

Venice Area Orchid Society News

July 2015

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
July 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood
Joint meeting with
Englewood Area Orchid Society**

Speaker: Rafael Romero

Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea, was born in Caracas, Venezuela and graduated as a biologist from the Universidad Simon Bolivar. He began working with orchids in 1986 with his father in law, Henrique Graf, owner of Plantio La Orquidea, the largest orchid nursery in Venezuela.



Together with his wife, Rafael started the laboratory at Plantio La Orquidea in 1986 where they produce the species and hybrids for which they are known. They moved to Sarasota in 2003 and started their nursery, approximately 10000 sq. ft., where they established a good sample of the species and hybrids produced in Venezuela as well as adding interesting species and hybrids from around the world.

Rafael will be sharing his knowledge and experiences as well as answering questions and will have a fine selection of his orchids available for sale. Plantio La Orquidea is one of our fine local growers and is located at 3480 Tallevast Road in Sarasota.

July Meeting Reminder

Our monthly meeting in July will be a joint EAOS/VAOS meeting and will be held on the second Monday, July 13th, at Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker will be Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea. Please bring your plants for the Raffle and Plant Tables as well as refreshments to share.

There will not be a monthly meeting in Venice during July, but the Growers Clinic will meet on the second Thursday, July 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the VCC.

A Message From Your President

July may be hot, but the showers are increasing in frequency and orchids can put on some impressive growth over the summer months. The native butterfly orchids are all in bloom right now and, indeed, Encyclias everywhere are doing well as evidenced by the stunning array of bloomers at the last meeting.



Your President will be travelling north to visit grandchildren and build at least 2 tree forts over July and August, but his orchids will be out in the jungle, relying on Mother Nature's bounty. Hope she is bountiful (but not too bountiful) as usual!

Vern Bloch was a great speaker at the June 3rd meeting and we now know the difference between Encyclias, Epidendrums and Prosthecheas, even if we can't pronounce them all. Next month, on Monday, July 13th, we will head down to Englewood for a joint meeting and then in August, Nature's Relics, purveyors of cypress and cedar mounts and accessories, will be here in Venice on Wednesday, August 5th, at our joint meeting with a fantastic array of wooden products that should be a lot of fun. Jim Thomas will continue his educational series on caring for orchids at the regular Thursday 'Growers Clinic' all the way thru the summer. There is always something going on at the VAOS!

We have planted over 95 orchids in Venice city parks so far this spring. Future plantings can be done in public areas elsewhere and if you have likely spots, plants to donate, or would like to help, call Jay Loeffler and volunteer. Although the success of the program is not assured, due to weather, vandals or squirrels, most of the early ones we planted are looking OK and some have begun growing new roots and shoots; a very good sign. The "Venice Orchid Program" is on the way!

So enjoy the beach, early morning walks, a five o'clock margarita and your orchids, but keep a watch out for 'Dr. Jimmy's' favorite pest, the dreaded scale insects! We don't want to come back from our summer trips to find those disgusting critters on our tender pseudobulbs, now do we? Until August, Happy orchiding!

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

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Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

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

Minutes of the June 3rd, 2015 Meeting

Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7 PM by welcoming everyone to another fun filled meeting of the Venice Area Orchid Society. He noted we are happy to have rain because that makes for happy orchids. He asked "How many people went to the Redland International Orchid Festival? He stated he couldn't go himself because orchid purchasing is a sickness and he knows he can't come home with nothing! He stated the bus trip to Redland was a big success and we have many ideas on how to improve the bus trip for next year. Bruce also reminded us that next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Englewood Area Orchid Society. It will be held on July 13 at their regular meeting site: Christ Lutheran Church on route 776 in Englewood at 6:30 PM. See details in the Upcoming Events section.

Bruce reported that the Venice Orchid Project is going well. We've been planting orchids in trees and parks throughout Venice. The orchids are doing well now that it has begun to rain. Ed Wucher worked very hard with Jay to get everything planted and he was out nearly daily keeping the plants hydrated during the dry period.

