



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



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FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

Christmas is fast approaching so it's time to acquire a few more orchids to put under the Christmas tree. It has been a long hard year – you deserve a treat or two for all that effort. Nobody else is able to choose these special prezzies for you so we have listed a few specials for you to choose from. As you may be aware Roy and Lee Neale released the first of the short cane, big flowered Epidendrums from the USA. We imported flasks and shared them with Roy & Lee. They grew them for us both, and then they got the privilege of first release at New Plymouth. What a success it was. With even a limit on the numbers you could purchase, they sold out. Well, now it's your turn. If you didn't go to New Plymouth or didn't get the colours you wanted, our plants are now ready for release. Our six pack special will be plants in flower or spike, or you can come to the nursery and choose your own. Again, there are limited numbers so be in quick. I already have another nursery which wants them all!!! But, because it's Christmas and you are important to us, it's your chance first. But don't delay as the next to flower are still some years away from flowering. Caution – this is first come, first served and we may still sell out.

We still have the Phalaenopsis directly imported from Taiwan as flowering sized plants and as they sold really well last month these are again being offered as a special. Again, there are limited numbers, but include the most unusual colour of orange (we have never been able to grow enough to supply the flowering sized plants before) and a beautiful spotted harlequin type. These are 3rd generation harlequins, so the spotting is very even on all the flowers, and they will be extremely popular when in flower as the spotty's are usually the first colour we sell out of. One of the other colours is a nice strong yellow with burgundy centre – also a popular colour when in flower. We have noticed that these plants are already starting to spike and so are definitely flowering sized plants. I would expect these to be in flower around Mothers Day next year (usually 4-5 months from when you first see the spikes until opening).

Give your plants a treat with some extra watering, as it is really starting to heat up and give them a little more fertilizer. They'll be happy and produce the results you deserve.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from Ross the Boss, and all the staff at Tuckers Nursery, Susan, Cathy, Sherrie and Benzon.



Some of our new Taiwan Phalaenopsis



Phal Loulin Orange



Phal Yu Pin Burgundy



Phal Yu Pin Golden
Wing



Phal Yu Pin Polar Bear



Phal Yu Pin
Shirasagi

CATS COMMENT:

It's always interesting to see new orchids come into the nursery. Last month it was the new species, this month it's the Epidendrums. While we have had some of them for a while, it was only limited colours. These new ones are in every colour you could imagine – whites, cream, all shades of pink, apricot, yellow, orange and red. Some with splash petals, spots on the lips and all very lovely. They are crucifix orchids, but not as you know them. They are like crucifix orchids on steroids, with ab's to match ☺. They have much larger flowers with shorter thicker stems and leaves. At the moment they are flowering on plants about 20-30cm high, but our larger plants that have been growing for a while would be about twice that height. While you could grow them outdoors in Northland, for most of the rest of us they need Cattleya conditions as they have a species in their background that makes the flowers larger but also means that they are slightly warmer growing than the usual crucifix orchids.

Summer in my greenhouse means the Miltonias are flowering along with some of the other summer flowering Odonts like Onc Sharry Baby, Odcdm Wildcat, Odm Solola and a bit later on Onc Sarahs Comet. Cattleya intermedia is still in flower too, along with Den Little Snowflake which has been flowering since July. It's really great to be able to have flowers all year round. Look after your orchids well over the summer months. They need as much extra water as you can spare and if you can find the time to feed them weekly they will really reward you later on next year with lots of spikes. Years ago, I didn't used to think that feeding was so vital, but it really does make a difference to my results now.

Merry Christmas and have a really safe and Happy New Year. Next newsletter will be February ☺

SPECIALS THIS MONTH

These specials are only available until the next newsletter issue.

6 pack of US Epidendrums (in flower or spike)	\$170 incl GST
1 single US Epidendrum	\$30 incl GST
5 pack of Taiwan Phalaenopsis FS	\$125 incl GST

Special Gift for you

A Christmas Prezzie for that Orchid Grower who thinks they have everything.

Sick of plants falling down & breaking off those precious flowers when you are taking them to the shows or meetings ?? Grrrr

Here's the answer – a 6-pack plant holder carrying frame, extra light, holds 180mm pots. Very, very useful – no more bark etc in the car to clean up after every trip. Add it to your plant purchases.

Only \$9.00 each

These specials are now available for ordering through our website. Look for them in the Online Orchid Club category. Please let us know if you do not see this category option.

Included are free cultural notes and a special free gift (Delivery charges apply). To place an order you can email us at orchids@clear.net.nz or visit our website www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz to view our range. We are happy to send these orchids anywhere in NZ only.

