



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

September 2014

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: aaasquith@bigpond.com. Phone 4625 9874



President: Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 43 Strickland

Cres.

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph. 86262934)

PARRAMATTA.

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Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 16th October,

2014

Life Member: Mr. J. Riley

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

ANOS Macathur Group disclaims any responsibility for any losses which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any materials published in this newsletter

Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

FITZPATRICK ROAD, Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.45pm, meeting starts 8pm

Mt. ANNAN.

President's Message. Hi to all.

Congratulations to Peter Gibson for plant of the night and popular choice at our last meeting. Well done Peter!

A big thankyou to Don Roberts for his very good talk on potting mixes.

At our Spring show, congratulations to Peter Gibson for Grand Champion of Show, and to Greg Steenbeeke for Reserve Champion, amongst a great display of quality show plants.

Last meeting, the new club shirts were distributed to members, and any shirts that don't fit, talk to Margaret as she has extra shirts.

Saturday 25th October is the Sarc Show, same place and venue as our Spring Show, outside Coles at Narellan Town Centre. Set-up at 7.00 am.

Don't forget TUBER NIGHT in November...we will need all the surplus tubers that are available to keep this very good event to continue.

Good Growing!

Wally

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Minutes of MEETING HELD 18th September, 2014.

Meeting Opened: About 7.30pm, and the President Wal welcomed members.

1. Apologies: Chris Munson, Greg Knight, Tony & Carol Asquith, Marj Yabsley.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Don Roberts

seconded by: Graeme Morrison

3. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

4. Treasurer's Report: Moved Wal Southwell Second: Terry Cooke

Margaret moved that bills be paid Seconded Ross

Inward & Outwards Correspondence:

Various Newsletters, sent & received.

Peter Wise has tendered his resignation.

Delegates Report: Don Roberts gave a description of coco mulch potting mix and next month will give a presentation on *Sarcochilus falcatus*.

General Business: Greg enquired about having the September show two weeks earlier to avoid clashing with Sydney ANOS. Greg suggested approaching Ambarvale (Rosemeadow??) Shopping centre re an Autumn Show.

Motion put to meeting that Account details be placed on newsletter heading to allow direct payment to club accounts via internet, etc..

Raffle : Robert, John, Colin and Maryanne.

.... And the meeting closed.. about 9.30pm

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From Bankstown Orchid Society Website, published 30 March, 2007.

Australian Native Terrestrials

Native terrestrial orchids comprise many varying Genus and species; for the most part they tend to be deciduous, sending out new leaves, flowering then dying back to a subterranean tuber in a yearly cycle of growth. The more commonly grown genres in cultivation are *Acianthus*, *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Pterostylis* and *Thelymitra*'s. This guide will be based on these orchids; other Native Terrestrial Genus's not mentioned may still be cultivated under these guidelines with further research.

This intriguing group of orchids has some of the most amazing blooms of any orchid; from the curious *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods), the delicate *Caladenias* (Spider Orchids), the brilliantly coloured *Diuris* (Donkey Orchids) and the spectacular *Thelymitras* (Sun Orchids) these have some the most amazing colour combinations of any orchid.

General Culture

The first thing to understand about these orchids is that they have a cycle of active growth followed by a period of dormancy, very similar to many other exotic and native epiphytic orchids. Where this differs is that the major period of growth and flowering tends to be in the cooler months of the year, while the dormant period is in the warmer months. As a general rule this is the opposite to most other species of orchid.

They can be happily housed in shade house conditions (50%), with (ideally) a section having a solid alsynite style roof for the period of dormancy. They can cope with light frosts in winter and temps as high as 40 degrees Celsius in the summer.

Watering

This by far is the most important rule for growing these orchids. When in active growth the plants should be watered regularly, to the point where the potting mix should remain moist and not wet. As the plants finish flowering and start to die back (This is when the new tubers are maturing) watering needs to be decreased to the point where the mix should be almost completely dry. If the mix remains wet at this time the tubers will surely rot. Late December early January start to water lightly occasionally and as the new growths appear and accelerate increase the water accordingly. I will also during the active growing period allow them to get a light watering from rain as I find rain water far more beneficial than tap water.