Pauline Adam took the podium to discuss the mentoring program. She noted that during the summertime the mentors aren't quite as busy. She stated if you need a mentor, or would like to be a mentor, now is the time to sign up. This is a program designed for both beginners and others who may need some extra help with new information specific to their own personal needs. Typically, the mentor can help with potting issues, light levels, fertilizing program, recognition of certain pests, and setting up a watering schedule. They can also refer you to other helpful sites for extra information. They often make a house call and can tell

Continued on page 4

Treasurer's Report

June 2015

Checking Account

Starting Balance	
5/1/15	\$ 23,355.44
+ Income	885.00
Payments	4,373.18
Closing Balance	
5/31/15	\$ 19,867.26

Cash Account

Starting Balance	
5/1/15	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
5/31/15	\$ 40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance	
5/1/15	\$ 25,046.21
+ Income	0.85
Closing Balance	
5/31/15	\$ 25,047.06

Total Assets

5/31/15	\$ 44,954.32
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Submitted by Mary Amos

Support Our 2015 Show Sponsors

Please support our show sponsors whose financial contributions are especially appreciated.

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- Cramer Toyota
- Englewood Bank
- Orchid Envy

Plant Table Awards June 3rd, 2015

The **First Place Ribbon** went to Kathy and Jerry Beck for their *Prosthechea* Green Hornet which had 40+ blooms! Once called “Epidendrum”, it is now called *Prosthechea* by taxonomists. This plant is a hybrid of *Psh. cochleata* (the national flower of Belize) and *Psh. trulla*, and was first created and registered in 1995 by H & R Nurseries, Hawaii. Mature plants must dry out between waterings and Kathy and Jerry have done a great job. Congratulations to both of you!



Psh. Green Hornet

The **Second Place Red Ribbon** went to Debi Wolfe for her *Phalaenopsis* Oriental Dream. Most phalaenopses that are grown in Taiwan are carefully positioned so that each flower is in the exact position. Here, Debi’s plant has also been positioned making it a classic center piece for one’s table. Debi, thank you for such a beautiful art form!



Phal. Oriental Dream

The **Third Place Yellow Ribbon** went to John Roche for his *Aerides lawrenciae* which was a delicate delight to see on a fine mount. *Aerides lawrenciae* is a species which is endemic to the Philippines tropical moist lowlands and forests but it is threatened by habitat loss. Some species are difficult to grow in Florida but this one loves our ‘lowland’ and humidity and is a good choice. Good growing, John!

The **Best Species Ribbon** went to Joanna Shaw for her large *Encyclia tampensis*, a species known as the “Florida Butterfly Orchid”. This species grows high in the oaks



Aer. lawrenciae

throughout Florida’s native places and blooms from April through June.



E.tampensis

Our VAOS is placing many of these plants in the downtown parks as part of our “Venice Orchid Project”. Joanna allows it to grow happily in many directions from a basket.

Continued on next page

Plant Table Awards Jun 3rd, 2015 (continued from previous page)

The **Speaker's Choice Ribbon** was also awarded to this plant. Congratulations twice to Joanna!

New Member Ribbon went to Cindy Randt for her *Dendrobium* Tomie "Tokyo" (TLM.291) seen on Orchid-Wiz Encyclopedia. Its soft pink is a strong clue. Cindy's plant was huge with 80+ flowers on 5 inflorescences. Its "granny-apple" colored green leaves show that she gives it plenty of light -- the key to making it bloom furiously. Congratulations, Cindy and welcome to VAOS!



Den. Tomie

The **Members Choice Ribbon** went to Jane Camarota for *Miltonia* Morris Chestnut 'Hini'. This miltonia has striking 'pansy-like' flowers. Most miltonias need to be kept in cool to warm conditions or 58°F to 75°F at night. Jane keeps it indoors most of the year so if you would like to have an "indoor orchid", this would be perfect for your collection. Great growing, Jane!



Milt. Morris Chestnut

-Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance

Minutes of the June 3rd, 2015 Meeting (continued from page 2)

you how to position your orchids within your yard to optimize growing conditions. She said if you are interested, please fill out a bright green request form, or talk to her directly. Pauline reported that having a mentor herself made a big difference in the success of her orchid growing. She asked for volunteers to be mentors as well.

