



## **COFFS ORCHID NEWS OCT 2025 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY**

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### **EDITORIAL:**

The Coffs Harbour Orchid Society conducted a very successful Spring Show which saw pleasant sunny weather, a great display of quality orchids and good public participation. 145 orchids were benched from 15 participating growers. This October edition of the newsletter features the highlights of this year's Spring Show.

While the number of benched plants was down compared to previous Spring Shows, perhaps due to the unusual weather patterns this year, the event provided a colourful display which was much appreciated by those who attended.

The Grand Champion trophy and ribbon were sponsored by Rosella Orchids from South Grafton. This was awarded to Matt Connell for a magnificent soft cane, *Dendrobium* KT Jade. Matt's plant also was awarded the prize for the best plant by a Novice, the Champion *Dendrobium* and the Best Show Specimen. The Reserve Champion, *Phalaenopsis* Crystal Drill was exhibited by Moya Tucker. Congratulations to Matt and Moya for their outstanding successes.

Popular Vote was selected by those who visited the Show and this year it went to Silesa King for a *Vanda* Somsri Glory Blue 'No.2'. Congratulations to Silesa.

We thank the Judges for their expertise and commitment to carrying out this important task. Thank you also to the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens for the use of their venue and for their cooperation in running this year's Show.

Because of the opening of the new Gardens Café, it was necessary to operate the Plant Sales area in the Gardens Music Shell. This was a huge success and many members of the public went home with a large range of quality plants. Thanks to all those members who supported this sales event.

Congratulations to all who benched plants and we especially recognise members of CHOS for their outstanding efforts in making this event such a success. The staging of each Show requires a considerable amount of work, dedication and cooperation between members. Thank you to everyone for their assistance and enthusiasm. Well done!

**STOP PRESS:** The CHOS October General meeting is set down for Thursday 16th October due to the meeting room being used for another function during the Spring School Holidays. The feature of this meeting will be a plant auction and donations of suitable plants would be appreciated for this annual Society fund raiser.

**CHOS COMMITTEE 2024-2025****CONTACT DETAILS**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** BOB SOUTHWELL (See Above)

**SPONSORS****COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE**

Coffs Harbour Produce is at 26 June Street in Coffs. They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs.  
 Phone 02 6652 2599.

**COFFS COAST MAZDA**

For new Mazda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles and ALL your servicing needs. Ring for an appointment 02 6652 3122 or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour  
 You won't be disappointed .

**DARK STAR ORCHIDS**  
 0416 195832 or (02) 65644088.

Hans and Sue run a small nursery west of Bowraville. They specialise in rare, unusual and hard to find species of many orchids particularly Bulbophyllums, Stanhopeas, Coelogynes and lots of other genera. Check out the website.  
[www.darkstarorchids.com.au](http://www.darkstarorchids.com.au)

email darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au

**BRUCE HALL**

Bruce provides raffle prizes for Autumn and Spring Shows.

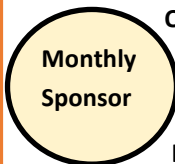
**OFFICEWORKS**

Officeworks carries an excellent range covering all stationery needs, computers/monitors/printers, and associated technology. They sell a wide range of smart phones and watches, plus furniture and workspace solutions.

If you are looking for low prices on everyday essentials, it's all there at Home Base, Coffs Harbour. Phone 66 919100 or check out the full range at [officeworks.com.au](http://officeworks.com.au).

**ROSELLA ORCHIDS**

Spring and Autumn Show Sponsor: Located in South Grafton and can supply a wide range of orchids but specialises in Cattleya and Vanda genera. They also stock a large range of hardware and accessories for orchid growers. Nursery is closed to the general public except by appointment.

