

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Dec. 2012

SHOW TIME!

VAOS Annual Show & Sale February 2-3, 2013

The VAOS is proud to host the most popular orchid show on the west coast of Florida. Our show draws nationally known growers, AOS judges from across the country and close to 4000 attendees from the tri-county area. We are also known for our great food and active participation from our membership. This is our major fundraiser for the year. All members who are physically able to help are encouraged to volunteer for 2-3 hours. Here are the areas where we need your help:

Set Up and Take Down - Arrive Friday 2/1/13 by 11:30am to set up the hall for exhibits, lay plastic, and assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs required. Join us for lunch. Arrive Sunday 2/3/13 by 3:45pm for take down and hall clean up. 10 people needed. Coordinator needed for this committee. Contact Rich Amos 552-6723

Continued on page 4

The Spirit of Giving

At the last meeting our members donated food to the Center of Hope for this holiday season.

The Center is located on Venice Avenue and serves the area homeless.

Margaret and Charlie Cullens provided the transportation.



Minutes of the Nov. 7, 2012 VAOS Meeting

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting with announcements and directed members' attention to printed flyers of upcoming events. She announced that Bill Timm collected \$2400 from his "Plant Safari" event. Proceeds were donated to the American Cancer Society. Cynthia recognized Shirley Hoffman and John Masters, who are sharing their orchid

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WWW.VAOS.ORG

A Message from your President:

Our last speaker, Bill Thoms, was a hoot as he taught us how to grow Bulbophyllums. When he discovered that our membership fee was \$15.00, he emphasized that his lecture cost you \$1.25 per presentation! If you add in the Growers Clinic – each program costs you 75 cents. Frankly, I think these educational seminars and potting clinics are worth much more than that. By being a part of VAOS – you learn how not to KILL that \$35.00 orchid you just purchased or won in our raffle for \$2.00. Being a part of our VAOS is a wonderful bargain!

So this is the time of the year when we ask you to support our Society by doing 3 things -- paying your membership, contributing to the Annual Show as a Patron (\$25) and volunteering at the Show. Kindly send your checks to Treasurer Ali Hicks, VAOS, P.O. Box 443, Venice Florida, 34284 -- right now. The Annual Show and your generosity support one year of programming and your Patron Donation is tax-exempt.

I also urge you to telephone one of the Committee chairs (see accompanying article on the Show), choose

Continued on page 5

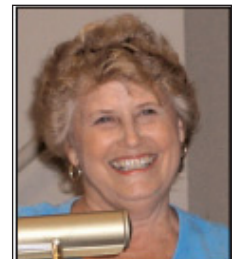
Membership Dues due by January 1, 2013

Now is the time to renew your Venice Area Orchid Society Membership. Dues are only \$15.00 per household each calendar year.

Please pay Treasurer Ali Hicks at the next meeting or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

Ms. Ali Hicks, Treasurer
P.O. Box 443
Venice, FL 34284-0443

Dues must be received by January 1st so that you can be included in the 2013 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information- address, phone and email address. Please check your current Directory to see if your entry needs editing. Should your contact information have changed, please notify Jay and Judy Loeffler, Membership Chairs, at nvrbdun@verizon.net.



Cynthia Vance

Venice Area Orchid Society, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

Officers 2012 - 2013

President

Cynthia Vance, pres@vaos.org

Vice President - Programs

Jim Thomas

programs@vaos.org

Vice President - Social Affairs

Gerry Thomas, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Richard Amos, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Ali Hicks, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org

Membership

Jay & Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Directors At Large:

Annual Show Chairs

Barbara Wagner

Carol Wood

showchair@vaos.org

Immediate Past President

Ted Kellogg, tmkellogg@gmail.com

Volunteers

Donn Smart, Communications

The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

Bryan Herd, Librarian

Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt

Newsletter Production

Barry Zack

Website Maintenance

Ted Kellogg

VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

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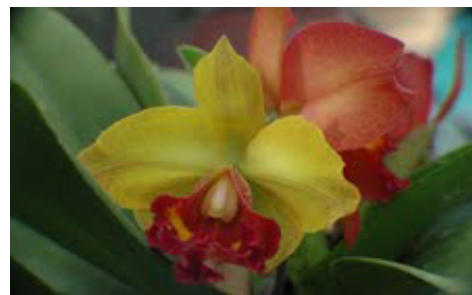
- Published monthly.
- Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.
- Please direct comments to:
Steve Vogelhaupt, newsletter@vaos.org
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Two of My Favorite Orchids

These are two gorgeous examples of Bill Fender's crosses.

