



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



Editor: Cathy Hine

1370 East Coast Road. Redvale, Auckland, NZ.

Ph (09) 473 8629

Website: www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz

Issue 32: September 2013



FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

I think spring is slowly starting to appear – some nice days and then a couple of wintery ones. The plants are showing signs of activity. It is time to think about increasing your watering and feeding. Are you ready and have all your supplies in? Get some Growing Orchid Tucker for smaller plants or slow release Plantacote, and maybe some Dolomag if you haven't done this already.

The Orchid show season is in full swing with excellent attendances at the Waitakere Show. Glenys, the Show Marshall did a couple of head counts and there were over 200 visitors per hour coming through the show, nearly 1200 per day – back to the good old days. Whatever the society did to attract the public, it worked, and they can do it again next year. Although, at the end of Saturday I spoke to a couple of visitors and they asked if it was open on Sunday, because they wanted to tell their friends to come along, but alas, another unfulfilled demand in the Orchid World.

This month's newsletter is on Paphiopedilums and we are having great success growing these plants at present. The best results are with using No 2 bark and feeding Flowering Orchid Tucker weekly. Some plants that have multiple growths started flowering in April and are still sending up spikes as the growths mature – 6 months non-stop flowering. They also like shade so placing them under trees outdoors should achieve excellent results.

Many of the recently imported flasks are now flowering and we are releasing a few of these crosses in this newsletter. Check out our members specials.



A selection of our Ratcliffe hybrids

CULTURAL INFORMATION:

Many years ago we were not good growers of Paphs until some successful growers gave us some tips. They are particular about their requirements and can be slightly harder to really get a really well grown plant.

1. Paphs do not have pseudobulbs so therefore can't store water. They also do not have velamen on their roots (the silvery coating on an epiphyte's roots). They have very hairy roots with long growing green tips so again, they can't store water in their root system unlike orchids such as Cymbidiums, Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis. So a Paph cannot be allowed to dry out, so water when they are $\frac{3}{4}$ dry, never fully dry. Conversely, never keep them soggy and wet either. If the roots stay too wet they will die off. It is a real balancing act. So the mix you grow them in is very important – success for us occurred when we changed to the No 2 bark – a perfect mix for the Paphs. It is not easy to fully dry out but is still porous enough to drain freely.
2. Never over-pot a Paph. Small plants can stay in a 5 or 7cm tube until they flower. Keep this in mind when potting up in No 2 bark.
3. We have found that feeding is also important. "Little and often" we feed every watering with Flowering Orchid Tucker. Paphs can also flower remarkably quickly – some under two years from flask. Older grower did tend to starve their plants and sometimes told me it took 7 years to flower a Paph. Not anymore.
4. When a plant is happy their leaves definitely get a shine on them and even the mottled leaf varieties get a brighter green. It seems to change with the season and the amount of the fertilizing.

Once you have conquered the growing of Paphs you will feel that you are on the way to becoming an "Orchid Grower".

CHECK OUT THE PLANT GALLERY ON OUR WEBSITE

These plants are to show you what we are breeding. They are not available for purchase.

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.



CATS COMMENT:

Although I have never grown very many slipper orchids I have always liked the more unusual shapes of the primary hybrids and species, especially if they have long petals that look like moustaches. Slipper orchids fall broadly into two main categories – the complex standard hybrids (see the Ratcliffes photos later in the newsletter) and the Maudiae or Colouratum types. I much prefer these types as they have tall shapely flowers often with stripes and spots which I love. They come in all colours from bright apple green through to deepest red – often known as the vinicolours - which were highly sought after many years ago and still admired whenever they are shown today. They generally grow just a little warmer than the standard Paphs, but the flowers last just as long and are so beautiful. They are often equally beautiful out of flower as some of them have very pretty mottled leaves.