**CALENDAR, 2025-26**

- 1-5 Oct AOC Conference Woolgoolga
- 16 Oct—Plant Auction Bruce Hall Auctioneer
- 30 Oct—Visit to Rosella Orchids, South Grafton
- 30 Oct—Nominations close for 2026 CHOS Committee
- 6 Nov—AGM/SOS My Orchid
- 29 Nov—Awards Presentation and Luncheon at Coffs Surf Club
- 5 Feb—NEUTROG as Guest Speaker
- 5 Mar Australian Native Orchids—Tony Blewitt Orchid Grow Comp Draw
- 2 Apr Bulbophyllums - Rhonda Smith
- 25-26 Apr CHOS Autumn Show

Note: The Committee meets on Tuesday following the Monthly Meeting.

**CHOS BANK DETAILS**

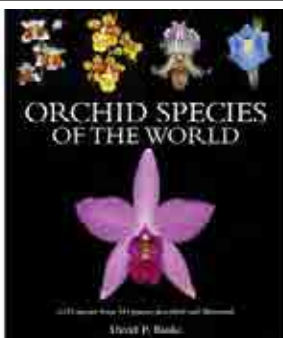
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**ACCOUNT No: 32817199**

## CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS September Committee Meeting conducted on 9th Sept 2025 at "The Workshop".

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.30am. All Committee members were present.
- ◆ Review of September General meeting—members appreciated the information provided by the variety of speakers. Bruce Halls "topping of a Vanda" was well received.
- ◆ AOC Show Display Team—met on 30th August. Next meeting on 19th September. Display background almost completed.
- ◆ Spring Show— Orchid Sales to be held in the Music Shell. All other organisation is in hand.
- ◆ The Friends of the Garden have increased the room hire fee from \$40 to \$50 per half day.
- ◆ Thanks to Gordon Griffiths for taking Photos at each monthly meeting.
- ◆ A members survey was conducted at the September meeting—seeking members opinions on increasing Society annual membership fees from 2026. 93.5% of the members surveyed approved of an increase in fees. The fees will now be set at \$15 per member and \$20 per couple plus \$5 for each additional family member. Juniors (under 18 years) will remain at \$5 per person. The Society Financial Year commences on 1st November and fees should be paid within three months of that date.
- ◆ Fourteen orchid seedling flasks have been ordered and will be delivered at the AOC Woolgoolga Conference. A series of deflasking workshops will be conducted at Paige's Workshop during November. These seedlings will be grown for use as raffle prizes and new membership plants.
- ◆ New Members: Welcome to Lynette Gills and Narelle Haycraft.
- ◆ Members Activities: (a) Trip to Rosella Orchids on 30th October 2025.  
(b) Paige Sinclair will officially open her new 15 metre greenhouse during November and members are invited to take part in the celebrations.
- ◆ The annual Plant Auction will take place at the October General Meeting. Plant donations are very welcome. Bruce Hall will again be the Auctioneer.
- ◆ The CHOS AGM will be held on Thursday 6th November from 7pm. Nominations are now open for the 2026 Committee—all positions will become vacant. Nominations forms are available from Kerrie Gosling and nominations will close with Kerrie on Thursday 30th October at 7pm.
- ◆ Annual Awards Luncheon will be held at the Coffs Surf Club on 6th December.  
(Editors Note: Surf Club unavailable on 6th Dec so the new date will be Saturday 29th Nov—see article in this newsletter for full details).
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 21st Oct 2025 at 10.30am.



**"Orchid Species of the World"**  
**3,333 species from 343 genera described and illustrated.**

**A new book by David Banks.**  
**The book will be launched at the AOC Conference at Woolgoolga in October.**

**Popular Vote at the CHOS  
September Meeting was  
awarded to  
Dick Cooper  
for his magnificent  
*Dendrobium Tancho*  
'Queen'  
Congratulations!**



**ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS SEPTEMBER MEETING**



**Peter Gough benched  
this *Cattleya* Rose at  
the Sept meeting**



***Paph.* Cameron Ho  
was benched by Peter  
Gough**



**Kim Winders benched  
this *Phalaenopsis* NoID**



**A nice wide-lipped  
*Phalaenopsis*  
Charming Dalmation  
benched by Jerod  
Pritchard**



***Dendrobium* Maihime  
Beauty was grown and  
benched by Kim Winders**



***Cattleya* Beautiful  
Sunset was benched by  
Helen Seiver**

**Photographs by Gordon Griffiths**

# PHOTOGRAPHIC RESULTS FROM THE CHOS 2025 SPRING SHOW



GRAND CHAMPION, SHOW SPECIMEN, CHAMPION DENDROBIUM AND CHAMPION NOVICE went to this *Dendrobium* KT Jade grown by Matt Connell.

