



A note from our President

Happy Holidays members,

I had a wonderful time at the parties and I hope you did as well. All ready planning fun things for next year. Jeannie Blankenship our Vice President has a great line up of speakers for 2025. Go to our website and check them out. Remember if you have plants that need a winter rest like the Catasetums and cousins and some Dendrobium. Orchids in Bloom is having a sale December 13-15. We need volunteers to work our table. Remember get orchid bucks for helping out!

Have a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season and I'll see you next year!
Teri Scott
CFOS President

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- President Corner
- Holiday Parties
- Future Events
- AOS Corner / Orchid Culture
- CFOS information

<u>Upcoming meetings @ Leu Gardens 7 pm</u>

NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER!

Culture Group Meeting - January 2

General Meeting - January 13

HOLIDAY PARTIES WERE A BLAST!!



Our members provided many many items for the Toys for Tots drive. THANK YOU to everyone who donated!

Finding our Orchid Buddies













And testing our combined orchid knowledge to see how much we know!







Showing our appreciation











CULTURE GROUP
DONATING \$220
TO TOYS FOR TOTS
BIKE FUND







Upcoming Events





We are looking for volunteers for the membership tables for these events, Friday Saturday and Sunday 9-1pm or 1-5pm. Keep an eye out for an email with more details.

If interested and available please contact Sheila at membership@florchidsociety.org

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLEARY 3336F



QUESTION

Am I supposed to submerge the plant, leaves, and everything else when I do a drench? If I am to submerge it, do I rinse the leaves off afterward? My notes say to drench it every three weeks. Is that correct? Can I cover and reuse the mixture later?

ANSWER

I am not a fan of dunking plants because using the same bucket from plant to plant runs the risk of spreading the disease to plants that aren't infected. You are better off not submerging the plant but spraying the entire plant, leaves and pseudobulbs, and into the potting mix until it comes out the drainage holes. You want to make sure that you thoroughly apply the fungicide to the pot and that you get all leaf surfaces.

Do not rinse the leaves after treatment. Cleary 3336F (also known as thiophanate methyl and Thiomyl) is a systemic fungicide taken up by the roots and the foliage, and works its magic from the inside out. It will leave a fine residue on the leaves that helps to prevent additional spores on the leaf surfaces from germinating and the longer the material is in contact with plant tissue, the more the uptake will be.

One application is rarely sufficient, especially if you are fighting an existing infection. You will get much better control

with several applications. I would use a two-to-three-week interval until you know your infection is under control.

I would not recommend keeping the diluted material for more than a short time (couple of weeks perhaps). Once the fungicide is mixed with water it will start to slowly decompose and that rate depends on temperature and light exposure. You really only know the concentration of active ingredient at the point you made up the solution. Mix a minimum amount so there is little to nothing left over and dispose of any excess by spraying your lawn (the active ingredient is a common lawn fungicide) or outdoor plants. If you have a small collection of plants or only a limited number infected, Thiomyl is available in 1 pound (0.45 kg) containers instead of 25 pound (11.4 kg) bags.

CATTLEYA LEAF PROBLEM



QUESTION

These black spots have developed on my cattleya leaves. The plant is grown under lights. This past winter, the humidity was low, and I tried to spray my plants often. What do you think is causing this? ANSWER

These look like bacterial leaf spots. Bacterial leaf spots (not bacterial brown spot disease) tend to create black pits



with little to no dying tissue around them (those yellow rings you often see in fungal diseases). These spots are usually a sign that something in the environment isn't right — too little air movement, too hot or cold, etc. Spraying can foster these if the leaves remain wet for long periods of time but you would have seen the problem develop during the time you were misting and not much later.

I would check my humidity and increase air movement. Humidity trays and cool mist humidifiers are better options than misting and you could even use one of those foggers the vivarium people use. Even something as simple as a cloth towel dipped into a container of water with a fan blowing over the damp cloth will raise nearby humidity.

As long as you are not treating dendrobiums, a copper fungicide, Liquid Copper, one of the Phyton products, Champ or Kocide could be useful to control the spotting but copper can be lethal on dendrobiums.

ERWINIA



QUESTION

The tip of this affected leaf started to turn brown and slowly advanced toward the stem. The base of the fan now seems infected. I grow under lights in tree fern fiber. The plant is allowed to dry slightly between watering. Any advice?

ANSWER

I think this is a bacterial disease called Erwinia (technically a member of the genus *Pectobacterium* but most people know it as Erwinia). It is common in phragmipediums, paphiopedilums and mexipediums. It is virtually always an indication that something is wrong in the root zone; too wet, too dry,

These questions were part of one or more monthly webinar Q&As and compiled by Larry Sexton for inclusion here. Each month, a Q&A webinar is held during the first two weeks of the month. To view recorded Greenhouse Chats (Q&A webinars) or register for a future one, see https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx. Send questions to greenhousechat@aos.org — Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Education and Science Officer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

potting medium getting old and the pH beginning to shift, fertilizer concentration is too high or the potting mix is not being leached sufficiently. The disease can start anywhere although it most often starts at the base or tip of the leaf. As the disease progresses, the damage works its way down the leaf (or up from the base) until the entire leaf dies and another leaf begins to show signs of infection. If caught early enough, the plant can be saved but the critical aspect is figuring out what is wrong in the first place. I would check water hardness, fertilizer concentration, how often you fertilize, or is the plant getting overly dry between waterings. If plants are not leached sufficiently, fertilizer salts build up in the potting mix and often will appear as a white crusty substance around the pot edge and the drainage holes.