The Rlc. Chai Pet shown is the third of the four plants I bought from Bill and was the only one that had not bloomed. I think you'll agree that the wait was worthwhile! The Chia Pet is very fragrant and opens with a yellow blossom that becomes reddish after two days.

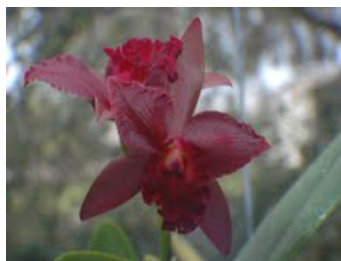
The C. Jalapa X Rlc. Carolina Splendor is a very dark plum red. This blossom is 3 ¾ inches in diameter and has yellow deep in the throat. The photo doesn't show how dark it really is.



Rlc. Chia Pet- upon opening



Rlc. Chia Pet



Left: C. Jalapa x Rlc. Carolina Splendor

-Submitted by Jimmy Thomas

Treasurer's Report November 2012

Checking Account

Starting Balance
10/13/2012.....\$885.48
+ Income.....\$1,393.56
- Payments.....\$1,043.37
Balance (11/16/12).....\$1,235.67

Show Checking Account

10/13/2012.....\$1,831.64
- Payments\$31.19
Balance (10/13/12).....\$1,800.45

Cash Account

Balance (10/13/2012.....\$40.00

Money Market Acct

Balance (11/16/12).....\$23,010.04

Total Assets

11/16/2012.....\$26,086.16

Submitted by Ali Hicks

Support our 2012 Show Sponsors

- AAA South
- Center for Sight
- Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS
- Edgewood Nursery
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
- Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community
- Pineapples Island Grill
- Raleigh & Associates
- Sharky's on the Pier
- Silverstein Institute
- Stanley Dean State Farm
- Valenti's Allegro Bistro



Plant Table Awards November 7, 2012

The **First Place Ribbon** was awarded to Carol Wood's beautiful Den.

Emma White 'Mutation'. The parents, Den. Singapore White X Den. Joan Kushima, really produced a winner. There were 2 spikes, each bearing about 13 blossoms. The lovely white blossoms

were about 2 inches across and had a touch of light green or were all white with a green shadow. Good job, Carol.



Den. Emma White 'Mutation'

I thought Mary Anne DiGrazia earned more than **Second Place**, but the judges thought differently. Her well grown plant, Blc. Yuko Ito 'Volcano Queen' presented 2 spikes with six 5 inch blossoms, each yellow with a touch of red on the lips. The cross is: Rhyncholcattleya Benigno's Treasure X Blc. Yuko Ito. Don't you just love these simple names? Beautiful orchid, Mary Anne. Thanks for bringing it in for us to see.



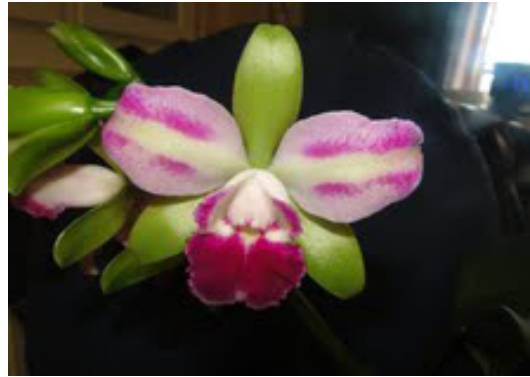
Blc. Yuko Ito 'Volcano Queen'

The **Third Place ribbon** was given to Bill Timm's Bulbophyllum medusae. It had 'a lot of blossoms'...too small and too many on 6 inflorescences. The many small white blossoms formed a nice display somewhat like a very small starburst. This species is native to Borneo.



Bulbophyllum medusae

Don't forget the **Speaker's Choice Award**, Blc. Penny Helen 'Kudos' AM/AOS, a beautifully grown plant with 3 blossoms and 3 buds. The light purple blossoms with dark lips were 4 inches across. Oh yes, this beautiful orchid was brought to the meeting for your enjoyment by Cynthia Vance.



Blc. Penny Helen 'Kudos'

Bill Timm took the **Species of the Month Award** with his Bulbophyllum crassipes, a good looking plant with hundreds of blossoms on some 20 inflorescences.

The blossoms were beautiful purple with yellow lips and were very well formed. The lips were very interesting, flapping in the breeze. The blossoms were beautifully placed on cone shaped infl. Well, actually, the blossoms were way too small to see without help with a magnifier. This plant is native to S. E. Asia.