Light and Humidity

Light varies depending on the genus, *Pterostylis* and *Acianthus* prefer shadier conditions than the *Diuris*, *Caladenia* and the aptly named Sun Orchids *Thelymitra*'s (So called because the flowers open as the sun rises and close by night). A good indicator is if the leaves or rosette (for *Pterostylis*) are long and rangy then more light should be given. All these species resent stagnant humid conditions preferring an open position with plenty of air movement, as plants can get attacked by fungal infections.

Fertilizing and Pests

A small percentage of organic style fertilizer like blood and bone can be added to the potting mix, apart from this steer clear of fertilizers as this can damage or even kill these plants. The only exception to this rule is that *Diuris* and *Pterostylis* do benefit from very light applications of foliar feeding. As for pests, the usual suspects Slugs and Snails can do immense damage in a very short time, baits for these are a necessary evil. Keeping plants suspended on mesh benches is a good deterrent. Thrips and Red Spider can at times also cause problems.

Potting

As far as potting mix is concerned A good standard mix is 45% potting mix, 50% coarse sand and 5% organic matter (Leaf Litter etc). Also as mentioned before the addition of a small amount of Blood and Bone is beneficial to the mix. Repotting should be carried out on a yearly basis in December or January for best results, pass mix through a sieve to collect the dormant tubers and save a small amount of the old mix and add this to the new pot. If potting is left for a year or two species like *Pterostylis* that are colony formers can out grow a pot very quickly.

Pot size, 100mm pot is a good starting point, to this size place 5 to 7 tubers, for a 150mm pot place 10 tubers, 200mm pot 20 tubers etc. (for optimum results 200mm pots should be the maximum size used until more experience is gained)

Finally when potting is complete place a small layer of chopped sheoak needles on the top of the pot, this will act as mulch allowing the rosettes or leaves to be stay above the damp mix thus preventing fungal problems.

These orchids are very different from the norm and very rewarding none the less, people who grow these orchids tend to be heavily addicted by there unique charm. So give them a go you may catch the bug.

30 March 2007

Disclaimer: The growing guides are provided only as a starting basis to cultivation. Local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. Bankstown Orchid Society Inc. will not be responsible for the results of your cultivation practices.

[http://www.bankstownorchidsociety.org .au/AustralianTerrestrials.htm](http://www.bankstownorchidsociety.org.au/AustralianTerrestrials.htm)

Managing Magnesium In Foliage

By Dr. James F. Knauss, Technical Manager, Technical Service Group
The Scotts Company, Marysville, Ohio1998

Magnesium, along with calcium, is classed as a secondary nutrient in the fertilizer world, but by no means should this be taken as a lower class status than the N-P-K part of the nutritional picture. In some areas, magnesium nutrition is more difficult to manage.

Although deficiencies of calcium can occur, these are less common than its secondary nutrient partner, magnesium. Calcium is usually abundant enough in water and in the soil mix, while magnesium is definitely less abundant. Deficiencies are seen more often in high-magnesium-demanding crops that are in container production for three months or longer.

Limestone isn't always enough

Many growers believe that if they use dolomite limestone, a combination of calcium and magnesium carbonate, in a growing mix, their magnesium worries are over. Not true! Although dolomite limestone provides this necessary element, often forces beyond a grower's control produce conditions where magnesium supply may become limited.

If the limitation lasts for an extended time, plants respond by transferring magnesium from lower leaves to new growth, resulting in yellow, deficient lower leaves and normal levels of magnesium in new growth. Increasing dolomite lime levels in the mix seems like a logical approach to solving the problem, but there is a limit to how much lime you can add before plants start showing adverse effects.

Growers often use Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) to provide additional magnesium. This has been applied as a periodic foliar spray (usually about 5 lb. per 100 gal. water), as a component in a soil mix (about 5 lbs. per cubic yd.) or as a periodic drench to the soil mix at 1 to 2 lbs. per 100 gal. water applied at 2 to 4 pints per sq. ft. of soil surface. We've found that when Epsom salts are applied to soil mixes, the magnesium component is very soluble, is often easily leached, and the available magnesium supply to the plant is usually short lived.

