



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



Editor: Cathy Hine

1370 East Coast Road, Redvale, Auckland, NZ.

Website: www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz

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Ph (09) 473 8629



FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

Another winter has come along, the temperatures have certainly dropped and I'm sure your plants are feeling it. So I would recommend you slow your watering down to a light watering once a week or even give it a miss for a week. Try and water early in the day and on non-rainy days so that the plants can dry off by nightfall, even if it means waiting until the weekend.

This month's newsletter is all about the new to New Zealand, Chinese Cymbidiums. Ten years ago in NZ these cymbidiums were really only available in books and very few, if any, plants were around. We are fortunate to have Phillip Zhou come to NZ, and then subsequently bring his father out. (Dad wouldn't come without his orchids). So we helped them import the collection of orchids. Phillip told me the story of how his father began collecting in China. In communist rural China (Mao Tse-Tung's era) orchids or 'lan' were forbidden as they were associated with capitalism and imperialism, and therefore banned. Phillip's father was an Agricultural Inspector of green tea, so travelled far and wide in China to view the plantations noticing along the way, orchids scattered around (not too communist in the countryside). When about the time of Nixon's visit and the easing of tensions, orchids became okay again, so his dad started collecting. I have seen pictures of his backyard crammed full of orchid plants surrounded by high walls.

Upon his move to NZ, Phillip and I imported 2 large shipments of his orchids into New Zealand. His father still grows them today but along the way, because of our laboratory services, we have begun to hybridize to produce more species and hybrids to maintain good numbers in NZ. I am particularly interested in the ease of flowering and the miniature characteristics and fine foliage that will be imparted into the progeny. Imagine a 4 spike normal intermediate sized flower with 10 flowers per stem on a plant that will fit inside a tea cup, i.e. 'Tea Cup Cymbidiums'.

CHECK OUT OUR PLANT GALLERY ON OUR WEBSITE

Some of the varieties of *Cym goeringii* – these are examples only and not available to purchase



Cym goeringii 'Han Zhu Sha'
AM/OCNZ HCC/NZOS



Cym goeringii HCC/NZOS



Pollinated by ants perhaps?



Large plant multispiking

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.

SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

Phillip's Plants:

Cym goeringii 'Mountain Blue'

These plants were imported directly from mainland China 4-5 years ago

They are flowering divisions only. They are very hard to get seed from (we have tried over 100 times with very little success)

Flowering sized division exclusive \$150

Cym ensifolium 'Matchmaker'

From seed but still flowering sized \$35

Seedlings from Phillip & Gangli

1 flowering sized seedling \$35

5 flowering sized seedlings \$150

6 pack size "B" seedlings \$50

Dolomag 300g 'The right grade' \$8

Calcium and Magnesium for orchids – larger quantities on application

Slug Out also available on request.

Chinese Cymbidium pots sets of 3 sizes \$30

All prices incl GST

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.



CATS COMMENT:

I first saw a display of Chinese cymbidiums at the Waitakere orchid show about 5 years ago. I had been off the orchid scene for a few years and seeing them for the first time was a real thrill. They held me spellbound for quite some time, because they were so different from the usual orchids on display. I really like orchids that have a point of difference about them – spots and splashes catch my eye frequently. The Chinese cymbidiums have a charm and distinctiveness that sets them apart. The plants on display were, at that time, mostly varieties of *Cym goeringii*. They were grown in tall slender pots that complemented perfectly the growth habit of the plants – compact small bulbs with slender foliage and unusual triangular shaped flower in all sorts of colours. Nowadays we see the first generation hybrids appearing on display too, and second generation hybrids are already at the seedling stage. The hybridizers like Phillip Zhou are trying to create compact multi spiking cymbidiums with perfume as a bonus. I reckon they are almost there. The first generation hybrids have more flowers on the spikes, longer spikes and a delightful range of colours. I do not grow many cymbidiums due to a lack of space for large plants, but I reckon they have got me converted, and I just may have to find some space for these petite beauties.

FEATURE OF THE MONTH – CHINESE CYMBIDIUMS

There are four main species of Chinese cymbidiums that are in cultivation and being used in hybridization, - *Cym goeringii*, *Cym ensifolium*, *Cym mastersii* and *Cym kanran*, but there are many more that may not even have been discovered yet. In China and Japan many of them are grown as much for their superb perfumes as well as the flowers themselves. In fact, at the larger orchid shows in the region they have competitions for fragrance and the plants are displayed in tall glass jars where the perfume can be assessed and graded.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES: *Cym goeringii*

Cym goeringii can be found in a range of locations from NW India through to China, Taiwan, Japan and even up into Korea. They have small ovoid bulbs with fine erect to arching foliage. The plants are deep rooted with the roots liking to penetrate the medium straight down which can present cultural challenges. They predominately flower in winter and spring. The spikes are usually short and hold 1-3 flowers, often down amongst the leaves. They have beautiful fragrances. There is considerable variation amongst the different cultivars of *Cym goeringii* and they can vary in colour and form from bright green to red and yellow varieties.

Plants from Philip Zhou:

Cym. goeringii "Mountain Blue": native species originally from Southwest China. It was first imported to NZ in 2004 and had won a number of Award of Merits in several shows in Auckland. It is a small terrestrial type of plant with variegated leaves and flowers, very pleasant fragrance. One flower per spike. Warm to cool growing and needs extra shade in summer. Likes very weak fertilizer (CF reading between 2 and 4). (Natural division with at least 3-4 bulbs per plant).



