seedlings or propagations, which need it by dropping on into a larger pot.
- As the sun's power lessens remove shading so that the plants can receive full sun for the winter.
- Pick up all discarded leaves as they are shed.
- Gradually give less water and allow plants to dry out between watering.

Winter:

- Allow orchids that are resting to remain dry. Give an occasional watering if the pseudobulbs shrivel.
- Look for flower spikes on many orchids and protect them from slugs and snails.
- Check temperatures at night and if necessary provide more heat in the coldest periods in your glasshouse.
- Avoid cold and damp conditions, which will encourage fungal spores particularly on the flowers.
- Indoors give your orchids as much light as possible but keep them away from heat and radiators or other heat appliances.
- Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum growing indoors need to be watered and lightly fed. These orchids do not have a resting period, but their growth will slow during this time.

Spring:

- This is the time when the orchids, which have been resting all winter, start their new season's growth. Many are also flowering.
- Commence watering regularly and give feeding at every third watering.
- In the glasshouse put up shading and increase the humidity by damping down more often as the temperature rises during the day.
- Check for insect pests, which will start to become more active now.
- Train flower spikes that need extra support with a stake.
- Repot as necessary, either as the new growth starts or after flowering.