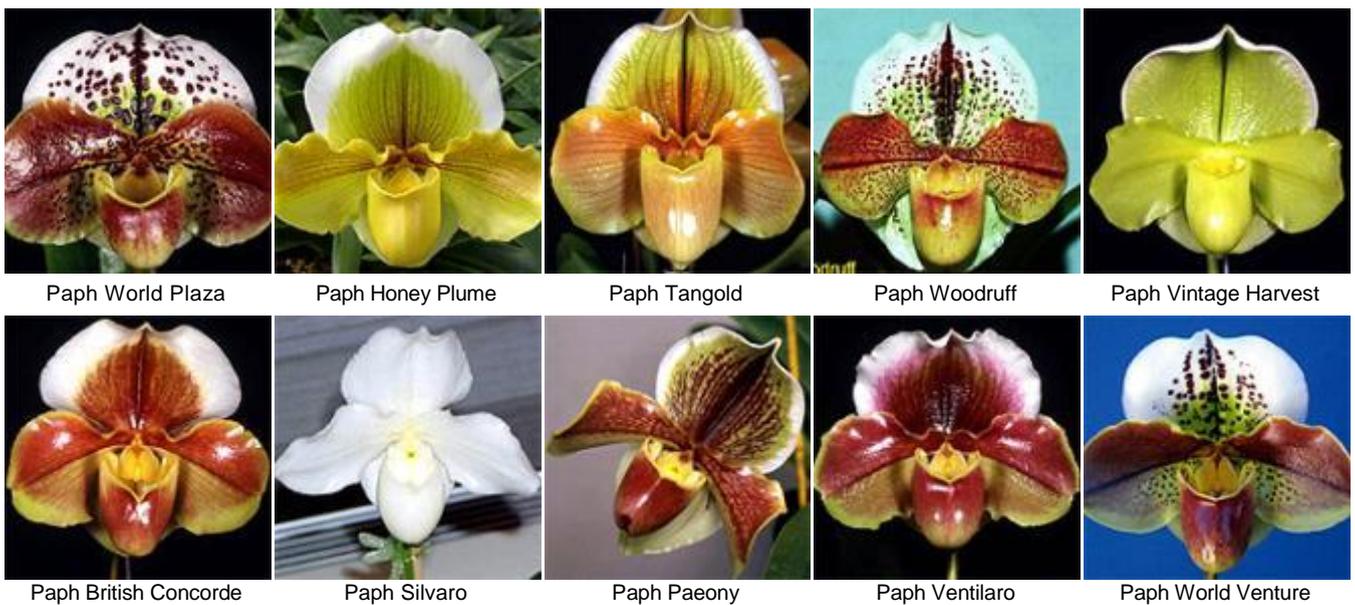
Our colour special of the month is Yellow orchids – the colour of spring for me. Bright golden yellows to brighten up the last few days of winter, and to look forward to summer. Either specify which genera you like to grow and let us choose for you, or you pick your own selection. We have yellow cattleyas, cymbidiums, oncidiums, phallies and dendrobiums. See our website for more yellow varieties.

Just a few of our golden beauties: note some of the photos are parents of our seedlings



FEATURE OF THE MONTH – PAPHIOPEDILUM SLIPPER ORCHIDS

Pictured below are some of the fine Paph clones produced at Ratcliffes Nurseries in England. The majority of our flowering slippers have originated from this fine nursery, and some of the plants flowering are very stunning, and we have had some of them awarded already. While all our hybrids are unnamed we can find you something similar to many of these.



The Cyripedioieae – commonly known as lady’s slipper orchids – get their name from the very individual shape of their lip, which takes the form of a pouch in front of the flower. This forms a trap, into which the pollinating insect falls, and can only escape by crawling up the back of the flower, where the pollen is firmly attached to the insects back. This is then transferred to the stigma of the next flower the unsuspecting insect visits.

There are four main genera of Cyripedioieae that are recognized by botanists. They are almost all terrestrial in nature. A very few species are lithophytic.

Cyripedium – from the temperate zones of the Northern hemisphere

Paphiopedilum – from South East Asia

Phragmipedium and Selenipedium from South America

The Paphiopedilums are the most commonly grown of the four types so that is where we will concentrate our focus on at this time. There are about 90 known species distributed across the whole of South East Asia. The plants mostly grow in fairly shady conditions in the humus of the

undergrowth – a few such as *Paph lowii* grow as epiphytic plants or *Paph niveum* as lithophytes (on rocks).

Most of the species will flower between autumn and spring but with hybrids this can be variable, some flowering more than once a year. The flowers are long lasting due their waxy nature. If you cut the flower stem after it has been open for 8 days it should last about 3 weeks in water. The plants do not have any storage organs other than their fleshy leaves which overlap each other, and their tough hairy root system. They do not like to dry out and need to grow in constantly moist compost. For all these reasons slipper orchids are extremely popular and are one of the 5 or 6 genera most frequently encountered in horticulture.



PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURE:

Norito Hasegawa, of Paphanatics Unlimited, CA, USA, visited our nursery and he remarked on how big our pots were compared to the size of the plants. He recommends growing Paph complex hybrids, primaries and Chinese species in 5 or 7cm tubes through to flowering. It not only reduces the amount of mix, but also dries it out very quickly. Paphs do not have a rampant root system, as Dennis Chua commented on his return from a recent trip to Malaysia; some Paphs in their natural habitat only had 1 or 2 roots clinging onto a tree or rock.

We deflask paphs into sphagnum moss if they are very small plants. Otherwise No 2 bark is used and they are tubed up depending on the size of the plants. We use No 2 bark and wait until they have flowered in tubes. After flowering larger plants can be potted on slowly. Paphs do need a top dressing of dolomite every 6 months due their requirement of a higher pH in the bark.

Light: approx 60% shading is about right. A little more shade for young or weak plants would be best. If your plants have very pale green leaves they may be getting too much light and direct sunlight can burn the leaves. Too little light may result in dark green leaves and no flowers.

Temperature: Slipper orchids may be broadly divided into two groups:

Those with uniformly green leaves which prefer cooler temperatures –min 10°C to max 21 – 27° C.

Those with the mottled leaves which prefer warmer conditions – min 15- 19° C

However Paphs exhibit a wide tolerance range for temperature and an intermediate greenhouse with a min night temp of about 12° C will suit most of them. Young plants will grow better with higher night temps of about 18-20° C.

Humidity and Watering: As the plants have no storage organs, they require constant moisture throughout the year. The frequency of watering will depend on the season so trial and error is recommended. The secret of successful watering is to ensure that the compost is always damp but never soggy and wet. The roots will die if they are constantly saturated, but equally dire results will occur if they are allowed to dry out too much – as with all things balance must be achieved. Watering in the early part of the day is recommended so that any water in the leaf axils can dry by nightfall to avoid the risk of rotting.

Feeding: Feed with Flowering Orchid Tucker at normal strength weekly for best results. A little slow release fertilizer can also be used. Sprinkle with dolomite every 6 months for best results as they do not like acidic mixes.

Repotting: Repot yearly, after flowering if possible, or leave no longer than 2 years or the compost may go sour. A light top-dressing of dolomite helps to keeps the bark sweet. A mixture of No 2 bark with similar sized gravel or shell works well and won't dry out too fast. Paphs have very brittle roots that break easily so treat them gently. The roots can be difficult to bend so be careful putting them back into the pot, but do try to keep them in the smallest possible pot the roots will fit into.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES:

Thank you to Orchid Wiz for the cultural information.

Note: species names always start with a small letter (not capitalized) and are usually italicized.

Paphiopedilum species fall into three main categories:

Chinese – parvisepalums mottled leaves with large showy flowers

Mottled leaves – brachypetalums round well shaped often spotted flowers, usually a single flower on the stem

Green leaves – paphiopedilums, may be multifloral on a stem, variety of shapes

I have covered quite a few species this month as they are very popular and often seen at shows.

Parvisepalum section

Paphiopedilum malipoense: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Southwest China. These plants were originally found near the village of Malipo in southeast Yunnan Province, just north of the Vietnamese border. The first plants were found at 1300-1600 m. Spring flowering.

Paphiopedilum emersonii: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Southwest China. Plants grow along the eastern edge of the Guizhou Plateau in Yunnan and Guangxi provinces. They are usually found on northeast facing rock walls at 460-700 m. Spring flowering.

Paphiopedilum vietnamense: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Northern Vietnam near the Chinese border in the provinces of Cao Bang, Ha Giang, or Tuyen Quang. Plants reportedly grow lithophytically on mossy, weathered limestone, and collections have been reported at 700-1200 m. Early summer fl.

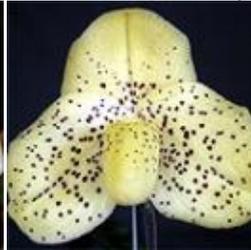
Please note these photos are for information only. We do not have these plants for sale.



Paph malipoense



Paph emersonii



Paph wenshanense



Paph vietnamense



Paph godefroyae

Brachypetalum section.