FEATURE OF THE MONTH – EPIDENDRUMS

Notes from the Cal Orchids website who bred our Epis.

For many years now Cal-Orchid has been developing the "Pacific" line of Epidendrums. Though long considered a minor group, today's modern Epi. hybrids are completely different. The plants now are much stouter and shorter. The flowers are much larger and shapelier, often mistakenly thought to contain Cattleyas in their breeding. There is also now a wide variety of colors to choose from, providing something for everyone. The size and density of the flower clusters is extraordinary as is the length of bloom! They initiate spikes from Autumn into Spring, and flower from Winter through Summer.



CULTURE OF EPIDENDRUMS:

Light: They prefer bright light, either in a glasshouse with approx 30% shade cloth above them, or they can be grown in the house at a North or West facing window, but avoid very hot direct sunlight as this can scorch them, and the leaves will blister if the sun is too strong. Aim for strong light green leaves. During the summer they would be better outside.

Temperature: They will be happy with a min night temp of 12-13 deg C. They can cope with temps up to 35 deg C without too much stress. Like all orchids they do best with plenty of air movement. A small fan can be used if growing indoors or in a glasshouse. This helps to prevent many fungal diseases.

Humidity and Watering: Water freely during the summer months, but make sure that the pot has dried out a little between waterings. Lift it to check if you are not sure. If the pot is still heavy, wait a day or two and recheck. Keep a little drier in winter.

Feeding: Feed Flowering Orchid Tucker fertilizer weekly. Make sure to flush with plain water occasionally between feedings.

Repotting: Use an open free draining mix. No 3 bark is what we are using for all but the baby Epis.

Pests: Scale love them. If you see ants on your plants, treat for scale with an insecticide/oil spray.



SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES: *Epidendrum secundum*

This is commonly known as the "All the flowers in one plane Epidendrum." It grows in the American tropics, where it is common and wide-spread from northern South America to Brazil. It is warm growing and light good to high light levels. This is being used more as a parent now to create the fuller shaped flowers in a range of colours.



Epi secundum

Epi Pacific
Whimsy

Epi Pacific
Sunset

Epi Pacific
Contrast

Epi Sun Valley

Epi Snow
Cocktail

Epidendrum crosses available include:

Epi Snowbird x Snow Cocktail – Whites

Epi Pacific Whimsy (Pacific Sunset x Sun Valley) – Pinks

Epi Pacific Contrast x Pacific Sunset 'Watermelon Man' – Coral pinks

Epi Pacific Pepper 'Mulligans' x Pacific Jazz – Reds

Epi Pacific Zapper (Sun Valley x Pacific Lava) – Corals to Pinks

Epi Pacific Zapper x Pacific Sunset – Strawberry pinks

Epi Pacific Seniorita x Pacific Sparkler – 2 tone orange and red

Epi Pacific Sparkler x Pacific Seniorita – reverse of above slightly different, 2 tone orange and red



Epi Pacific Lava



Epi Pacific Seniorita



Epi Pacific Sparkler



Pacific Sunsplash 'Gnarly'



Epi Pacific Sunset 'Pink Rabbit'



Epi Pacific Rose

Epi (Snow Cocktail x Sun Valley) x Pacific Sunsplash 'Gnarly' – compact oranges

Epi Pacific Sparkler x Pacific Sangria 'Hawaiian Punch' – purple-red sunsets

Epi Pacific Sangria (Sun Valley x Pacific Pepper 'Mulligans') – Reds to corals

Epi Pacific Rose 'Cottontail Coral' x Pacific Sunset 'Pink Rabbit' – Pinks to corals

We have another 8 crosses available in lower numbers (including yellow and purple shades) that the 6 packs can be chosen from. Either choose from the above crosses or give us your colour preferences. Most of these are now in flower.



WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

See you in New Plymouth Summer Show in January 17-19th

HOW TO FIND US

Directions: Exit Northern Motorway at Oteha Valley Road. Turn east onto Oteha Valley Road, travel straight through two roundabouts. You will encounter a significant intersection with traffic lights – this is East Coast Road. Turn left or northwards onto East Coast Road. From this point we are approximately 4km on the left-hand side.

Please note, the photos of plants shown in our newsletter are a mixture of breeding plants, plants we have seen in our travels and plants we have for sale. Not all of the plants that are displayed in our newsletter are available as plants for sale. Please check our website for details of what plants we have for sale. We do, however, welcome requests for plants that are not listed on our website as we may be able to supply them or something very similar.