

## SHOW YOUR ORCHIDS - 02/04/14

### **Introduction:**

You are the show. If members don't bring in their plants we don't have a show. Shows are fun – you can win ribbons and trophies. Strangers take pictures of your plants.

### Rules:

You must have owned the plant for at least 6 months to exhibit.  
The plants must be free of pests and disease.  
The plants should be in show ready condition.

### PREPARATION:

#### **Pest Patrol –**

Increase your vigilance on any plants you consider bringing and treat pests and disease now – not the day before the show.

#### Pests to watch for:

Mealies - Phals & Paphs  
Scale – Everything  
Thrips – Cattleya flowers and buds  
Aphids – Dendrobium and Oncidium spikes  
Ants – Living in pots

Check out the pest control handout from Debby's talk – it's on the website.

#### Disease:

Keep water off leaves and buds, especially overnight.  
Put outdoor plants under shelter from rain at night to protect buds & flowers from botrytis spotting.  
Start a spray program with fungicide or Physan if necessary.

#### **Training and Staking –**

Position any prospective entries on the bench to encourage flowers in the direction you want. Flower spikes tend to turn toward the light.  
Don't change the position or amount of light as it can cause twisting and variation in the flowers.

#### Stake emerging spikes appropriately.

Phals – wait until they are long enough to be flexible, but before buds start to open.  
Paphs – the flower stem elongates from the bottom and will bulge out below a plant clip, so stake with a loose collar to train the stem without causing it to bend.  
Catts – you might need to stake the pseudobulb first and then support the flowers.  
Cymbidiums – wait until the emerging spikes are long enough to be flexible.

Oncidiums – tall narrow stakes look the best. Metal stakes can be curved for a more graceful presentation.

Multiple spikes in all directions – stakes with hook ends can lend support and spacing.

Mini catts & hanging plants – make your own hook stake from heavy wire.

#### Clips & Ties –

Plant clips come in many sizes and colors and are very easy to use.

Plant tie – good for securing flower spikes.

Velcro plant tape – a new product that is great for staking growths and making paph collars.

Stakes – there are many kinds. They each have their benefits.

Bamboo – natural or green – can be cut to size and don't bend

Coated Wire – brown or green – flexible and unobtrusive. Available in multiple lengths.

Hardwood stakes – often narrow and can be cut to size

Skewers – cheap and easy for small plants

Hook end stakes – no clips needed

\*Good source of stakes & clips – [Tindara Orchid Supply](#)

\*Good source of Velcro tape – Home Depot garden department

#### **Grooming** –

You wouldn't take a dog to a dog show with giving it a bath and brushing, do the same for your orchids.

Pots – clean the pot or put it in a cover, jardinière, or clean clay pot.

Decorate the top with extra bark or Spanish moss. It should look nice.

Tuck the tags down securely and mostly out of sight.

Cut off any dead roots that are hanging out.

Leaves – Clean all the leaves with paper towel or cotton moistened with oil spray or a bit of milk in water.

Get the trash out of cymbidiums and other outdoor dwellers.

Trimming – It's not cheating to trim.

Cut off black leaf tips or ragged ends.

Cut off old flower spikes neatly.

Remove paper coating from pseudobulbs with a little water.

Cut off fading flowers – they will wilt completely during the show!

Remove old withered bulbs if they make your plant unsightly.

Remember to practice good sanitation with your cutting tools!

Adjust – Make your final adjustments of stakes and clips to present your flowers as beautifully as possible. It's too late to change the angle. By now your flowers are pointing where they want to point.

Pack them carefully in your car and go show off!