



COFFS ORCHID NEWS AUGUST 2026 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS JULY 2026 MEETING



Paph. Miao Hua Golden Venus 'MH-34' x Paph. Cocoa Jollix Med '2018 #A'
was benched by Peter Gough



Bulbophyllum
J. M. Guilloty was grown
and benched by Moya
Tucker



**Another Moya Tucker
special—this Blunt
Greenhood, *Pterostylis
curta***



Phalaenopsis I-Hsin
'Black Jack' was grown
by Moya Tucker



Vanda Somsri Velvet
was grown and benched
by Peter Gough



Vanda Guo Chia Long
was also benched by
Peter Gough

CHOS COMMITTEE 2026

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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

email darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au

OFFICEWORKS

Monthly
Sponsor

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.

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.

www.rosellaorchids.com.au

CALENDAR, 2026/2027

6 Aug—Flask Production—
Paul Smith

3 Sept—Deflasking Workshop

11-13 Sept—CHOS Spring Show

15 Oct— Plant Auction

5 Nov—AGM/Repotting an Aust.
Native—Grahame Beaton

5 Dec—CHOS Awards and
Presentation Luncheon
- Coffs Surf Club

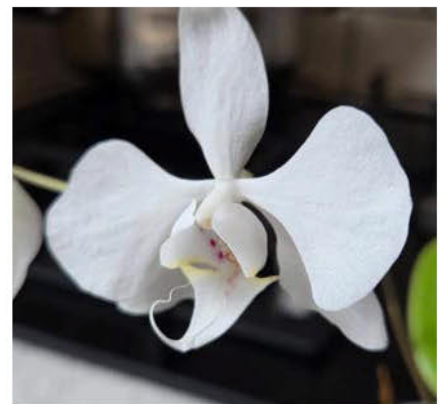
4 Feb 27— Orchid Judging
Simplified —Kerrie Gosling

4 Mar 27—Growing Tolumnia's
— Bruce Hall

1 April 27—Tips and Tricks/
My Phally Journey

- Rhonda Smith/Peter Gough/
Moya Tucker

The Committee meets on Tuesday
following the Monthly Meeting.



Phalaenopsis aphrodite

CHOS BANK DETAILS

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199



**Popular Vote at the
CHOS July Meeting was
awarded to
Paige Sinclair for her
Fredclarkeara
Upgrade 'UWWOTU'
AM/AOC**

Congratulations!
(Stop Press: This plant has
recently been nominated for
a top Quality Award—an FCC.
We will inform you when it is
confirmed)



MORE ORCHIDS BENCHED AT THE CHOS JULY 2026 MEETING



**An early flowering soft cane
benched by Dick Cooper –
Dendrobium Tancho
'Queen'**



**Silesa King grew this
nice *Vanda* Somsri Glory
Blue 'No. 2'**



***Paph.* (Shin-Yi Macaroon x
Hung Sheng Bay) X (Hung
Sheng Bay x Hung Sheng
Gourd) was benched by
Peter Gough**



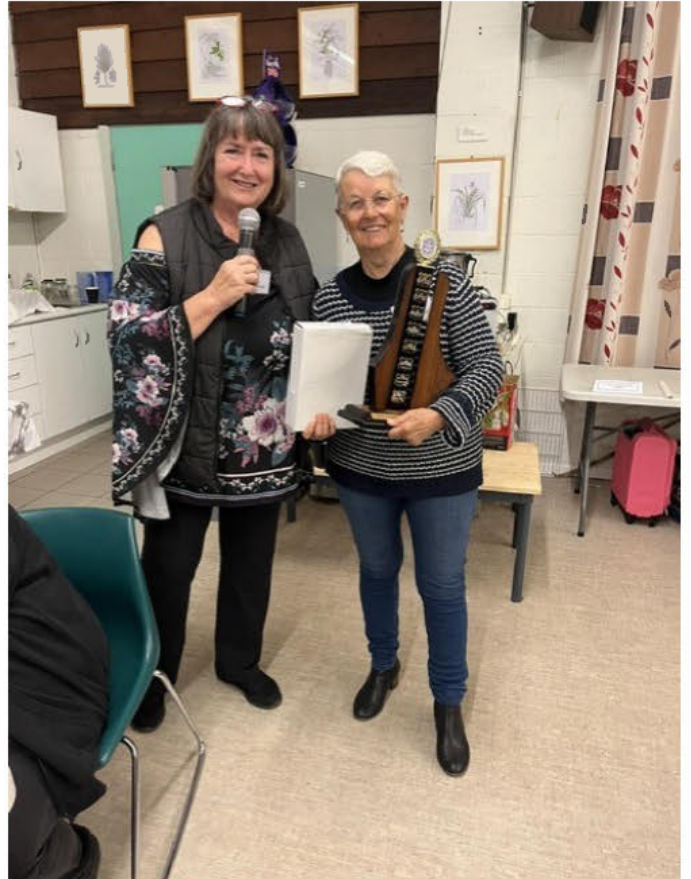
**Helen Seiver benched
this spectacular
*Coelogyne fuscescens***



