MAY 2025

The Lampensis

A note from our President

Hello members from your president (aka grasshopper killer) ..and the count continues I hope you attend and support our show in June. The CFOS Orchid Display Artist Team had a great time at VCOS show, we're looking forward in putting in CFOS's display in our show. Check out our newest collection of raffle baskets and our hand made recycled pot characters are sure to be a hit!! Look forward to seeing everyone in their favorite HAT for BINGO at our June meeting !!

Teri Scott
CFOS President

WHAT'S INSIDE…

Upcoming meetings at Leu Gardens

General Meeting
June 9th 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Theme: HATS…wear ANY type of hat for a free raffle ticket!!!

Culture Group Meeting **- first Thursday of the month @ 7 pm -** The Culture Group has monthly topic discussions or workshops on orchid culture and anything from repotting to seasonal care. Open plant discussions address problems and questions answered. If you're not a member yet & would like to join, cost is $10 annually, pay cash at the meeting.

Membership

Kelli Acomb
Nedis Bourne
Diane Campbell
Joy Endsley
Marge Fantozzi
Brooke Hart
Bonnie Keller
Teri Scott
Luann Smith

THANK YOU Food Donors:

Jana Evans
Jerry Steele
Pam Marion
Vivian Luscuskie

Volusia Show Display & Winners

Display Artists ~
Chloe Mobley
Teri Scott
Jeanne Brenan

BEST IN SHOW
Margie Fantozzi
Micropera rostrata
Best species

1st Place
Jerry Steele - 3
Teri Scott - 2
Margie Fantozzi - 3
Nancy Balderson
Maren Aleman
Chloe Mobley
Jeanne Brenan
Sam Starr

2nd Place
Margie Fantozzi - 2
Maren Aleman
Jerry Steele

3rd Place
Teri Scott - 2
Maren Aleman - 2
Jerry Steele
Chloe Mobley
Sam Starr
Nancy Balderson
Margie Fantozzi

For those of you who have already signed up to volunteer. THANK YOU. If you haven't signed up and would like to get involved please email Nancy at njb.123@me.com

Venue Set up on **Wednesday** is 10am until finished (usually around 1 - 2pm)

Vendor Set up is **Thursday** 8am - 5pm

Friday & Saturday Show hours are 9am - 5pm

Sunday Show hours are 10am - 4pm

2025 Annual Show and Sale
Extened to 3 Days

Friday Jue 6th 9am-5pm
Saturday June 7th 9am - 5pm
Sunday June 8th 10am -4pm

$5.00 Daily Admission - $10.00 Weekend Admission
Childresn13 & under free

Thousands of orchids for sale
Orchids for both beginners and collectors
American Orchid Society Sanctioned event
Orchid displays
Door prize and raffle drawings
For more show information scan the this QR code

Present this flyer for a free raffle ticket

Orchid Classes

Friday June 6th

10:00am
Mounting Orchids
Eric Oyola, Eri's Orchid Paradise

1:00pm
Buying Orchids, What to Look For
Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids

3:00pm
Orchid Pryamid
Josh Jones, Orchid Den

Saturday June 7th

10:00am
Mounting Orchids
OFEOrchid Supply

1:00pm
Vanda Culture
Serena Roman, Lady Vanda

3:00pm
Phalaenopsis
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids

Sunday June 8th

10:00am
Orchids 101
Thanh Nugyen, Springwater Orchids

2:00pm
Cattleya Species and their Culture
Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids

