EWA ORCHID SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 2011

C Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin X lc Rosen

Aloha! Welcome to the Ewa Orchid Society Newsletter, the first for 2011~ I plan to write this every other month—the even months: February, April, May, July, September, November. If you have any material that should be included, please be sure to let me know by THE FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH!

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011
Please mark your calendars now!!
February 24
March 24
April 28
June 23
July 6, Layout,7 Set up, 8-10 Ewa Orchid Show
August 25
October 27
December-TBA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

The Board of Directors has approved a number of Tours on Oahu as well as to the Big Island and Maui. Watch for details in future Newsletters. President Andrade and Clem Roldan are in charge. Be sure to let them know of any speakers you would like to hear!

Questions and Answers: I still have several questions to answer from those submitted at our November meeting.

Q: Which orchid are better to hang vs on a platform?

A: Remember that orchids grow naturally in the wild, some are terrestrial, but most hang in trees. You need to see which plants grow best in shade, which prefer sunshine. The most important factor is that the plants receive enough light and water with plenty of aeration for the roots.

Q: Which orchids are the most prolific bloomers?
A: Another question that has many answers, depending on where you live. As a general rule, the most number of flowers are the dendrobium, also the longest lasting blooms. Many species have numerous blooms, your best bet is to check any orchid reference to see what would do best where you live.

Q: How do you know when it is time to transplant?
A: When the roots are growing outside of the pot is the best general rule. Many orchids should be repotted every two years. Check the root system, if they are turning dark, or are crushed or rotting, it is time to transplant.

Q: Have a specialist report quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) with a short paragraph on the care of one category of orchids. Ie: Honohono; Dendrobium; Cattleya; Epi, etc.
A: I submitted this to the Board of Directors, however, these topics have been covered in past issues of the Newsletter.   I can repeat it if necessary.

Q: How do I take care of Dendrobium?
A: This will be answered in a future Newsletter. A repeat of previous notes.

Q: How can I get rid of those little black ants?
A: President Roy answered this in the last meeting. To add to his information, honey placed strategically around the area will lure ants away. Home remedies for ants is a Boric Acid Mix: 3 cups of water, 1 cup of sugar, 3 teaspoons of Boric Acid. You can also use the usual chemicals that are advertised for this use. You need to be sure the eggs are also taken care of. This is a difficult problem, especially in Hawaii. I have found them inside the pots, loaded with eggs as well as the ants and used the hose to wash them away then sprayed them with RAID. I do not advocate doing that around pets or children.

Thank you for submitting these questions and I hope the answers are helpful. Keep the questions coming for future Newsletters.
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A Home Remedy, alternative to Insecticides
For Spider Mites, scales and white flies:
Mix together and Spray:
2 ½ Tablespoons of vegetable oil
2 ½ Tablespoons detergent or hand soap
1 gallon of water

Fungicide:
Diathane M-45: Protects stems and leaves from rot and decay
Spotreat 75 WGD: Keeps roots from rot and decay

Watch orchids carefully and take care of problems as soon as they occur. Spot spraying of pesticides may be all that is needed to rectify the problem. When using pesticides, always wear protective clothing and ALWAYS follow directions.

WHAT DO THOSE NUMBERS MEAN?
Choosing the right fertilizer can be easy if you simply know what the fertilizer ingredients can do for your plants.
Find the series of three numbers know as PK formula, for example, 16-4-4 (Gaviota Lawn Food).
The numbers are percentages of the primary plant nutrients in the fertilizer.
Different formulas work best for different plants and different soils.
Nitrogen (N or 16)

- Gives the dark green color to leaves
- Promotes rapid growth of plants
- Improves quality and quantity of leaves
- Increases protein content of food crops

Phosphorous (P or 4)

- Produces early growth, roots and seeds
- Gives rapid and vigorous growth to plants
- Hastens maturity of plants
- Stimulates seed germination, flowering and fruiting

Potassium (K or 4)

- Helps plants resist disease
- Allows the plant to grow roots
- Improves the size and quality of fruit
- Aids in the formation of color to leaves and fruits.

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Fertilizing (Twice a month)

A. Water soluble type (Peters)
    a. 30-10-10 high in N for fir bark
    b. 10-30-20 blossom booster
    c. 18-18-18 general purpose for orchid feeding
    d. 15-16-17 general use

B. Granular or powder
    a. Mag Amp 7-40-6
    b. Organic Gaviota Anthurium & orchid fertilizer
    c. Timed release Nutricote 13-13-13

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Great care must be taken when the orchids are handled or transplanted. To reduce chances of spreading viruses and fungal diseases.:

A. Flame shears
B. Wash hands in soapy water
C. Work on Newspaper

These tasks must always be done before the next orchid is handled. It helps to have a clean water supply and soap handy rather than having to go in to the house each time.

Potting mix and type of Media.

Almost all the different medias work. It is best that each person experiment with different types to find out what works best for the type of plant, their location and cultural habits.

A. 3 parts fir bark – medium for bigger plants and fine for 2" pots
   1 ½ parts peat moss
   2 parts coarse #3 pearlite

B. #3 blue rock – excellent media for those who live in high rainfall area. Also good for tall plants in winds that topple easily.

C. Hapu'u (Tree Fern) Excellent stability, longest lasting organic medial, excellent growth

D. New Zealand Spagnum Moss: Best media to establish a young plant, or to revive an old plant, super growth.

Blc. Kawali Gem Shin Shin

That's all until next time. Please keep me in the loop for interesting topics.

Mahalo nui loa!

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