**Rlc. Donna Kimura was
grown and benched by
Peter Gough**



***Paph.* Sweet Harmony X
Sweet Sunrise was another
benching by Peter Gough**



Left: Dick Cooper presents Moya Tucker with the Edward Pearce Memorial Shield for the Champion Species Orchid from the CHOS Autumn Show. Moya's orchid also received the Reserve Champion trophy.

Right: Paige Sinclair presents Rhonda Smith with trophies from the recent CHOS Autumn Show where Rhonda benched the Grand Champion orchid. Congratulations to both growers.



The CHOS Orchid Display at the Koi Society Show recently held at the Coffs Nursery at Sapphire Beach.

Stefica Jones (left) , Carole Davis and Helen Seiver (right) spent time speaking to the many members of the public that visited the Show.

CHOS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The following is a summary from the CHOS July Committee Meeting conducted on 7th July 2026 at "The Workshop", Jean Street, Coffs Harbour.

- ◆ Meeting commenced at 10.20am. ALL Committee Members were present.
- ◆ The June meeting was very successful with 46 in attendance. Orchid sales were conducted by Dark Star Orchids and were well received by the members. Congratulations to Silesa King and Phil Payne for their excellent presentations on how they grow their orchids.
- ◆ An orchid display was held at the Coffs Nursery in combination with the Coffs Koi Society. The event was well attended and good feedback was received. Thanks to Carole, Stefica and Helen for their assistance in conducting the display. Thanks to those members who benched orchids for the event.
- ◆ The Coffs Harbour Guide Hall is to be inspected as a possible new show venue instead of the Botanic Gardens (Note: It will still be the Botanic Gardens for this year's Spring Show).
- ◆ A 2028 Meeting Booking Schedule for the Display Room at the Botanic Gardens was tabled. Approved by Committee and to be submitted to the Friends of the Gardens for approval and action.
- ◆ The opening of Paige Sinclair's new greenhouse is set down for Sunday 19th July from 2pm to 4pm. Refreshments will be provided. All members are welcome to attend (4 Jean Street, CH).
- ◆ Discussion was held on increasing the Fixed Deposit with BCU by a further \$2,000. Further consideration to occur after the Spring Show.
- ◆ New Members: Jean Prince and Maree Morris were accepted as full members. Welcome Jean and Maree.
- ◆ CHOS to conduct a Potting Workshop at Paige's Workshop in the near future. The purpose is to pot-up the seedlings previously deflasked into plugs by CHOS members. Dates and time to be announced.
- ◆ The Draft 2027 CHOS Calendar was tabled. Further suggestions were incorporated into the document. The calendar will be distributed to members once completed and approved.
- ◆ A written survey was conducted at the July Meeting asking for suggestions of speakers, topics and activities for 2027. Four completed surveys were received and the suggestions discussed and considered by the Committee.
- ◆ The Spring Show Schedule was approved and show organisation was discussed.
- ◆ Paul Smith (Commercial Grower from Ipswich) to speak at the CHOS August Meeting on Orchid Flask Production. Paul will send a list of flasks that he has available and these can be preordered for delivery at the August meeting. Paige will distribute the list once it is received. Additional flasks will be available for purchase at the meeting.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 10.30am.

STOP PRESS: Members would now have received their copy of the flask list from Paul Smith, mentioned in the above Committee Meeting Summary. These flasks are well priced at \$27 each and previous experience has shown that they always contain quality, well grown seedlings. CHOS has used Paul's flasks for previous workshops and always found them to be of high quality. Other Societies have reported similar experiences. Some of the flasks are only available in small quantities so get your order in early if you don't want to be disappointed. If the flasks are left unopened and stored in warm, well lit conditions then they will last until after the CHOS September Deflasking Workshop where you will be given full instructions on how to deflask.

BITS AND PIECES

- CHOS **Monthly Meeting** will be held on Thursday **6th August** starting at 7.00pm. Guest speaker will be **Paul Smith** who will talk about Orchid Flask Production. Flasks will be available for purchase on the night plus pre-ordered for delivery at the meeting. Full detail in the near future.