Upcoming Events

Orchid Mounting

Krull- Smith Nursery
Saturday June 28th
Watch for details

AOS Corner
Affiliated Societies Newsletter

Why Will it Not Bloom

by Ron McHatton

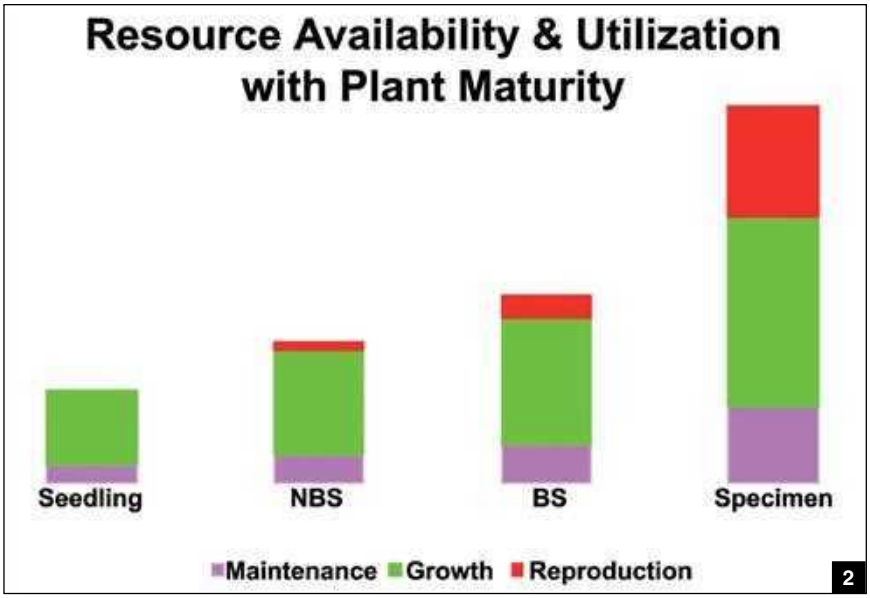
OVER THE NEXT couple of months, we'll look into the factors that facilitate (or hinder) flowering in a number of the orchids we grow and, spoiler alert, it has almost nothing to do with fertilizer. Even without fertilizer, plants that are sufficiently mature enough to flower can be brought into flower.

In general, there are two main components needed to help make our plants bloom. The first is an energy reserve. Plants that do not have sufficient energy to flower, will not flower! They need to be big enough and have some extra reserve energy, otherwise they expend what energy they have in growing or, in some cases, just surviving. The second component is an extensive collection of environmental factors that plants have evolved to trigger flowering at appropriate times in their natural habitat. Some of these, such as day length, can be mitigated by the creation of hybrids that have ancestors with different blooming seasons, while others can be much harder to overcome. These are the things we need to address in the plants we grow.

First, ask if your plant is physically mature enough to bloom. In seedlings, most of their energy is spent on growth, and a little on maintenance. In near-blooming-sized (NBS) plants, significant energy will still be spent on growth, but they are beginning to build a little reproductive reserve. Blooming-sized (BS) plants have yet more reproductive reserve, while specimen plants often have both lots of growth potential and reproductive reserve. So-called NBS plants do not *all* have the capacity to flower. Only about 10–15% of these are strong enough to bloom in the first year. About 50%+/- will bloom in the second year, and most can be expected to have flowered by the end of the third year. It is a good idea to mark your tag with the year you bought the plant so you can keep track of this. In monopodial orchids, you need a sufficiently mature stem to even have the potential to bloom. For instance, in *Phalaenopsis*, the first inflorescence almost always comes from the fifth or sixth mature leaf axil (do not count the most recently emerging leaf).

Roots are critical to providing the copious water our plants need to grow! Water does not kill roots, but lack of air exchange does. If you do not believe that,

1 RON MCHATTTON



2 RAY BARKALOW

3 RAY BARKALOW

BIRUTE ANNE VILEISIS

look at the cattleya backbulb propagation pictured here. I root all my cattleya backbulbs in standing water. It is almost foolproof, and they do not rot as long as there is ample surface area for gas exchange and the water does not become stagnant. If you have stagnant, wet potting mix with no air exchange the roots will rot. A strong root system means more efficient uptake of water, which leads to more efficient nutrient utilization and growth. More efficient water uptake means more energy to spend on flowering. Learn to grow good root systems! Check the root system of newly acquired plants by gently removing them from their pots. Be sure to give your plants enough water. Too often, plants do not get enough because people are afraid to overwater. This dehydration stresses plants, and they will not flower under those conditions.