Bulbophyllum crassipes

The **Members' Choice Award** went to Peggy Fahrenback's Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS. It presented a great showing with four 5 inch yellow blossoms each highlighted with red and yellow on the lips. Peggy, it is really an honor to win Members' Choice. It takes only 3 judges to earn 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, but it takes a lot of members casting their votes to get the Members' Choice award.



Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon'

Thanks to all members who brought in plants for us to see. Please, everyone, bring in your blooming orchids. Winning ribbons is fun, but showing us what you can do with your orchids is really the reason for our Plant Table.

Plant descriptions submitted by Bill Timm

Who are the Mentors?

Our Mentor Program took off last spring, with Carol Wood, Cynthia Vance, and Jimmy Thomas immediately mentoring beginning growers. In addition, Sybil Levien-Bushell, Carol Liddy and Anna Sibille soon joined the list of Mentors. Quickly added to the growing list, were Tawanna Hardenbrook, Richard Amos, Ted Kellogg and Jerry Manegold. We are proud to say our newest Mentors, John Masters and Shirley Hoffman, are now helping new members to enjoy orchids.

You may notice that these Mentors are some of the busiest folks in our Society. John belongs to three orchid societies and is on the Sarasota Orchid Society Board. Shirley has held almost every VAOS Board office and many Committee chairs, during her extensive years of membership. Cynthia, our President, Carol, Show Chair, and Jimmy, VP for Programs and presenter of the Growers Clinic, contribute extensively to VAOS. Richard Amos, our VP of Show Displays, creates beautiful orchid displays. Sybil has been our faithful Librarian for many years and has also held every VAOS position except as

President. Jerry served as VP for Programs and now is our Technical Assistant who makes sure our computers, microphones, etc. are in working order for meetings. Ted is an American Orchid Society Judge and as Past President of VAOS, he continues to serve on the Board. Several Mentors belong to both EAOS as well as VAOS.

Mentors probably have many more commitments than are cited. As you can see, they have lots of irons in the fire, yet they find time to help others. Mentors tell me that mentoring doesn't take much of their time. It is typically short term and individualized, with additional support coming from Growers Clinic.

Kudos to our great Mentors! By sharing your passion for orchids, you are showing beginning growers that we value all members of VAOS. Become a Mentor today! We need you! No need to be an award winning grower; only basic skills and the enjoyment of orchids are required.

Contact Peg Fahrenback at rsec@vaos.org.

Showtime continued from page 1

Clerks - Saturday 7:30am to 10:30am. Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience as the judges share their knowledge of what makes a quality plant and flower! 18 more clerks needed. Contact Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237.

Classification/Registration - Friday 2/1/13 12:00 to 5:30pm. Work with Ted to register plants. Verify plant classification, complete data entry, process forms. 2 people needed. Contact Ted Kellogg 475-7029

Front Door Admissions - Sell admission tickets and hand out programs Saturday and Sunday. 5 more people needed. Contact Elaine Ortt 485-5313

Security - 24 volunteers are needed to monitor exit doors to prevent theft and to ensure visitors don't step into displays. A coordinator is needed for this committee. Contact Carol Wood 497-4995

Membership Table - Sign up new members, sell books, and distribute culture sheets. Saturday and Sunday. 8 people needed. Contact Jay and Judy Loeffler 485-9569

Hospitality/Kitchen - Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. We are famous for our food! We also need 6-8 volunteers to assist with reheating food and clean up. Contact Linda and Bruce Hahn 408-7646

VAOS Exhibit - Set up Friday 2/1/13 1pm to 6pm and take down Sunday 4pm. Help set up and dismantle display materials, greenery, and plants. Pre-register member plants, process plant registration forms and prepare plant

labels. 2-3 people needed. Contact Rich Amos 552-6723

Signage - Set up and take down show banners and street signs before and after show. Contact Jay Koths 485-7521

Sign-up Sheets will be distributed again at our holiday party 12/7 and finalized at our January meeting 1/2/13. Please note your t-shirt size when you sign up. VAOS t-shirts will be distributed to all working volunteers by committee chairs at the show.

Arts & Crafts - For our artistic members - get your entries ready for the arts & crafts table. Pre-register with Noreen so that we can prepare display signs. Bring them in Friday 2/1/13, 2 to 4pm. Contact Noreen Chervinski 505-1304

Orchid Boutique - No additional volunteers are needed. Coordinator: Jane Camarota 488-7283

Patrons - Every year we ask members to become a patron for our show with a \$25 donation. Pledge sheets will be available at our 12/7/12 holiday party and our 1/2/13 meeting. Mail your check to VAOS, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284. Coordinators are needed. Contact Carol Wood 497-4995 or Barbara Wagner 923-7706

Sponsors - Cynthia Vance is coordinating our corporate sponsor campaign this year with a goal to raise \$3000. If you do business with a local professional, organization or business who you think may be interested in becoming a sponsor for our show, please contact Cynthia at 483-9165.