Matt receives his numerous ribbons from President Paige Sinclair



RESERVE CHAMPION AND CHAMPION PHALAENOPSIS went to *Phalaenopsis* Crystal Drill benched by Moya Tucker



Champion Vandaceous and Popular Vote went to Silesa King with her *Vanda* Somsri Glory Blue 'No.2'



**MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC RESULTS FROM THE CHOS 2025 SPRING SHOW**



**CHAMPION  
CYMBIDIUM**  
*Cymbidium*  
Marvin Gaye  
'Royale' benched  
by Malcolm Ide



Peter Giough, Vice  
President, presents  
Paige Sinclair with  
her ribbon for  
Champion  
Laeliinae.  
Rth. Martha Clarke



Peter Giough,  
benched this  
Champion Paph  
Hybrid. *Paph. Saint*  
*Swithin 'Kristy'*  
The Champion  
Oncidiinae Hybrid  
was grown by  
Helen Seiver.  
*Miltassia Charles*  
M. Finch 'Izumi'



## MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC RESULTS FROM THE CHOS 2025 SPRING SHOW



Champion Any  
Other Variety  
Hybrid was won  
by Helen Seiver  
with her *Coelogyne*  
Janine Banks



Carole Davis grew  
this *Dendrobium*  
*kingianum* and  
took out the  
Champion  
Australian Native  
Species Section



The Champion  
Australian Native  
Hybrid Section was  
won by Moya  
Tucker with her  
*Dendrobium* Tyabb  
X *Den. Finale*



**MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC RESULTS FROM THE CHOS 2025 SPRING SHOW**



Paige Sinclair receives the Pittaway Trophy for the Champion Species of the Spring Show (*Iludisia discolor*) while Carole Davis receives a ribbon for her Champion Native Species



Rhonda Smith received her certificate from Paige for her First Flowering Species Seedling which was a nice example of *Paph. wardii*

**CHOS Show Photography by Paige Sinclair**

**CHAMPIONS FROM THE NAMBUCCA VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW**



**Grahame Beatton, NVOS President, awards Moya Tucker for her Grand Champion *Phalaenopsis***



**Grahame Beatton presents Malcolm Ide with a ribbon for his Reserve Champion *Dendrobium***

**CHOS SHOW RAFFLE RESULTS**

**1ST PRIZE: Green Ticket # C57—Mrs Dawson**

**2ND PRIZE: Green Ticket # C75 - Terry**

**Thanks to all those who purchased tickets and a big thanks to our raffle sponsor Bruce Hall. His donations are greatly appreciated.**



**Show Specimen went to Grahame Beatton for this striking *Dendrobium Delicatum* (Syn: Den. Specio-kingianum)**

**Thanks to Rhonda, Paige and John for the photographs**

## BITS AND PIECES

- Kiwi Potting Bark is available from Paige Sinclair at \$50 per 50L bag. **New supplies have now been received.** Potting time is about to commence. Contact Paige to secure your requirements.



- CHOS **Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday **16th October** starting at 7.00pm. The annual Plant Auction will take place. Donations are welcome.

Bring your Tolumnia Hybrid for it's next judging in this years Growing Competition.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring a contribution for members supper.