Sharon Kahnoski was next at the podium and she thanked everyone for making the bus trip to Redland such a great success. She plans to make the bus trip even better next year. There was a round of applause for the snacks that were provided on the bus ride! Sharon did say that she needs some extra help on the snack table for the monthly meetings and she observed that the available snacks were little sparse tonight. She asked if everyone would please consider bringing a snack to the next meeting. Also she could use a few more hands to help at the table; there is a sign-up sheet. She commented that maybe if we have enough volunteers we could rotate every other month. She also suggested that we bring snacks to the joint meeting with Englewood.

Bruce Weaver took the podium again and complimented Vern Bloch, the guest speaker, for bringing so many terrific plants and stated "that guy can really pack a van." Bruce also showed us an article in Palmetto Magazine called "Florida's Lost Orchids". He stated that he just booked the writer of the article, Roger Hammer, to be our February speaker. Bruce went on to say they are still

taking donations of native, terrestrial and Florida friendly orchids to plant in Venice. He asked that anybody with plants to donate call Jay or Judy Loeffler.

Bruce then introduced the speaker for the evening, Vern Bloch. Vern is from Melbourne, Florida but has local ties; his son and daughter-in-law live in Northport. Vern was a Navy pilot and has been all over the world. He has been growing orchids since 1988 and, although he is an expert on many varieties, he spoke specifically about a family of orchids originally grouped into the category of Epidendrums. Vern gave a terrific talk and described how originally, any orchid that was found to grow on trees, was grouped as an Epidendrum. This group quickly became unwieldy, and eventually was separated into three subgroups, the Epidendrums, the Encyclias, and the Prosthecheas. Vern provided lots of information about some specific species and well known hybrids in each category. In addition to a great presentation, Vern had a huge selection of interesting and unusual orchids for sale at amazing prices. Lots of people went home with more than one new plant!

After the presentation, Joanna Shaw and Renee Bynum presented the plant table, and the raffle table went off without a hitch.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15.

*-Respectfully submitted by Joanna Shaw,
Recording Secretary*

Florida Native Orchid Discoveries

Ever since I moved to Florida, I've been interested in the challenge of finding native orchids. Since there are more than 100 native species in our state, I thought, 'Oh, this will be easy!' Well, one day I was walking on the boardwalk of the Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in Ft. Myers, I came upon two women taking photos and asked, "What do you see?" They said, "The native Jingle Bell Orchid". OMG – they showed me that orchid – but with no jingle bells pods, no blooming flowers or even leaves . . . just the roots. When I saw this, I knew that finding native orchids in bloom would really be a challenge!

Last year when Prem Subrahmanyam (FLNativeOrchids .com) gave a presentation on Finding Native Orchids in Florida's Bogs, I was hooked and decided this May to go find some bogs.

First, my husband, Bob, and I went to the St.



Mark's Wildlife Refuge in Northern Florida where many wildflowers were blooming. As we drove down the "Lighthouse Road", we got to the 184 year old Lighthouse. . . but no orchids. The next day, we followed the same road, but took the first left side road and after 2-3 miles, there they were – a blaze of 18+ Grass-Pink Orchids (Calopogon Tuberosus) on the right side of the road. Many were starting to droop, but some were 18 inches tall and facing the sun. Such a lovely flower!



The next day we decided to travel down to the Apalachicola Forest. On Route 65, we were amazed at the groupings of pitcher plants and I must have counted 30 to 40 clumps! I know they are not orchids but they were spectacular, so here is just one photo!

We turned on the County Road 379 west and then took the first dirt road on the right. About ½ a mile on the right side I saw it . . . the Snowy Orchid, Bog Torch, or Platanthera nivea. It was so low to the ground, my tripod was useless and I almost had to lie down in the bog for the photo. But it was a small, stately, lovely plant and all alone . . . one precious beauty!