Thanks to everyone for your work to make our annual show a huge success!!!

Gifts for the Holidays

Two perfect gifts, either for yourself or family and friends, come courtesy of the American Orchid Society.

An **annual one year membership** is only \$65.00 for an individual and \$80.00 for a joint membership. The benefits include the monthly Bulletin of the American Orchid Society with periodic supplements, an e-newsletter with cultural information and links to the Members Only section at <http://www.aos.org/>. Members also receive discounts on many purchases on the website as well as an annual AOS Orchid Source Directory. Admission to selected gardens and arboreta in the U.S. are also discounted. First time members receive a free copy of Your First Orchid and 15 percent off additional AOS-produced books. A two year membership comes with an additional discount and a \$30 certificate off a retail plant purchase of \$100 or more at 27 nurseries.

The annual American Orchid Society's 14-month **calendar** is now available and includes fifteen spectacular



photos of orchids growing in the wild. Not only are the orchids beautiful and exotic, they are also a fundamental part of each ecosystem they inhabit.

For those eager to see orchids in nature, this calendar is sure to impress as it captures the complexity, visual delights and rich biodiversity of their natural habitats. The cost is \$13.50 for members and \$14.95 for nonmembers, including shipping in the United States. \$2 of the purchase price funds conservation initiatives.

Both the memberships and the calendar are available at www.aos.org.

President's message continued from page 1

your work slot and give the size of your Show T-shirt. The camaraderie at the Show is thrilling and includes wonderful meals during your stint by our member gourmet cooks.

For our Holiday Party – It's time to reserve your place by mailing \$30.00 per person to Ali Hicks – with your choice of meat (beef, chicken or salmon written on the check). If you attend, also bring extra cash so we may facilitate the auction easily! When you win a plant, a

runner will bring your new plant to you immediately. This will avoid mix-ups at the end. Besides beautiful plants, we will again auction a lovely orchid painting and OrchidWiz Express 2012. This software, worth \$99, contains cultivation and genealogy info for species and 145,000 hybrids, an Orchid Journal to track your orchids, as well as label printing capacity.

Many wishes for a happy holiday season!! May all your orchids win Blue Ribbons.

Meeting minutes continued from page 1

expertise and experience with beginning growers through the Mentor Program. New members were also recognized.

Carol Wood presented information about the upcoming annual show and passed around sign-up sheets for volunteering in a variety of functions, including admissions, membership table and security. Food will be needed to serve to volunteers, vendors, judges and other workers. Ted Kellogg added that 24-27 Clerks will be needed to assist AOS judges and 1-2 people are needed to enter data to register plants. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the orchid display. T-shirts will be given to volunteers who work at the show. A sign-up sheet for Patrons was passed, asking members to donate \$25 to support show costs. The goal for sponsors is set at \$3000. A presentation sheet has been developed to give to potential sponsors, outlining the benefits of sponsorship. Carol Marcus was thanked for creating a beautiful poster to promote the show, and members applauded her. Her colorful poster was proudly displayed.

Cynthia thanked members who brought food donations for the Center of Hope. She announced the cost of the Holiday Party is \$30; checks may be sent to Treas. Ali Hicks. Please write your entrée choice on your check. The Holiday Party will include music, dancing and a Silent Auction led by Bill Timm. Approximately 25 particularly beautiful orchids will be auctioned off along with a copy of OrchidWiz Express 2012 with a retail value of \$99.

Jim Thomas introduced the speaker Bill Thoms, who specializes in Bulbophyllums. He and his wife have received 95 Awards for Orchid Culture. Bill has written a book entitled Bulbophyllums: the Incomplete Guide, From A to WHY? He generously donated a signed copy of his book to the VAOS library. His PowerPoint presentation included many humorous quips about his orchid collecting adventures in foreign lands.

Plant Table awards were given and the meeting was adjourned after the Raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback

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P.O. Box 443
Venice, FL 34284-0443

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, Jan. 2, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
- Speaker: Bill Fender
“How to Choose a Plant to take home”
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

December 6:

EAOS Bus Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami. \$45 pp. Contact Ann Baldwin, EAOS President, AnnMBaldwin501@frontier.com

December 7:

VAOS Holiday Party, 5:30pm. Venice Yacht Club, 1330 Tarpon Center Drive, Venice, FL.

December 12:

Growers Clinic, 7pm.
Venice Community Center.