**Judges for this meeting:** BILL BRIGHT and PHIL PAYNE

Assistance from members to clean up after the meeting would be greatly appreciated

Dates to put on your calendar:

# **AOC Conference and Show at Woolgoolga**—1—5 October 2025

# **Visit to Rosella Orchids at South Grafton**— Thursday 30th October—Car Pool.

# **CHOS AGM and election of 2026 Committee**—Thursday 6th November.

# **24th World Orchid Conference.** 26 to 29 March 2026 at Dresden, Germany.

- Congratulations to Kerrie Gosling, Matt Connell and Moya Tucker for gaining their orchid judging qualifications and being installed as Associate Judges as part of the Mid North Coast Judging Panel. Well done!
- The CHOS October meeting is traditionally the annual plant auction with Auctioneer Bruce Hall. This is a major fund raising initiative for the Society and relies on donations of plants by our members. It also needs member support in purchasing the quality plants on offer. So rather than spend all your hard earned orchid money at the Woolgoolga Conference please save a little for the auction set down for Thursday 16th October (meeting time altered due to the Spring School Holidays).
- CHOS Annual General Meeting is set down for Thursday 6th November 2025 and will be held in the Display Room at the Coffs Botanic Gardens from 7pm. The AGM will be followed by the November General Meeting.
- The draft Annual Calendar for the Society is attached to this newsletter. This will give members an indication of the types of activities planned for 2026. Remember it is a draft and changes may be made as circumstances change. If you have any suggestions of other activities that could take place or topics that could be addressed, then please let the Committee know.
- Membership Fees for 2025-2026 are due on 1st November and should be paid within three months of that date. Fees have been set at \$15 per member and \$20 per couple plus \$5 for each additional family member. Junior members (under 18 years) are \$5 per person.
- A new book has arrived for the Society Library—"Latoria Dendrobiums" and this is now available for loan. David Banks new book "Orchid Species of the World" will arrive shortly.
- Many Society members will be saddened to hear of the passing of NVOS member Dawn Ballard. Dawn often benched her prize winning Cattleya's at CHOS shows. We express our deep condolences to Dawn's family and friends . She will be sadly missed.



## Feature Article: Growing Guide from Dick Cooper

**Dick outlines a detailed growing guide for Australian Native and Hard Cane varieties of orchids for the Mid North Coast of NSW during Spring, Summer and Autumn.**

### **General:**

What is the source of the water you provide to your orchids? What is its pH? What is the pH of your mix? I use the local water supply - I suspect others do too. The pH of the local supply at my place is just over 8 which is way too high for orchids. I adjust mine before putting it on my orchids. You should find out how to reduce the pH if you don't know. **And**, over time, the pH of your mix will change. You also need to know how to correct this because if your pH is not correct then your orchids cannot effectively take up required chemicals.

Keep all plants well spaced and ensure good air movement around each plant.

**Spring: Australian Natives** - For NSW, in my view, Spring really begins in mid-August and the amount of light is increasing. This extra light in the early part of this season brings a flush of flowering by native orchids to the fore. Early Spring is traditionally thought of as a time for epiphytic native orchids to be flowering though these days what actually flowers at this time depends on the composition of the parentage so nowadays some flowering natives can be seen through Autumn, late winter and well into October. Having said that, now is the main flowering time for *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Dendrobium kingianum* (and hybrids of these species) and from late September through to November, you can expect to see *Sarcochilus*. After flowering, pot-on and/or divide plants - preferably use shallower pots. These tasks should be completed by mid-November. Water your plants a little more - the aim is to keep them moist - and fertilize weekly using a low N fertilizer. Monitor for pests and act accordingly. Spray for pathogens on a regular basis.

**Hardcane - Phalaenanthé & Intermediates** - Some plants will still have a few flowers as we come out of Winter. During Spring, the Phalaenanthés start thinking about their year ahead. You can too by tidying up, repotting or dividing, etc. There is not much else to be done until new growths start to appear from the base of mature pseudobulbs. Most of this activity occurs in late October and November. Some Intermediate Hardcane may be presenting you with new flower spikes

For now, continue with light watering and weak dosages (half strength) of low N fertiliser about once a week. I apply fungicides monthly to avoid fungal rots and similar issues. You can increase the watering slightly more often as the new growths establish themselves. Watch for insects and rots-fungal attacks and bear in mind that the new growths are tasty morsels for all sorts of bugs.