Cym. ensifolium "Match Maker" (natural seed pod): native Chinese species flowering from late summer till late Autumn up to 3 times. 3-6 flowers per spike with very pleasant fragrance. Warm to intermediate growing, need slightly more light than ordinary cymbidiums (about 50% shade in summer). Likes very weak fertilizer (CF reading between 2 and 4). (All plants about 5 years old growing from seedlings, just finished their first flowering, with at least 4-5 bulbs per plant).



Cym. Master Dunn: crossed between *Cym. mastersii* and *Cym. Mem Merv Dunn*, first flowered in May-August 2012. 2-4 flowers per spike with very good fragrance. It had about the same size and appearance as a *mastersii*. Warm to cool growing and prefers weak fertilizer (4-6 CF reading). Five year old plants growing from seedlings.



Cym. Goerin Love: crossed between Cym. goeringii "Rainbow" and Cym. "Pure Love", first flowered in May-August 2012. It had a size in between "Rainbow" and "Pure Love" with 2-6 flowers per spike with good fragrance. Warm to cool growing in conditions similar to normal cymbidiums. 3-4 year old plants growing from seedlings, with at least 3-5 bulbs.



Cym. Fuji Kan: crossed between Cym. Lillian Fujimoto and Cym. kanran, first flowered in August-October 2012. Medium sized plant with tall spike. Flower count: 9-13. Warm to cool growing in conditions similar to normal cymbidiums. 4-5 year-old plants growing from seedlings, with at least 5-6 bulbs.



Cym. Fu Gui Sarah (aka: Goerin Sarah): crossed between Cym. goeringii "Da Fu Gui" and Cym. Pure Sarah, first flowered in July-September 2012. Medium sized plant, 4-6 good shaped flowers, pleasant fragrance. Warm to cool growing in conditions similar to normal cymbidiums. 4-5 year old plants growing from seedlings, with at least 4-5 bulbs.



Cym. Goerin Carmen: crossed between Cym. goeringii var. longibracteatum "Yu Zhou Hong" and Cym. Red Beauty Carmen, first flowered in July-September 2012. Tall spikes with 5-9 flowers. Warm to cool growing in conditions similar to normal cymbidiums. 4-5 year old plants growing from seedlings, with at least 4-5 bulbs per plant.



CULTURE OF CHINESE CYMBIDIUMS:

Light – Grow them fairly shady from late spring through to mid autumn. During winter as much light as possible is required for optimum flowering.

Temperature – Chinese cymbidiums can be grown with your other cymbidiums and do not seem to mind cold winters so long as they have perfect drainage. A temperature drop of at least 5°C overnight is essential to initiate flowering (not usually a problem in NZ) Watering in the evening during the summer months will help this.

Watering – Water regularly, without letting them completely dry out between applications during the warmer months. They do better slightly drier in winter.

Feeding – Feed with Flowering Orchid Tucker weekly, all year round. Flush the plants with plain water between feedings to remove excess salts from the mix.

Repotting – Use a med grade of pine bark and make sure the drainage is good, as they require lots of water in the warm months. Repotting should be done when new root growth is evident in late winter or as soon as flowering has finished. The roots are extremely brittle so great care should be taken. Species plants have roots that like to go straight down, so potting in tall narrow pots is advised. We have some of these pots available for purchase if required. The hybrids have normal root growth so your usual pots can be used, although they look very attractive in the tall pots.



WEBSITE WATSUP:

Latest news: Just before the show season really gets busy, we have updated our Plant Gallery section of our website. Take a quick look at some of our plants that have flowered and received awards in the past few years and up to the present. We've received 3 more in the past two weeks and with the shows coming along, many more to come. Most of these plants are being used as parents and even some have been mericloned. The next generation of awards comes from seedlings and your odds of getting a good one are better than Lotto.

Fastway's Rural Delivery Zones available online:

Fastway's rural delivery zones are different to NZ Post. Mostly, Fastway is rural where NZ Post is not, however that rule cannot be applied across the board. We're considered rural under NZ Post but not under Fastway. Check to see what you are. They are available on the home page under Shipping and Returns.

Viewing the specials on our website:

- You must first create an account on our website. This new account will be set up as a regular Retail account.
- Email us to let us know that you have set up the account. We will then switch the status over to Online Orchid Club.
- Login to our website using your email address and password. You should now see the additional Online Orchid Club plant category on the left hand side.

If you have any difficulties viewing the new category please try clearing your cache/browsing history using the following steps;

- For Internet Explorer, open the browser window, click on the Tools menu and then select Internet Options. On the first screen, the General Tab, you will see Browsing History. Delete your browsing history.
- For Mozilla Firefox, open the browser window, click on the Tools menu and select Options. On the Privacy tab click on Clear your recent history. Ensure that you then select 'Everything' at the next screen.
- For Google Chrome, click on the button at the top right of the screen showing three horizontal bars. Select Tools and then Clear browsing data. Ensure that you then select 'the beginning of time' at the next screen.

If you are still experiencing problems, please email me and I will endeavour to sort them out for you.

Note 1: If you are wishing to order specific varieties to be included in one of the multipacks, either type the details into the Comments box at Step 5 of the checkout process or email us straight away. Otherwise we will assume that you wish us to make a selection for you.

Note 2: New varieties will be made available to our Online Orchid Club members first before being made generally available. You will find them in the Online Orchid Club category and they will go to general release once the next newsletter issue is released.

Susan Tucker

WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

NZOS Winter Show, Mt Albert War Memorial Hall – 13th – 14th July

Southmall, Manurewa – 15th – 20th July

HCOS Display, Warkworth – 27th July

Milford Mall, Milford – 29th July – 4th August

Hunters Plaza, Papatoetoe – 5th – 11th August

Next Month we will be focusing on: Brassia *Brassia arcuigera*