In my travels in the U.S. and Canada, I've located 10 native orchids, 7 in Florida. I still have many miles to travel and orchids to find

-Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance

Newsletter Editor Vacancy

We are looking for volunteers to fill the newsletter editor vacancy starting in August 2015. The newsletter editor will function under the direction and guidance of the Communications Director and is responsible for the following:

- All aspects relating to the production, publication and distribution of eleven (11) monthly VAOS newsletters.
- Working closely with Board members in matters relating to the timely submission and dissemination of society information
- Providing the necessary guidance to the volunteer or contractor responsible for technical layout
- Providing the necessary guidance to the volunteer or contractor responsible for printing and USPS mailing
- Drafting and distributing digital email blasts as di-

rected by the Board of Directors or as otherwise necessary

Basic computer skills in Microsoft Office, to include Word and Excel, as well as photo-editing software, such as Adobe Photoshop, Picasa and similar products, are essential.

Volunteers should be full-time residents and able to attend monthly VAOS meetings and board meetings as necessary.

One or more board members are available to act as a back-up in case of vacations and unforeseen circumstances.

If interested or for additional questions/information, please contact Steve Vogelhaupt at csec@vaos.org or (941) 465-7664

-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt

Culture Tip Update and Kudos

Richard Amos, one of our most experienced and successful growers, submitted the tip for Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip article in the May 2014 newsletter and I'm providing an update based on personal experience.

While we're all aware of the need for good drainage for virtually all our potted orchids, we sometimes find ourselves faced with unique situations requiring a unique solution.

Whenever you pot/repot an orchid into a large or deep pot, special attention needs to be given to adequate drainage, no matter what the potting medium. The orchid may be destined for a show specimen, rather than being divided, or may have a large root mass, such as a cymbidium, which shouldn't be disturbed.

Richard suggested the use of an inverted two inch plastic net pot over the central drainage hole of the new clay pot. The inverted pot is kept in place by the non-bio-degradable foam peanuts, lava rock, corks and potting media that you normally use and keeps the drainage hole from becoming plugged by decomposing media. It also keeps an air passage open which prevents root rot.

Since I just happened to have a large Cattleytonia Why Not that needed to be repotted, I decided to give it a try. It moved from a 6 1/2 inch pot to an 8 1/2 inch pot, with a bit more depth, in similar medium, and thrived from the beginning. This month, after weeks of bloom, the plant had once again outgrown its pot. I had forgotten about the



plastic net basket, but was quickly reminded when I saw the wealth of strong and healthy roots, not only around the edges of the pot, but deep inside where the roots often die and rot from lack of air.

With a new 12 inch clay pot, new media and the inverted net pot, I'm hoping to have a specimen on the Plant Table next year.

The plastic net pots are available from Honey Bee Nursery on SR 776, just south of Manatee Beach Road, and from various online vendors.

By the way, my Cattleytonia(Ctna.) is now a Guaritonnia(Grt.), at least for now.

-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for July 2015

Continuing with the topic of the hot summer weather, another item we need to watch is the light intensity. The sun is much brighter and if we do not watch the temperature and use the things we covered last month (water and air flow), our plants can receive a severe case of sunburn.

Just as we have to use sunscreen on our bodies, we have to give more shade to our growing area. Keeping the temperature down helps greatly and one of our tools to do this is shading. Greenhouse growers paint a white coating on the glass to help shade the plants. We can use shade cloth to cover the growing area. This can be bought in different shading weaves or we can move our plants under a shading tree or plant.

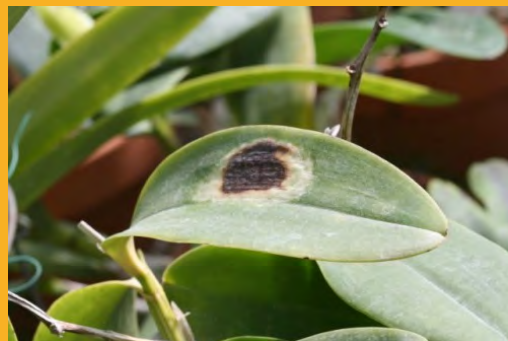
If you have to move one of your orchids from a shady area to a brighter light, be especially careful, make the move gradually, and monitor your plant. If the orchid leaves feel hot to the touch, that's a sign that they're in danger of burning.

The sunburned leaf has a dark area on the leaf that looks like a large fungus. It will not get larger but will harden and feel like cardboard. It will break and leave a hole in the leaf. It will do no more damage to the plant

than it already has. You can cut the leaf below the area if the aesthetics bother you.