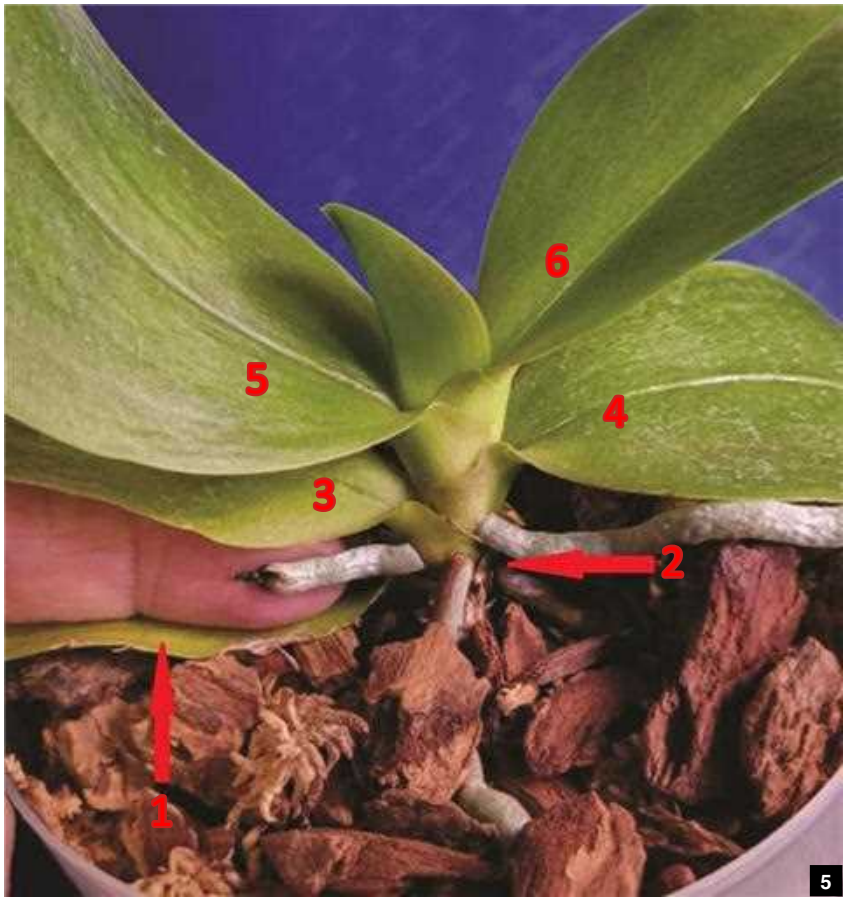
Why does a physically mature plant fail to flower? This usually happens when you are not providing one or more environmental factors that the plant needs.

TEMPERATURE The diurnal variation between day and night temperatures is important. Absolute day or night temperatures are also a factor. Some orchids need a period of low temperatures, typically at night, to induce flowering. Without this temperature requirement being met, the plant will not flower.

DAY LENGTH CHANGES Some orchids are critically dependent on the natural changes in day length (and night length) across the year. Plants that naturally bloom only in the spring are typically responding to having passed the shortest daylight of the year, and the days are getting longer. Fall bloomers are just the opposite of that. This happens in many cattleyas, especially species and simple hybrids. It is easy growing under lights to fail to provide these changes and the result may be plants not blooming.

LIGHT LEVEL VARIATION Seasonal variation in light levels can also be a required environmental trigger for some plants. The summer sun is more intense than the winter sun, thus providing an additional trigger for blooming. Many plants from monsoonal climates are brought into flowering just before or just after the monsoons — often directly related to changes in light level.

WATER AVAILABILITY Plants from climates with a pronounced dry period evolve to need that dry rest to flower



GREG ALLIKAS

[1] Fertilizer — amount, frequency, and type — is one of the least important factors in blooming orchids. None of the plants on this bench has ever been fertilized, and the oldest plants are at least 15 years old. They will not win awards but continue to grow and flower every year.