Bring your Growing Competition Plant (*Phalaenopsis* Splash Gordon) for judging at the August meeting.

Also bring along any of the previous Growing Competition Plants as part of the "Flashback" item.

Judges for the August Meeting:

MARCIA LUSTED

TBA

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

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

- Dates to put on your calendar:

Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Spring Show— 3rd, 4th and 5th September 2026

CHOS Spring Show— 12th and 13th September 2026

CHOS SPRING SHOW 2026

The schedule for this years CHOS Spring Show has been approved by the Committee and will be emailed to all members in the near future. Please use the schedule when submitting your entries into this years Show. Full details of the entry procedures will be outlined in next months newsletter.

By now you should be starting to organise your plants for benching and making sure that emerging spikes are well staked and that plants are clearly labelled and the plants are clean and looking in excellent condition. If you need any assistance with preparing plants for the show then please contact your Advisor or a Committee Member.

The Show will be held at the Coffs Botanic Gardens from the 12th to 13th September. Set-up will take place from 1pm on Friday 11th September. The duty roster is currently being prepared and will be emailed to all members once completed and approved.



FEATURE ARTICLE No. 1: GROWING EPIDENDRUM ORCHIDS

Epidendrum orchids thrive with plenty of bright, indirect sunlight, high drainage, and weekly watering during their active growing season. They prefer moderate temperatures (between 13°C and 30°C) and enjoy a diluted orchid fertilizer applied every 1–2 weeks.

The Ultimate Epidendrum Care Guide

1. Light Requirements

Epidendrums are one of the orchids that love light.

- To encourage blooming, place them in a spot with bright, indirect light or morning sun.
- Too little light will result in tall, weak, lanky stems that fail to flower.

If leaves begin to turn slightly maroon or purple, it is a sign they are getting maximum safe sun exposure, which is perfectly fine.

2. Watering & Humidity

These orchids need regular moisture but require their roots to dry slightly between waterings.

- Growing Season (Spring/Summer): Water once a week or whenever the top of the potting medium feels dry.
- Winter: Cut back on watering slightly, allowing the potting medium to dry out a bit more between waterings.

Humidity: They do best in moderate to high humidity (50% to 80%). If the air is very dry then mist the plants or use a humidity tray.

3. Soil & Potting

A highly aerated and quick-draining mix is critical to prevent root rot.

- Use a coarse orchid bark mixture blended with perlite or/and charcoal.

Epidendrums like to be pot-bound, so they rarely need repotting. Only refresh or repot the medium every 2-3 years when it starts to break down.

4. Feeding

They are heavy feeders compared to other orchids.

- Feed them a diluted liquid orchid fertilizer every 1 to 2 weeks during the active growing season (spring through autumn).

During the cooler winter months, you can reduce or stop feeding.



Crucifix orchids are commonly grown Epidendrums which originate from Central and South America



5. Pruning & Maintenance

- **Post-flowering:** Once a flowering cane finishes blooming, wait for new offshoots (keikis) to form or let the cane turn brown before cutting it at the base to keep the clump looking tidy.

Keikis (Baby plants): Epidendrums easily produce baby clones (keikis) along the old flower stems. Once these develop strong root systems, you can carefully clip them off and pot them in damp sphagnum moss.



A keiki (baby plant) growing on the “Mother Plant” (left). Keiki has been removed and ready to plant in a separate pot (centre).

Photo on the right shows the separated keiki planted in sphagnum moss. The “rule of threes’ applies in removing a keiki—there should be at least three leaves and three new roots plus the roots should be around three inches long (7—8 cm).

The Grand Opening of Paige Sinclair’s magnificent new green house will occur on Sunday 19th July between 2pm and 4pm. Refreshments and beverages will be supplied. All members are invited to see this innovative masterpiece. Just call in when it suits you between 2 and 4 pm. Address is 4 Jean Street, Coffs Harbour.

FEATURE ARTICLE No. 2:

Orchid Light Requirements in NSW (Credit given to CoPilot for assistance)

NSW—especially the mid north coast/Coffs Harbour—has **high UV, intense summer sun**, and **mild winters**, so orchids need **filtered, not direct** light. The exact requirement depends on genus:

Light Levels by Orchid Group:

- **Phalaenopsis** — 1,000–1,500 foot candles (fc) / 10,500–16,000 lux. Bright shade; absolutely no direct sun. Ideal for benches under 70% shade cloth.
- **Paphiopedilum** — 800–1,500 fc / 10,000–16,000 lux. Deep shade; mottled-leaf types tolerate slightly less light than plain-leaf types.
- **Oncidium** — 1,500–2,500 fc / 16,000–27,000 lux. Filtered morning sun; avoid harsh afternoon light.
- **Miltonia/Miltoniopsis**— 1,500–2,000 fc/ 16,000–21,000 lux. Similar to Oncidium but slightly softer light.
- **Cattleya** — 2,000–3,500 fc / 21,500–35,000 lux (or higher). Bright filtered light; can take some morning sun.
- **Dendrobium** — 2,000–4,000 fc / 21,000– 43,000 lux. Many Australian natives tolerate stronger light but still need filtering. Hard Canes need high light levels. Dormant Soft Canes will tolerate much higher light levels in winter—important to promote flowering.
- **Vanda** — 3,000–4,000 fc / 32,000– 43,000 lux. High light but still filtered in NSW due to UV intensity.

[A footcandle (fc) is a unit measuring the amount of light falling on a surface — one lumen per square foot. One footcandle equals **approximately 10.764 lux**.]

How to Manage Light Levels in a Greenhouse (NSW Conditions):

1. Shade Cloth

This is the primary tool for controlling light.

- **50% shade** Cattleya, Dendrobium, Oncidium
- **60–70% shade** Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum, Miltonia
- **30–40% shade** Vanda (but only in winter; increase to 50% in summer)

In NSW summers, UV is extreme, so most growers increase shading by **10–20%** from November–March/April.

2. Bench Height

Higher benches receive more light. Lower benches or under bench shelves are ideal for low light orchids. Orchids hung from the roof receive more light.

3. Seasonal Adjustments

- **Summer:** Add extra shade cloth, avoid direct sun after 10:30 AM.
- **Winter:** Remove one layer of shade cloth; allow more morning sun.

4. Light Meters

Use a digital light meter or a phone app to check **fc/lux at leaf level**. This is the only reliable way to avoid under or over lighting. Light meters are inexpensive or you can

download a quality App (some are free) to your phone which will enable you to monitor light intensities at the level of each benched plant.

5. Leaf Colour Monitoring

A simple diagnostic method:

- Dark green = too little light
- Medium green = ideal
- Yellow/green = too much
- Red/purple tint = stress from high light

6. Curtains & Retractable Shade

Useful for NSW's variable weather—open on cloudy days, close on bright days.

7. Greenhouse Orientation: Nth-Sth orientation gives more even light distribution over the year.

Practical NSW Tips:

- In Coffs Harbour, summer sun can exceed **5,000–7,000 fc**, far above orchid tolerance.
- Use **double-layer shade cloth** in January–February.
- Keep orchids out of **direct west sun**—this burns leaves within hours.
- **Use artificial lighting:** Use full-spectrum LED grow light bulbs or strips. Distance to Foliage: Low-light orchids (e.g., Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum): Keep lights 30 to 45 cm above the plant canopy. Medium-to-high-light orchids (e.g., Cattleyas, Dendrobiums): Place lights closer, about 15 to 30 cm above. Daily Duration: Leave the lights on for 12–14 hours during the growing season. In the autumn/winter, reduce the schedule to 10–12 hours.



Dick Cooper presents Rhonda Smith with a number of AOC Award Certificates gained in recent months. Congratulations, Rhonda!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PLANT LABELS

How can so many labels be incorrect?

At any show or any monthly meeting benching, it can be almost guaranteed that the judges or show marshals will find labels that are incorrect or misspelt (or no label at all or simply No ID).

No ID is a separate issue but incorrect names on a label can be checked using the internet. While the internet is not 100% correct it will act as a useful guide if you enter your label details into a search engine and check the result. To be certain, use more reliable sources such as Plants of the World Online, Orchid Wiz or the RHS site.

If you have many orchids in your collection then it may be a massive task to check every label in a short time. The suggestion is that you check each label as you prepare each plant for a show or a monthly meeting. Eventually by checking a few at a time you will have covered your entire collection. Don't forget to check that each label is still legible when you repot each orchid. Faded labels which can't be deciphered are as bad as no label at all.

