

September 2012

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orchid talk

Articles for Orchid Talk due on or before 9th October 2012

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This newsletter is intended to provide general information & cultural notes only. Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc. will not be responsible for any loss of property or injury to any person acting on information in the news letter



September 2012



Cultural Meeting

Ningi Community Hall
Bribie Island Road, Ningi.
Meetings are held on the **4th Monday**
of each month starting at 7.30 pm.
Next Meeting: 24th September 2012



Hello Members,

To the members who attended the cultural meeting I hope you enjoyed your talk by Albert Gibbard. I certainly did.

Welcome new member Garry Gibbards. I hope you enjoy your time at our club. Your pot number is 10. I will explain this to you at the next meeting .

We will be putting on a table top display at Glasshouse Show. If you have any plants in flower please give me their names by 25th Sept.

See you at our next meeting,

Di.



Day Meeting

Ningi Community Hall
Bribie Island Road, Ningi
Meetings are held on the **2nd Friday**
of each month starting at 9am.
Next meeting: 14th September 2012



Committee Meeting

All members are always welcome at committee meetings.
Meetings are held on the **1st Monday**
Of the month at **7.30 pm** at
635 Beachmere Rd Beachmere
Next Meeting: 1st October 2012

From Your Committee



Don't forget our Bus trip. There are still a few seats left. See main Bulletin for details.



Our Tee Shirts come from Totally Workwear Morayfield. Please talk to Di about how to order them. They cost \$20.00. Club pays for logo.



Anyone wanting a name badge. They are \$10.00. Let me know if you wish to order one.



All members are welcome to the committee meetings.

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.



Day Meeting September 14th 9am Ningi Hall

Darryl Banks will be our guest speaker. Darryl is really easy to talk to so come with lots of questions. He is speaking on intergeneric oncidiums. Darryl will bring a few orchid plants for sale, so don't forget your purse.



Cultural Meeting September 24th 7-30pm Ningi Hall

At this meeting we will be having a general talk on orchids and some repotting.

Cultural Meeting Upcoming guest speakers in 2012

OCTOBER 22nd Browne
NOVEMBER 26TH Chrissy Party

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Day Meeting Upcoming guest speakers in 2012

OCTOBER 12th Talk on Phalaenopsis plus some potting
NOVEMBER 9th Christmas Party

No Meeting in December

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

The man said, 'I do, Father.'

The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.'

Then the priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

'Certainly, Father,' the man replied.

'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.'

The priest said, 'I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'

Bus trip 30th September

Dennis Barnes has been busy organizing this bus trip for us all. Many thanks to him and Sue.

We are leaving 635 Beachmere Road Beachmere at 8am. Our first stop is Eastern Districts Orchid Society Show, where you can walk around the show plus buy plants from their plant sales. We will also be having morning tea there. Next stop is the Chandler Markets. We will give you plenty of time to walk around this market. This is where you buy your own lunch. Stop number three is King Country nursery. This is a plant nursery, they also have rain forest walks. The last stop of the day is Burbank Orchid Nursery. We will also be having afternoon tea here. The cost of this trip is \$27.00 each for club members and \$30.00 each for non club members.

Glasshouse Country O/S is holding their show on 28th – 29th September Set up is 27th . Our society will be putting up a table top display. Please let me know if you have any plants in flower to display by 25th Sept.



FERTILISERS

Many new growers are confused about which fertiliser they should use and when, and do not understand the reason for using different fertilisers. We will try to explain the basics of fertilisers for you.

All fertilisers will have a **N** (nitrogen) **P** (phosphorus) **K** (potassium) rating on their label. This will tell you the amounts of each in that preparation and from this what the fertiliser is designed to do. Different brands will have their own formulations that they use.

We will use a practical demonstration of an actual fertiliser.

If you take a container of HSO 12 you will see the label shows **N P K**
12 12 20

To work out if the preparation is designed to promote growth or flowers is quite simple. A high nitrogen content (N) promotes growth - a high phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) content will promote flowers. Therefore looking at our HSO 12 label we can see that we have a nitrogen (N) level of 12 and if we add the phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) levels together we have a level of 32. Therefore this preparation is a lot higher in the P & K so it will promote flower production.

Next we will look at the label of HSO 22 and we see **N P K**
22 8 12

This preparation has a nitrogen level of 22 and by adding the P & K levels we have a level of 20. This tells us that this formulation has a higher nitrogen level and will therefore promote growth in the plant.

Having worked this out you can then decide when you should be using the different fertilisers to obtain the maximum benefit.

Consider the growing and flowering times of your orchids. Growth is always stronger in the warmer months and less in the cooler months. Therefore to effectively use the growth fertiliser ie. HSO 22, this should be applied in spring to summer when the weather warms up and the plants are in their growth mode. The majority of orchids flower in the autumn time, particularly catts and hardcane dens. To improve your flowers you will need to switch from the high nitrogen fertiliser (HSO 22) to a low nitrogen fertiliser (HSO 12) which will help fatten up the canes to produce strong healthy flowers. The time to do that is not when you see buds on the plants, but well before this so that the levels of sugars needed for flowering is raised before the buds are starting to form.

From this you are able to work out a basic fertilising timetable. The one we follow is below but you may wish to alter this to suit your conditions and how your plants are growing and the weather conditions we are experiencing at the time.

High nitrogen (growth) fertiliser (HSO 22) is usually started in mid to late August depending on the weather. We apply this weekly at recommended strength (ie. 1gm to 1 litre) till late October. We will then start to apply two weeks of HSO 12, two weeks of HSO 22 till December when we use HSO 12 (low nitrogen) weekly till the end of April or May depending on how cool the weather is getting. From then till late August HSO 12 about once every three weeks.

If you specialise in specific orchids some brands will have fertilisers especially designed to meet the requirements of those plants. An example of this is Horticultural Solutions Vanda Flower Booster which has **N P K**
5% 20% 17%

You can see from this that there is very little nitrogen in this formulation to promote flowering. This fertiliser is also designed for a once a month application.

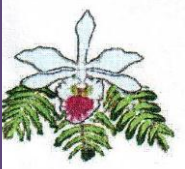
Besides the NPK on the label there is also a list of other nutrients and minerals in your fertiliser. A good recognised brand of fertiliser should have all the micro elements needed in it for the best health of your orchids.

It is important you read the label on the fertiliser container and follow the instructions given to get the best results for your plants.

Many newer growers believe fertiliser alone is the cure all to healthy orchids and produce quality flowers. This is not so. It is important to balance all elements of orchid culture ie. air, light, water, potting media etc **as well as** using the correct quality fertiliser for your orchids

Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc.

Return Post-P.O. Box 49 Bribie Island. Q 4507

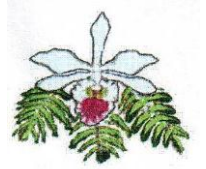


Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Place
Stamp
here



Orchid Talk

Please note New Growers is no longer on a Sunday afternoon but on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Ningi Hall, Bribie Island Road Ningi, starting at 9am. Still bring problem plants, and if you have something you would like to discuss, please ask.