Presenter: Jim Thomas.

Topic: Orchid Growing Made Easy-Q&A and discussion of topics for next year. Bring your problem plants for expert help.

January 2, 2013:

VAOS monthly meeting, 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. **Speaker:** Bill Fender **Topic:** How to Choose a Plant to Take Home

January 5-6, 2013:

Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
Info: www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

January 9, 2013:

Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center.

Presenter: Jim Thomas.

Topic: Orchid Growing Made Easy with open Q & A. Bring your problem plants for expert help.

February 2-3, 2013:

VAOS Annual Show, “Rhapsody in

Hue”, at the Venice Community Center.

April 12-13, 2013:

EAOS Annual Show.
Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org.

Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began in June. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
Jeff Higel
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
Tina & Rafael Romero
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
www.plantiolaorquidea.com

Preparing Your Plant for the Show

With the Sarasota, Venice, and Englewood orchid shows taking place in the next six months (see dates on page 6), members might want to start thinking about some of the steps they need to take to insure that their plants score high in the competitions.

At least a month before the show, take a good look at your orchids and select those that you want to enter. If possible, segregate them from your other plants to avoid last minute disease or insect problems, maintaining their orientation to the light to prevent buds and flowers twisting towards the light. In general, plants with green or white flowers should be placed in a shadier position while pink and red flowers will benefit from a sunnier location.

Orchids that produce tall spikes will normally require the support of one or more stakes made from bamboo cane, strong galvanized wire, or other materials. Ties can be made with floral wire, raffia, soft green string or similar flexible plant tapes; avoid the use of twist ties. The materials should be as inconspicuous as possible to avoid distracting the judges from the plant and flowers. Staking is easiest and most effective if done from the early stages of spike development.

Cymbidium and dendrobium spikes need to be trained as soon as they appear by inserting a cane or wire behind the spike, being careful not to injure close lying roots. Once the spike has reached about a foot in length, a tie should be applied making a figure eight with the knot next to the cane. Once the buds begin to form, place a second tie just below the first bud. If you decide that the spike should arch, an extra cane may be needed. Otherwise, use additional ties as needed to keep the spike straight.

Odontoglossums and their inter-generic hybrids are trained in the same manner. Some arch naturally while others produce an upright spike and those that naturally branch will show their flowers better with the terminal spike erect. Again, use the thinnest wire or cane, snip off excess string from the knots, and trim the support even with the highest point of the spike or flower.

Paphiopedilums only require staking up to the point where the spike and buds have formed. A thin cane should be placed behind the stem and tied once on the stem and once below the flower bud. After the bud has opened, a final tie may be made if necessary to lift the angle of the flower.

Phaleonopsis hybrids benefit more than other orchids from proper staking. Spikes should be trained upright once they reach eight inches and the last tie should be placed under the first bud. Phaleonopsis are normally allowed to arch from this point, but additional staking may be needed to support the spike as flowers open.

Cattleyas are normally trained to grow vertical pseudobulbs and consequently need less staking. A stake should be placed behind the flowering pseudobulb while the buds are still in the sheath and a single tie made at its base. A second tie is required where the bulb and the leaf join and ties on the flower stem should only be made after the flower has opened and set.

Excellent illustrations are available at [www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming/groomed .htm](http://www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming/groomed.htm) and www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming/sprays.htm.

Carefully check the plants, pots, and growing medium for any signs of disease or pests and treat as needed. If pests and diseases are severe or widespread, it may be better to wait for a later show opportunity. It's a good idea to place a few pellets of slug and snail bait at the base of the spike to eliminate these pests.

Two or three days before the show, remove any dead bracts and sheath remnants as well as discolored and damaged leaves. Leaf tips that have been damaged should be trimmed using a sterilized blade in such a way as to present a natural shape. Any cuts should be treated with a suitable fungicide. The upper and lower surfaces of all leaves should be cleaned using a cotton swab and clean water or a mixture of milk and clean water. In case of water spots caused by hard water, a dilute solution of vinegar and water may be used. Algae, mineral deposits and grime should be cleaned from the pots and all protruding stakes should be

trimmed. If allowed, pot covers or moss trimmed baskets may add to the desired effect.

Check the labeling to make sure it is clear and accurate. The genus name is followed by the hybrid name or seedling cross and varietal name then any award abbreviations. Also, make sure that the pot is clearly labeled with your name and contact information.

Water your plants as needed the day before the show. Your plants may be subjected to low humidity levels and high temperatures during transport and air conditioning during the show. Check to see if your plants need additional temporary staking during transport. Tissue paper can be placed between individual flowers to prevent them rubbing during transit.