The photo below clearly shows the sunburn damage.

Come to the monthly Growers Clinic held at the VCC every second Thursday, at 7:00 p.p. for great orchid growing topics and tips presented by our panel of experts. Bring your questions and problem plants.



-Narrative by Jimmy Thomas and photo courtesy of St. Augustine Orchid Society

Help Needed at the Refreshment Table

There will not be a monthly meeting in Venice during July, but the Growers Clinic will meet on the second Thursday, July 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the VCC.

We need more volunteers willing to help staff the refreshment table at the meetings so that we can alternate staffing between meetings. If there is anyone who can help, please contact Sharon Kahnoski at social@vaos.org or (616) 581-9131.

We all look forward to our monthly meetings, not only because of the excellent speakers and programs, but also for the great refreshments that are provided by our members at the snack table.

We've been short of refreshments lately and have had to make last-minute purchases at the local Publix. If you bake a pan of brownies, bake another for the meeting. If one of our local grocers has a special on snacks, cookies or pastries, keep our society in mind.

-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski

VAOS Newsletter Goes On Vacation

Your newsletter will not be published during the month of July. Publication will resume in August with the August/September edition the third or fourth week of the month.

Please retain this month's newsletter as it contains dates and details for upcoming events for the months of July and August.

The Use of Aspirin for Orchid Disease Prevention(Update)

Our February 2015 newsletter featured an article provided by Cynthia Vance that recommended the addition of aspirin to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases.

At that time, I committed to trying the monthly regime on three of my 'least favorite', read 'disease-prone', orchids for approximately six months and then report the totally unscientific results.

In actuality, I picked a Cattleya, two Dendrobium, and an Epidendrum, all of which had suffered from previous fungal and/or bacterial infections, but had recovered. Treatment consisted of normal watering and fertilization and the addition of 1.5 aspirin per two gallons of county water once every three weeks. I also kept all four pots on a separate table.

This spring, my collection has gone through an unusually high incidence of fungal and bacterial rot which has been difficult to control, much less eliminate. The rot showed no favoritism, attacking most genera with equal vigor.

Out of the test plants, only one Dendrobium showed any signs of disease and that was quickly controlled with two applications of Banrot. I'll let each member be their own judge, but I've expanded the treatment to all my orchids. I've found it to be an inexpensive and simple treatment, without obvious side effects, and hope to see similar or even better results in my other plants as time progresses.

-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt

Have A Question???

Have a question about your orchid? Has my hybrid cross been named? Has my plant been awarded? What's its parentage?

Several VAOS members subscribe to Orchid-Wiz and will be happy to look it up for you. Email your orchid name and question to one of the following:

Carol Wood showchair@vaos.org
Jim Thomas programs@vaos.org
Ted Kellogg tmkellogg@gmail.com

-Submitted by Carol Wood



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(941) 266-6351

339 Venice Ave. West,
Venice, FL

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 13th, 7:00pm
at Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

- **Speaker:** Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share with our friends in Englewood.

Upcoming Events

July 9, (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Speaker: Jimmy Thomas, Topic: "Orchid Diseases and Treatment, Part 1". Dr. Jimmy has great illustrations and handouts and this is certainly a meeting you won't want to miss. As always, Dr. Jimmy and his experts will provide expert advice for your problem plants.

July 13, (2nd Monday): Joint EAOS/VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, **Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood.** Speaker: Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea, Topic: to be announced. A fine selection of orchids will be available for purchase. Bring your plants for the Raffle and Plant Tables as well as refreshments to share.

August 5th, (1st Wednesday): Joint VAOS/EAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Venice Community Cen-

ter. Speaker: Jesse and Dee Vance, Topic: "Nature's Relics". One of our local vendors will have a great selection of orchids for sale. Please bring refreshments to share with our guests from Englewood.