**Summer: Australian Natives** - With some very hot days in this period, consider extra shading. Keep media moist by watering at least every second day and on those extra hot days consider an evening misting. New growths will be developing now, avoid water in the axils of new growths. Seedlings need more frequent watering. Fertilize all plants weekly (half strength). Monitor for pests - many find new growths extra tasty- and act accordingly. Be mindful that insect populations can multiply rapidly in the warmer conditions. The warmer conditions can also encourage rots and fungi, spray on a regular basis.

**Hardcane - Phalaenanthé & Intermediates** - water every 2 days. Fertilize every 5 days using a low N fertilizer. Especially overnight, avoid water in the axils of new growths. Much of what was mentioned above regarding issues with pests and pathogens applies to Hardcane too. Ensure you monitor for pests and act accordingly. Spray for pathogens on a regular basis.

**Autumn: Australian Natives** - Continue to water 1-2 times per week and fertilize weekly (at half strength). Monitor for pests, especially *Dendrobium Beetle* and *Boisduval Scale* and act accordingly. Spray for pathogens on a regular basis.

**Hardcane - Phalaenanthé & Intermediates** - This period often finds us experiencing a lot of wet weather so it is best to house your plants in a glasshouse or otherwise under a hard roof where watering can be done every 2 days until the end of February, then reduce watering to 1-2 times a week. The aim is to keep the plants moist, do not over water. If you can't protect the plants from the rain, common sense should dictate when watering is needed. Fertilize weekly using a low N fertilizer. By now, your plants should be spiking, an indicator that you might ease back on fertilising to intervals of 7 - 10 days. Especially overnight, avoid water in the axils of new growths. Monitor for pests, especially *Dendrobium Beetle* and *Boisduval Scale* and act accordingly. Spray for pathogens on a regular basis. (Editor: See the Cultural Calendars in the newsletter for a summary)

**ANNUAL AWARDS AND PRESENTATION LUNCHEON will be held this year on Saturday 29th November at the Coffs Surf Club Private Meeting Room. The subsidised cost to members and their spouse/partner will be \$20 per person. Remaining meal costs will be subsidised by the CHOS. A two course alternate-drop menu will be in place and the Society will provide one drink per person. Add your name to the list at the October meeting. This is a great opportunity for all CHOS members to get together to celebrate another amazing orchid year.**



## **MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST ORCHID SHOW - AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT**

This truly exciting and memorable event has had an enormous exhibitor response from every Australian State and Territory. It is shaping up to be the biggest Orchid Show in Australia.

The 63 qualified Judges along with another 40 Associate Judges have been allocated 8 hours in which to judge this mammoth Show. The prize money is about \$20,000 as well as gold and bronze medals and championship sashes. The Conference consisting of 10 guest speakers of which 5 are from overseas and 5 world-renowned from throughout Australia have attracted 300 registrants from around the globe. The guest speakers will be giving 11 dynamic talks over the 2 days of the Conference— Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4.

This is not just a gigantic Orchid Show but an educational event too. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Orchid Council International Conference and Show is showcasing some very interesting and diverse businesses in its Trade Alley in the Sangeet Rooms at the Wiigulga Sports Complex from Friday, October 3, Saturday 4 and Sunday, October 5

The Woopi Bee Shed, home of Coffs Beekeeping Supplies, specialising in educating people about European and Native Beekeeping will be providing its diverse range of beekeeping equipment and supplies which will be on Show at our "Big Event". If you love the taste of raw local honey or the aroma of beeswax candles you must take the opportunity of visiting Judith's stall. More importantly, try Judith's new addition, vanilla honey made from *Vanilla planifolia* of which plants will be on display at our event.

Steve Young's photographic display is also a must see. Steve, a specialist macro photographer and citizen scientist will be displaying his 'Myxomycetes' (Slime Moulds). Take a look through his microscope and view these extremely beautiful micro-organisms up close, you'll be amazed. Steve's specialist book 'Myxos and Musings' will also be on sale at the event. It's a visually stunning collection of super macro images compiled over the last six to eight years.