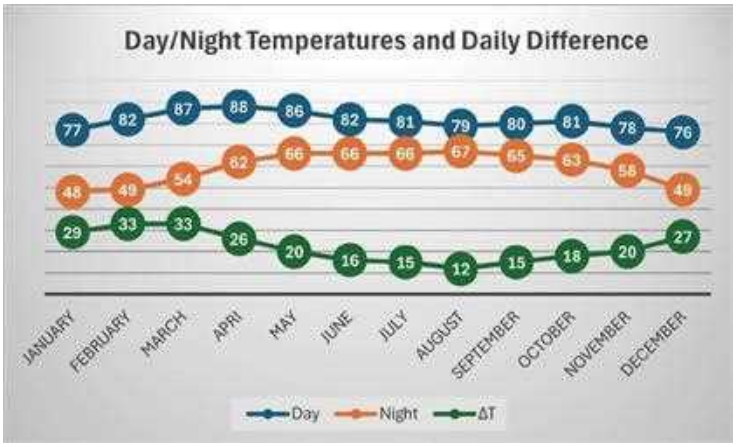
[2] Reprinted from the article by Ray Barkalow entitled “Making Plants Bloom” (*Orchids* 89(5):346–347) graphically illustrates that, as a plant grows, its acquisition of total resources increases, and the amount utilized to maintain existing growth (mauve) increases proportionally. Resources committed to growth (green) are a significant fraction of the total early on but decrease in proportion to the total as the plant matures, allowing the resources committed to blooming and reproduction (red) to increase significantly.

[3] Reprinted from the article by Ray Barkalow entitled “Making Plants Bloom” (*Orchids* 89(5):346–347) graphically illustrates that with poor culture, the acquisition of resources may be reduced, but the expenditure of them to maintain the health of the plant is unchanged. The resources expended on new growth are also reduced, but the net result is that there is less available for reproduction, reducing blooming.

[4] After exhausting other efforts to save her *Cattleya labiata* f. *coerulea* ‘Natural World’ AM/AOS, Birute Anne Vileisis successfully salvaged the last remnant by sprouting and rooting it in water.

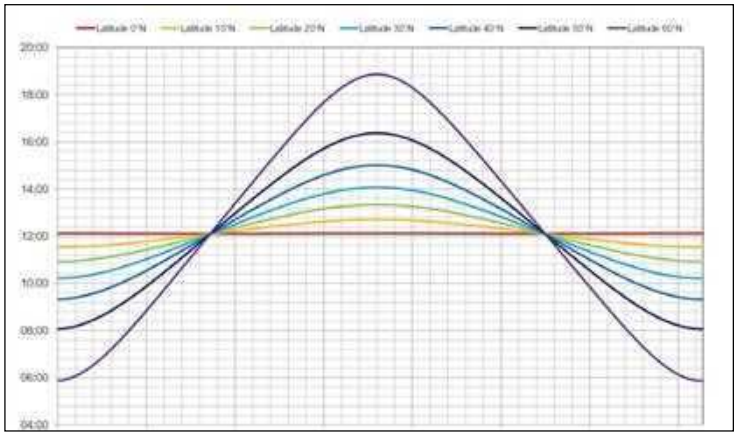
[5] This young *Phalaenopsis* is too young to bloom. First inflorescences almost always come from the fifth or sixth mature leaf axil. These leaves in this example have not reached maturity, and the plant could likely flower after another growing season. Note that leaf #2 has been lost, but the remnant leaf base can be seen behind the root.

AOS Corner
Affiliated Societies Newsletter



LEFT

Some orchids are adapted to flowering following a significant increase in the day-night temperature differential and a drop in the absolute night temperature. These data represent the habitats of *Dendrobium nobile* and *Dendrobium lindleyi*, both of which are brought into bloom following day temperatures below 80 F (27.7 C), nights below 50 F (10 C), and, importantly, a day-night differential greater than 25 F (13.9 C).