August 7th & 8th, (Friday and Saturday): 5th Annual Cattleya Symposium, Indian River Research and Education Center, Fort Pierce, Florida. Details are in the Culture Supplement to the June 2015 newsletter and at www.odoms.com

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@vaos.org

Orchid Judging takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, Mc-Loughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609.** at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

Newsletter Culture Supplement

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, be sure to check out the Culture Supplement. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinics. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



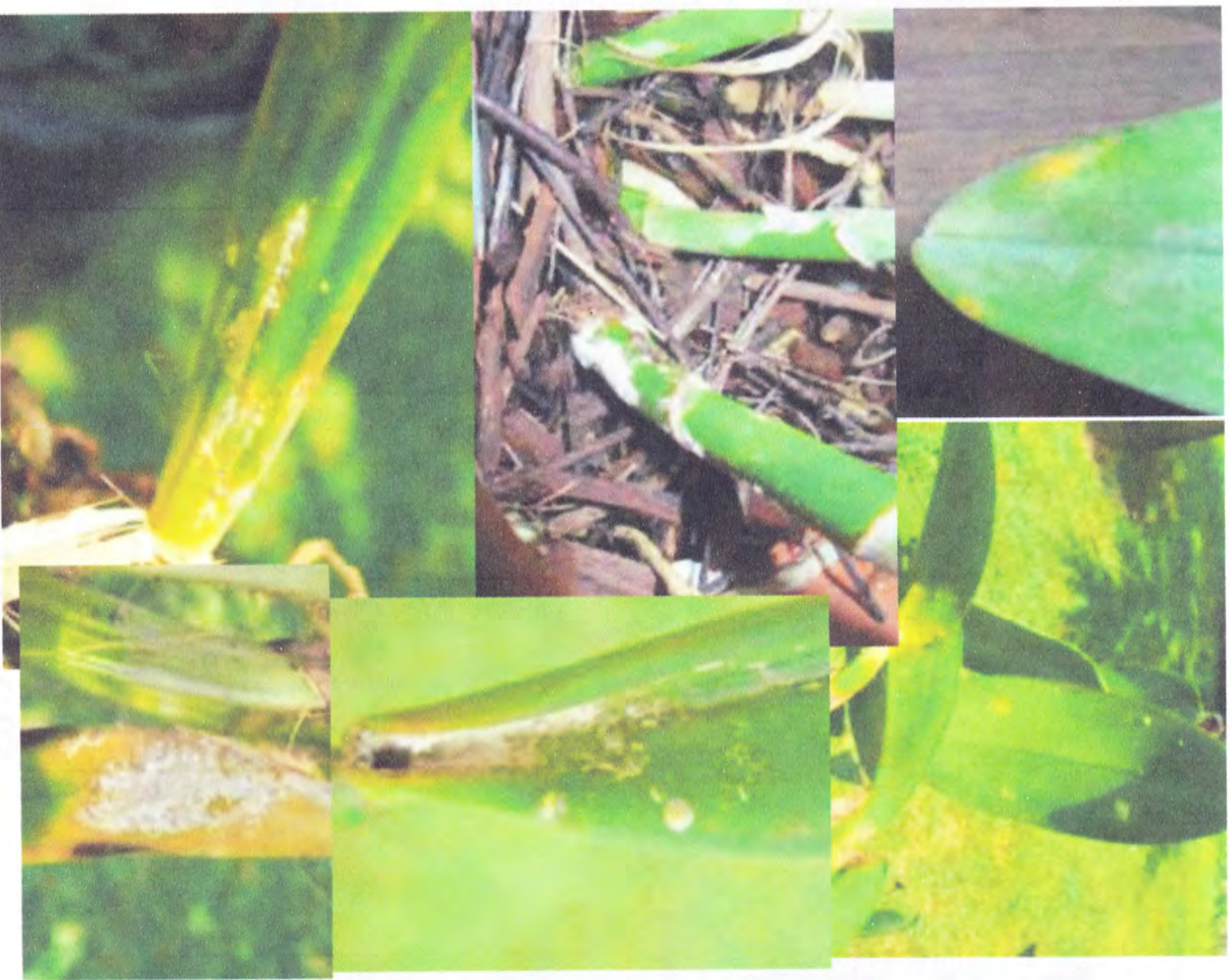
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Search for us as
"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Scale

Symptoms: Scale are sucking insects that attach to and feed on the underside of leaves, in leaf axils, on pseudobulbs and on rhizomes. They often are hidden under old leaves and pseudobulb sheaths. Severe infestations cause chlorotic areas to appear on the leaves and plant surfaces which will yellow and may darken and can cause the leaf to drop prematurely.