ISOLATING PLANTS



One of the compelling reasons for isolation of new acquisitions is to minimize the potential introduction of scale and mealybugs. This is the root of a phalaenopsis that had no outward signs of a scale infestion visible above the potting mix surface.

QUESTION

Our society is grappling with the problems of bringing new purchases that may be buggy or virused into our collections. Many of us grow on windowsills, garden windows, tabletops, and some grow in outdoor lathhouses. How do you recommend we isolate plants for pests given our limited growing spaces? Also, how long should we isolate for?

ANSWER

Isolation of new plants is really part

of a two-pronged approach. The other prong is carefully watching them for problems. It is not necessary to keep new plants in a totally removed area if they are watched. All you need to do is make sure that they are being monitored well enough to intercept a problem before it spreads. I recently toured a large growing area where virused plants were isolated on a separate bench in the same house. If flying insects such as thrips that can spread viruses are kept out of the growing area, there is every reason to believe that minimal distance is required. Although scale and mealybugs do spread, it is slow enough that you should see them first. This means that keeping new plants on a separate bench (or part of a bench with a bit of distance between the new plants and the rest of the bench is kept open) in a greenhouse or lathhouse or leaving completely empty space separating new plants from an existing collection on a light cart of windowsill should be fine. You just do not want leaves touching or water splashing from plant to plant (many fungal and bacterial problems as well as Odontoglossom Ring Spot and Cymbidium Mosaic Viruses stay viable for a long time, and are easily transmitted).

As for how long, this is a tough

question. It can take weeks to months for scale or mealybugs to make their presence known but I would think four to six weeks with diligent observation ought to be long enough to catch the majority of issues. Keep in mind that nothing is perfect and we just try to catch as much as we can.

The other option is to assume anything new could have insects and make a habit of treating new plants with an insecticide and then watching them diligently. When my shadehouse was not as overcrowded as it is now, isolation was fairly easy. Lately, I have taken the second approach. New plants are treated immediately with either Orthene (Orthene has a terrible odor so you cannot use it inside) or an imidacloprid product and then again about a week later. This should get rid of 98+% of any insects present. After those two weeks, the plants will get a regular application of an insect growth regulator when the entire shadehouse is treated.





Orchid Care & Culture Sheet

Looking for information on how to care for your orchid? These popular documents have been at the foundation of AOS orchid education for decades and provide orchid care and culture information in a convenient, concise format and are available to everyone.

https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/orchid-care-and-culture-sheets

Orchid Pests, Diseases, and Cultural Issues

If you suspect orchid pests, diseases, or cultural problems are at the heart of your growing troubles, see the list below for the common challenges and their specific solutions. If you aren't sure what ails your orchid, try our Orchid Problem Diagnostic Tool...

https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/orchid-pests-diseases-cultural-issues

Membership

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Diane Albino
Jennifer Cooper
Chris Davis
Joy Endsley
Claude Hamilton
Marcela Hoyas
Monica Hoyas
Branden Huygens
Brent Johnson
Ly Nguyen
Claudia Perez
Katrina Perez
Faye Torres-Loc
Maria Velazquez-Crespo



Charlotte Beck Pamela Beck Grey Sennett Barbara Thorell Faye Torres-Loc

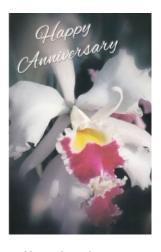


REMINDER - Renewals due Jan 1st.

Single: \$30 Joint: \$45

Student: \$15 (with valid ID)

Culture Study Group renewals also due Jan 1st - \$10 annually



Della Charbonneau



You can visit The Central Florida Orchid Society on the web where you can get information about upcoming events, see who next month's speaker is, read about our society's history, find some great resource links for care of your orchids, and pay your dues.

Check us out at https://cflorchidsociety.org



Like the "Central Florida Orchid Society group" on Facebook. We post details about all of our events, meetings and shows. There is an amazing collection of pictures of our orchids from previous events and judgings, as well as an open forum for questions and discussion.

Click on the link below and join in on the fun!! https://www.facebook.com/groups/cflorchidsociety



Leadership

Teri Scott - President
Jeanne Blankenship - Vice President
Jeanne Brenan - Corresponding Secretary
Juan Carlos Bianchi - Recording Secretary
Nancy Balderson - Treasurer
Sheila Coburn - Membership
Lori Erlacher - Past President
Dabra Huneycutt - Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors

Althea Montgomery, Jane Poché, Denise Andreu, Maren Aleman