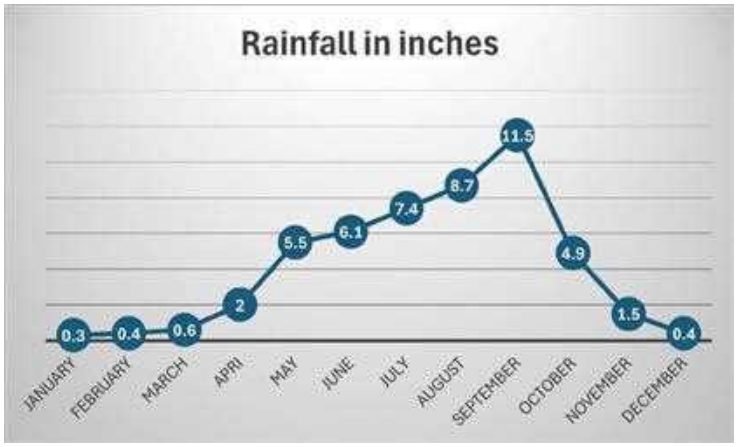


RIGHT

Daylength variation across the year varies dramatically with increasing latitude. Orchids from habitats north and south of the equator may have a strong seasonal adaptation with regard to flowering.

LEFT

Flowering in some orchids depends on an increase in light intensity or the number of clear days in a month. Flowering in *Dendrobium nobile* and *Dendrobium lindleyi* not only depends on day/night temperature changes but also on light intensity (flowering occurs during the clearest time of the year).



RIGHT

Water availability can also be a triggering factor in the flowering of some orchids. The flowering season for *Dendrobium nobile* and *Dendrobium lindleyi* occurs not only during the brightest and coolest time of the year, but also during the driest, when little to no rain falls in their native habitats.

well. Many deciduous dendrobiums flower poorly or not at all if not provided a very dry, often cool rest period. It is not just orchids. The South African Rain Bush (*Myrothamnus flabellifolius*) has the uncanny ability to flower two or three days before rains come. The reason for this is not well understood, but it is clear that the plant is reacting to some change in its environment.

How do I mix and match these variables to get my plants to bloom? This is where knowing the names of the plants you are trying to grow can be important. Is it a species or hybrid? Suppose the name that follows the genus is all lowercase. In that case, it tells you it is a species, while names that begin with capital letters designate hybrids (*Cattleya labiata* versus *Cattleya* Gertrude Hausermann). Once you know the name, you can research the species habitat and blooming seasons (if it is a hybrid, you can determine the species that make up its background and then research those species). So, if you determine that your orchid is a winter-blooming purple cattleya, it is, most likely, going to be brought into bloom triggered by the progression of days getting shorter through the winter solstice. A spring-blooming Cattleya would be triggered by the days getting longer after the winter solstice.

Next month, we will look at the environmental triggers involved in flowering some of the more common genera in cultivation.

— Ron McHatton, Chief Education and Science Officer, Editor (email rmchatton@aos.org).

HOME REMEDIES

— The natural oils found in citrus peels is toxic to many insects. Rather than throwing out orange and lemon peels, make a homemade insecticide out of them by letting them steep in water.

— The selenium found in onions and garlic makes a good homemade insecticide and repellant and can be extracted in the same steeping process to create citrus peel tea.

— Rather than expensive and potentially dangerous herbicides, spray full–strength vinegar to kill weeds between pavers and on greenhouse floors. (Do not spray on orchids.)

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

Treasurer's Report

Our Member's Auction went well. A big Thanks to Jeff for all the great information as well as getting and keeping the bidding going. We auctioned off 34 plants to 35 bidders, our members take was $754.00 and the society took in $442.80.

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

The Sunshine Girls

Chloe' and Jana have set up an email address, cfossunshine@gmail.com for members to send their card requests to. A card request can be for any reason, to express congratulations, sympathy or concern to members of the society in the event of illness, bereavement or milestone events.

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