ORCHID CULTURAL NOTES FOR ANNUAL CALENDAR FOR COFFS HARBOUR

Orchid Group: Dendrobium Hard Canes

MONTHS	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
FEB/MAR	Water every two days during early Feb then reduce to 1-2 times per week. (or less if exposed to rainfall—aim to keep plants slightly moist)	Fertilize every five (5) days using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. As spikes lengthen reduce same fertilizer to once every 7 days	Monitor pests and diseases. Regular spraying may be required. Especially check for Dendrobium Beetles and Boisduval Scale.	New growths should be progressing well. Stake flower spikes as required
APRIL/MAY	Water every two days during Feb then reduce to 1-2 times per week. (depending on rainfall—keep plants moist)	Fertilize every five (5) days using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. As spikes extend reduce fertilizing to once every 7—10 days	Monitor pests and diseases. Regular spraying may be required. Especially check for Dendrobium Beetles and Boisduval Scale.	New growths should be progressing well. Stake flower spikes as required
JUNE/JULY	For Non-Australian Hard Canes reduce waterings to once every two weeks. Cooktown orchids only need small amounts of water every two to three weeks – allow mix to dry out between waterings.	Less fertilizer required for Non-Australian Hard Canes - low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength. Do not fertilize Cooktown orchids during this period.	Spray to avoid pest and disease damage. Especially check for Boisduval Scale.	Maintain night temperatures above 12 degrees C. Heating may be required. Cooktown orchids prefer minimum night temperatures above 15 degrees C.
AUG/SEPT	Water once every two weeks. More often as conditions warm up. Reduce watering for Cooktown orchids.	Fertilize using a low nitrogen product. Stop fertilizing Cooktown varieties	Check for pests, etc. Spray as required. Especially check for Boisduval Scale.	Maintain plants in a warm environment. Clean up the greenhouse to maintain hygiene. Post-flowering, clean up plants
OCT/NOV	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. Especially check for Boisduval Scale.	Clean up plants. Remove dead flower stems, etc. New growths will start from pseudobulbs in November
DEC/JAN	Water every at least two days. Avoid water in axils of new growths.	Fertilize at least weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength.	Monitor pests and diseases. Regular spraying may be required. Especially check for Dendrobium Beetles and Boisduval Scale	New growths should be well advanced. By Jan, look for flower spikes on mature/ maturing pseudobulbs

DC 2026

ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR AUG—SEPT FOR COFFS HARBOUR

ORCHID GROUP	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVES	Water once every two weeks. More often as conditions warm up. Reduce watering for Cooktown orchids.	Fertilize using a low nitrogen product. Stop fertilizing Cooktown varieties	Check for pests and diseases. Spray as required.	Maintain plants in a warm environment. Clean up the greenhouse to maintain hygiene
BULBOPHYLLUMS	Water every 5 to 6 days.	Half strength fertilizer each week.	Watch for snails and slugs. Spray with fungicide.	Keep as warm as possible. Spray with Envy
CATASETUMS	Keep dormant orchid dry. As the days get longer and warmer start looking for a nubbin (a stub) growing from last year's growth. This nubbin could be either a new growth or a flower spike. Do not water.	No fertilizer needed until the plant is in active growth, then fertilize every time you water, these plants are heavy feeders. Eight-month slow release fertilizer is ideal.	In general, this group does not attract many pests. Watch for scale, but the beauty of this group is they lose their leaves every year and grow new ones. Use Bug Killa if you see pests.	Aug/Sept is the ideal time to repot. Choose a pot big enough to accommodate the new growth, but ensure it is tight and not over potted. Keep a few of the old roots to stabilise the plant in the new pot.
CYMBIDIUMS	Water once each week.	Fertilise weekly at full strength.	Look out for scale and dendrobium beetle. Spray with fungicide.	Pot up seedlings. Repot mature plants after flowering.
HARD CANES	Water once every two weeks. More often as conditions warm up. Reduce watering for Cooktown orchids.	Fertilize using a low nitrogen product. Stop fertilizing Cooktown varieties	Check for pests, etc. Spray as required Especially check for Boisduval Scale.	Maintain plants in a warm environment. Clean up the greenhouse to maintain hygiene. Post-flowering, clean up plants
ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE	Water each week. Let mix almost dry out before next watering.	Half strength fertilizer each week.	Check for pests, etc. Spray as required.	Mounted plants will need watering more frequently.
PAPHIOPEDILUMS	Water once each week	Fertilize weekly using low Nitrogen fertilizer at half strength	Usually not an issue but check on a regular basis	Spray with Calcium Nitrate (2g/L) once every four weeks
PHALAENOPSIS	Water every 7 to 10 days. Mist in between if required. Once each week as weather warms up.	Fertilize half strength when watering. Use low nitrogen fertilizer.	Few problems expected but check plants often.	Spikes now forming. Stake as required on warm days. Use spacers to position flower buds.
VANDACEOUS	Water once a week, increase to daily as weather warms up. Mist exposed root systems.	Weekly with low nitrogen/high PK fertilizer @1/2 strength.	Check for chewing insects and other pests. Check for fungus and rots and treat as required.	Keep plants warm and protected from cold winter days and nights. Provide good air circulation and higher humidity levels.