Paphiopedilum wenshanense: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Yunnan China in densely shrubby and grassy slopes and is very similar and may be a naturally occurring hybrid of the man-made hybrid Paph conco-bellatulum. Winter to early spring flowering.

Paphiopedilum godefroyae: ORIGIN/HABITAT: A small sized, lowland terrestrial or lithophytic native of peninsular Thailand at elevations less than 50 feet above sea level on limestone cliffs in leaf litter or moss or tree roots. Summer flowering.

Paphiopedilum section.

Paphiopedilum acmodontum: ORIGIN/HABITAT: The Philippine Islands. Known as the Pointed Tooth Paph. Spring flowering

Paphiopedilum primulinum: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Northern Sumatra. Plants are found at 400-500 m in the vicinity of Mt. Leuser. They grow in humus on the floor of dwarf forest on top of limestone hills. Flowers late spring.

Paphiopedilum parishii: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Burma and Thailand. Plants are found in the Shan Plateau region of Burma at 1250-1370 m, and in the mountains of western and northern Thailand. Paphiopedilum parishii usually grows on east-facing slopes in shaded, low light conditions. It grows epiphytically on the middle or lower branches of trees between 3-5 m above the ground, but it also grows in thick mosses on boulders or fern roots. Summer flowering

Paphiopedilum callosum: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Central and eastern Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. Distribution is rather widespread, but plants are most common in Thailand where they grow at 300-1300 m in cool, mist shrouded forests. They are usually humus epiphytes with their roots embedded in the moss, detritus, and leaf-mould on the forest floor. Summer flowering.

Paphiopedilum lowii: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Java, and Celebes. At first glance, Paphiopedilum lowii appears to be epiphytic, lithophytic, and terrestrial, but it is a humus epiphyte. It grows with its roots penetrating thick moss on trees, in pockets of leaf litter, or

on boulders or cliff faces with roots buried in moss or humus filled pockets. Plants grow near water or in areas with heavy rainfall and are usually found in bright locations, frequently in full sun for part of the day. They are normally found at 760-1370 m. Spring flowering.

Please note these photos are for information only. We do not have these plants for sale.



Paph acmodontum



Paph primulinum



Paph parishii



Paph callosum



Paph lowii

SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

**New Taiwan seedlings usually \$30 each reduced to \$25
3 pack \$70**

**Ratcliffes standard Paphs 6 pack in flower \$150 choose your colour preferences
Ratcliffes standard Paphs 10 pack in flower \$225 choose your colour preferences**

6 pack pink orchids Size B	\$55
6 pack pink orchids Size C	\$95
10 pack pink orchids Size B	\$90
10 pack pink orchids Size C	\$150

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.

List of the Taiwan seedlings

Paph Maudiae 'Silverado' x Hsinying Citron 'White Fairy'
Paph (Maudiae 'Silverado' x Hsinying Citron 'White Fairy') x Hsinying Mayo
Paph Yerba Buena 'White Cap' x Stone Lovely 'Ching In'
Paph Time Flyer x (Picture Rock x Donna Hanes)
Paph Alma Gevaert 'Goto' x Hsinying Citron 'White Fairy'
Paph Hsinying Citron x Hsinying Makurow

Some examples of the Taiwan seedlings



Paph Maudiae 'Silverado'



Paph Hsinying Citron



Paph Hsinying Makurow



Paph Yerba Buena



Paph Stone Lovely 'Ching In'



Paph Picture Rock



Paph Donna Hanes



Paph Alma Gevaert

WEBSITE WATSUP:

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:

I have been outlining the process for viewing our website specials over the last few months. It is now time to make room for other content. If you would like the instructions, please email me and I will send them to you individually.

Website Birthday:

Our new website will be one year old next month. Watch this space for special news.

Susan Tucker

WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

6th & 7th September – Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society Show – Orewa Community Centre
13th – 15th September – NZ Orchid Society Spring Show – Mt Albert War Memorial Hall
21st – 22nd September – South Auckland Orchid Exhibition – Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa
28th – 29th September – North Shore Orchid Society Spring Show – Milford Senior Citizens Hall
3rd – 6th October – Waikato Home & Garden Show – Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton
5th – 6th October – Canterbury Orchid Society Spring Show, Horticultural Centre, Christchurch



Next month we are focusing on Dendrobiums

Den Anne's Rainbow Surprise