Treatment: If there are only a few scale, use a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol or toothbrush dipped in a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap (used per label instructions) to physically remove scale. For more severe infestations, apply the pesticide at the crawler stage and repeat the application 2 weeks later. Be sure to spray all plant surfaces, particularly the undersides of leaves and leaf axils.

Prevention: Remove old leaf and flower sheaths to eliminate scale hiding places and allow easy inspection. Check new plants carefully before adding to the growing area.



Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects Thrips

Symptoms: Thrips are very small sucking insects that feed on flowers and occasionally leaves and can transmit disease from plant to plant. Infested buds may not open and flowers may be deformed exhibiting water soaked spots. Leaves may appear pitted, stippled, silvery or bleached.

Treatment: Plants and flowers can be sprayed with a pesticide like Orthene, Malathion or Safer Soap, applied in accordance with label instructions. Repeat applications will be required because thrips remain hidden on the plant or can be reintroduced to the plant from other flowers in the landscape.

Control: Good sanitation will help prevent infestation as will keeping plant hosts (flowers, citrus, gardenias, eucalyptus, etc.) separate from your orchids.



Symptoms and Treatment

Spider Mites

Symptoms: Mites are not insects, they are members of the arachnid family. Mites typically feed on the underside of the leaves and can be found under the leaves as small, red to brown pests. A hand lens may be needed to see them. Leaf undersides may have webbing and brown splotches from the mite excrement. The upper surface of a damaged leaf may have a silvery sheen that eventually becomes sunken and turns brown. Leaves may be streaked, stippled or spotted due to lack of chlorophyll.

Treatment: Plants can be sprayed with a miticide like Kelthane following label instructions being particularly careful to contact all the undersides of the leaves. During warm weather, new generations mature every 6 days so repeat applications will be required, perhaps 3 applications at 4 day intervals.

Prevention: Mites appear during warm, dry weather. Increasing humidity and leaf wetness and, if possible, decreasing temperature help prevent infestations.

Two bottom pictures courtesy of the American Orchid Society



Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects

Mealybugs

Symptoms: Mealybugs are sucking insects that attack any part of the plant but tend to stay tucked away at the junction of leaf and stem. Severe infestations cause chlorotic areas to appear on the leaves, which may darken, causing the leaf to yellow and drop prematurely.

Treatment: If there are only a few mealybugs, use a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol or toothbrush dipped in a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap (used per label instructions) to physically remove the mealybugs. For more severe infestations, apply the pesticide and repeat the application 2 weeks later. Be sure to spray all plant surfaces, particularly the undersides of leaves and leaf axils.

Prevention: Remove old leaf and flower sheaths to eliminate hiding places and allow easy inspection. Check new plants carefully before adding to the growing area.



Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects

Whiteflies

Symptoms: Whiteflies are small, moth-like insects that attack buds, flowers and new growth. The tell tale sign of whiteflies is a cloud of tiny white insects arising from an affected plant when it is moved or disturbed.



Treatment: Plants can be sprayed with Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap following label instructions. Repeat applications at 4 day intervals until whiteflies are no longer present.

Control: Good sanitation and elimination of weeds will help prevent infestation as will keeping plant hosts separate from your orchids.



bottom picture courtesy of the American Orchid Society

Symptoms and Treatment of Sap Feeding Insects

Aphids

Symptoms: Aphids are sucking insects that attack buds, flowers and new growths and transmit disease from plant to plant. Buds and flower may fail to open and leaves may have a sticky deposit.

Treatment: Wash aphids away from the plant with a jet of water. Plants can be sprayed with a pesticide like Malathion, Orthene or Safer Soap using the product in accordance with label instructions.

Miscellaneous: The honeydew excreted by aphids and other sucking insects is attractive to ants and is an ideal medium for sooty mold. When sooty mold is present, inspect the plants for aphids, mealybugs, scale and mites.



pictures courtesy of the American Orchid Society