Sun-Downer Fern and Orchid Houses manufacture, supply and install a wide variety of shade houses made of low-maintenance galvanised weldmesh frames with reinforced roofing for strength on which to hang your beautiful orchid plants. Don't miss viewing these amazing shade houses on the grounds of Wiigulga. For those of you who love a beer, Sara Poole's Woopi Brewing Company will provide an opportunity for you to have a chat about Woopi's unique Brewing Company, established 4 years ago and discuss the wide variety of locally brewed beers including its 'Buster' beer.

Our very own Ace Ohlsson renowned for providing professional advice from their specialised team of agronomists, including health and nutritional advice, will be featuring their wide range of fertilisers and agricultural chemicals. Local orchid enthusiasts will be pleased to learn, in future they will be able to purchase a wide range of orchid pots from Ace Ohlsson here in Woolgoolga.

Ron Fauntleroy, in conjunction with Dr Mark Brundrett, a Botanist and Lecturer at the University of WA will be displaying in excess of 160 Western Australian orchid photographic prints. Guest lecturer Canh Chu Xuan will also provide a huge photographic display of Vietnamese Orchids. India's University Professor, Dr. Promila Pathak and her student will present Indian orchid photos along with interesting student extracts.

On Wiigulga's northern wall will feature our very own banners showcasing over 216 orchids growing in the wild throughout our area. This area extends from the Dorrigo Plateau down to the dunes that meet the Pacific Ocean, north to the Clarence River Valley and west to Glen Elgin.

You simply can't afford to miss this stunning event.

Jennifer Lock, WDOS Secretary & AOC 2025 Assistant Coordinator

# Australia's Biggest ORCHID SHOW

Friday, October 3 Saturday, October 4, Sunday, October 5

Woolgoolga Sports Complex, Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga

*Thousands of  
magical orchids  
on display to  
admire & On Sale*

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society  
Inc.



International Conference & Show

*Open Friday  
Saturday  
Sunday*

*9.00am - 3.00pm*

Admission **\$5**  
**Kids FREE!**  
*3-Day Pass \$10*



*"Orchids from the  
Mountains to the Sea"*

*Proudly Hosted by Woolgoolga District Orchid Society*

## ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR OCT-NOV FOR COFFS HARBOUR

ORCHID GROUP	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVES	Water plants regularly and make sure they remain moist	Fertilize weekly using a low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength	Monitor for pests, etc. Spray for diseases and pests on a regular basis	Repot after flowering. Shallower pots are best. Divide plants if required
BULBOPHYLLUMS	Water every three days. Keep evenly moist	Fertilize every two weeks using half strength fertilizer	Spray with a fungicide such as Mancozeb to protect new growth	Don't over fertilize or plants will become "soft"
CYMBIDIUMS	Increase watering as air temperature rises	Fertilize with half strength high Nitrogen fertilizer every two weeks	Inspect plants for scale infections. Preventative spray with Yates Anti-Rot	Try to finish repotting by end of October
HARD CANES	Light watering in early October. Increase amount of water as new growths appear in November	Fertilize weekly using a low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength	Monitor and treat as required. Apply fungicides monthly	Clean up plants. Remove dead flower stems, etc. New growths will start from pseudobulbs in November
ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE	Water each week. Let mix almost dry out before next watering	Half strength fertilizer each week	Check for pests. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide	Mounted plants will need watering more frequently
PAPHIOPEDILUMS	Water twice weekly	Half strength fertilizer each week	Check for pests. Spray monthly with Mancozeb fungicide	Commence Repotting program
PHALAENOPSIS	Water once or twice weekly as required	Half strength fertilizer each week. Use slow release fertilizer when re-potting	Make regular checks for pests and diseases	Continue to stake emerging spikes. Repot those plants with spent flowers.
VANDACEOUS	Water daily including exposed roots, keep water from the plant crown.	Weekly with low Nitrogen/high PK at half strength.	Check for chewing insects and other pests. Check for fungal infections and treat as required	Increase levels of heat and humidity, provide good air circulation

**GENERAL:** Majority of growers try to repot at least half their collection each year. September, October and November are ideal times for repotting. Add slow release fertilizer to the potting mix plus Bug Killa systemic insecticide.