Other forms of magnesium, such as coated release forms, are available. Their costs to the grower and the magnesium availability to the plant vary considerably.

Availability of magnesium is affected by a soils mix's pH. Normally pH levels between 5.5 and 6.5 produce an acceptable availability of magnesium. Levels of pH 7.0 and above can severely affect magnesium availability. When the pH level drops below the normal range, magnesium become very available, and excessive leaching and loss can occur, producing deficient magnesium conditions.

What's the appropriate magnesium system?

Always use a high grade dolomite lime in your soil mix as one component in your magnesium nutritional management system. Insist on a dolomite lime with a calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE) of 103 or above. This is a measure of the lime's purity, with 109 being the highest theoretical value, though it's never achieved in commercial lime sources.

Test your irrigation water through a reputable laboratory. You need to know how much magnesium relative to calcium and sodium (direct antagonists to magnesium uptake) is present. These ions accumulate in the soil mix, increasing with increasing frequency of irrigation. Where rainfall makes up a portion of irrigation, the rainwater must be viewed to be similar to distilled water (very little magnesium in it, with no moderating effect on soil pH).

One procedure to use to bring up the magnesium level in your water is injecting Epsom salts to provide supplemental magnesium every time you irrigate. If this procedure is used in nursery production, the amount of Epsom salts you add probably shouldn't exceed the level necessary to bring the calcium- to-magnesium ratio to greater than 1:4. Adding more is usually unnecessary and increases your costs.

Magnesium nutrition musts

1. Always determine if magnesium deficiency is present by analysing soil mix and appropriate leaf tissue from plants showing typical lower, older leaf chlorosis. Be sure to use a reputable laboratory, and consult with them on what samples to take.
2. Analyse your water thru the same laboratory to determine what role it can play in the overall nutritional picture.
3. If magnesium is deficient, examine the quality and effective rate of the dolomitic lime used in the soil mix. You may need to change the source and increase the amount per cubic yard.
4. Select fertilizers with additional magnesium.
5. Where necessary, initiate foliar nutritional sprays on a 14-to 21-day schedule using 27-15-12 or 20-20-20 added to 100 gal. of water at 3 lbs. Add 5 lbs. of Epsom salts to this solution.

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Found this article on the internet in ANOS Warringah's website , Had a photo of an E. Leilkajis plant.

Benching Results September Meeting 18/9/2014.

Dendrobium Species	Den. aemulum	R. Morrison
	Den. Gracilicaule	G. Steenbeeke
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Bill Dobson	P. Gibson
	D. Bardo Rose	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Species	plectorrhiza tridentata	False Pict
	S. falcatus	G. Steenbeeke
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	nil	
Bulbophyllum	B. shepherdii	C. Long
Aust. Species Other	Dock. nurgentii	G. Steenbeeke
	D. rigidum	N. Bates
Aust. Hybrid Other	Den. Delicophyllum x calmiforme	?
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Pt. Baptisii	W. Southwell
	Pt. collina	R. Morrison
Caladenia Species	Cal. Affine cariea	R. Morrison
	Cal. caleriata	R. Dimon
Diuris Species	nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid	Pt. Erecta x curta	W. & M. Southwell
	Pt. Curta x pedunculata	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Other	Chiloglottis truncate	G. Steenbeeke

Australasian Species	Mediocalcar decoratum	R. Morrison
Australasian Hybrid	D. New Guinea	R. Dimon
Novelty Class (50% or more)	nil	
Seedling First Flowering	D. Australian Freckles	G. Steenbeeke
	D. ?	R. Morrison
Growing Competition 1.	1st R. Morrison	2nd N. Bates
Growing Competition 2.		

Plant of the night is Dendrobium Bill Dobson grown by Peter Gibson and the Popular Choice was

Was also Peter's plant.... Congratulations

GOOD GROWING..

I'll print the results of the show next issue!!