

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

19th August 2023

Website:

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

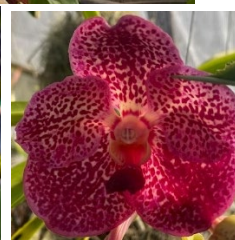
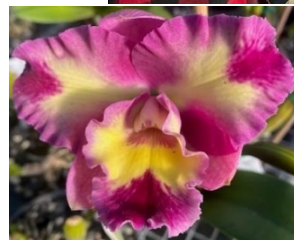
Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

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Welcome: Club members had a lovely Saturday afternoon enjoying perfect weather and orchids. Our President, Gary Walker and his wife Julie, hosted our meeting where Gary did a demonstration on repotting orchids and also diagnosed some problem plants that members brought along that needed some tender care. Below are some photos from the meeting and some of Gary's orchids in his shadehouse.

FOR NOTE:

- Please note that our AGM meeting will be held at our next meeting (30th September). A list of people nominated for positions will be distributed by email 14 days prior to the AGM meeting so you know your voting options. If you are not able to attend, you can give your proxy vote to another Club member to vote for you.
- Our Christmas party (on 25th November) will be at Sublime (previously known as Silky Oak Tea Gardens) at 1.00pm. There will be a selection of five mains and two desserts. Cost of this event will be paid for by the Club, but to secure your place, a \$10 deposit will need to be made to Shirley Downing. This will be refunded at the event (to ensure that RSVPs attend). This will purely be a Christmas party and a meeting will not be held on this date. **If you plan on coming along to celebrate, please let me know so you can be added to the list of attendees.**



Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting

GENRE	Plant Name	Owner of Plant
Cattleya	Rlc. Chyong Guu Linnet 'Smile'	Larry Downing
Dendrobium	Den. Kinkaku	Larry Downing
Species	Den. Speciosum var curvicaule 'Bee Creek' x Daylight Moon	Gary Walker
Vanda	Aranda Anne Kaee x V. Kasem's Delight	Gary Walker
Novice	Blc. Great Taiwan Orange	Sharon Stretton
Any Other	Paph. Dramatic x Verde Oro	Gary Walker
JUDGES CHOICE	Den. Kinkaku	Larry Downing



Cattleya: Rlc. Chyong Guu Linnet 'Smile'



Dendrobium & Judges Choice:
Den. Kinkaku



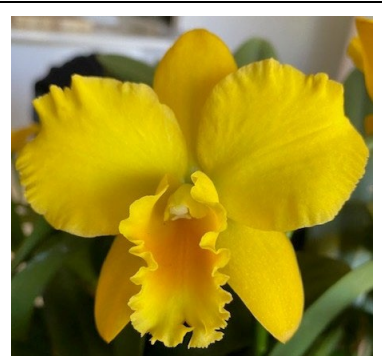
Species: Den. Speciosum var curvicaule 'Bee Creek' x Daylight Moon



Any Other: Paph. Dramatic x Verde Oro



Vanda: Aranda Anne Kaee x V. Kasem's Delight



Novice: Blc. Great Taiwan Orange

Other Plants tabled at the meeting





Winners of the Raffles for the day were: Sharon Stretton, Kent Bartlett and Ken Christensen who all took home a new orchid.

Hervey Bay Bus Trip Itinerary - Please take note of the following details:

Bus Trip Cost: Club members cost is \$10, and non-members will be required to pay a fee of \$20 each.

Admission Fee: All participants must pay their own admission fee when we arrive at the Show.

Departure and Pickup: The bus will depart from the Polley's carpark (56 Chatsworth Road), promptly at **7.00am**. We kindly request all participants to be present at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time to ensure a smooth and timely departure.

There will be two small group pick-ups at the start of Tin Can Bay Road and again at the corner of the Maryborough-Cooloola Road (for people at Tin Can Bay). We anticipate arriving at the HB OrchidFest around 9 am, excluding any unexpected delays.

Lunch: We will have lunch at the Hervey Bay RSL at 1.00pm. Please be ready at the bus to depart for lunch at 12.50pm.

Return Schedule: The bus will depart from Hervey Bay RSL at 2.45pm at the latest so we can be back in Gympie by 5.00pm.

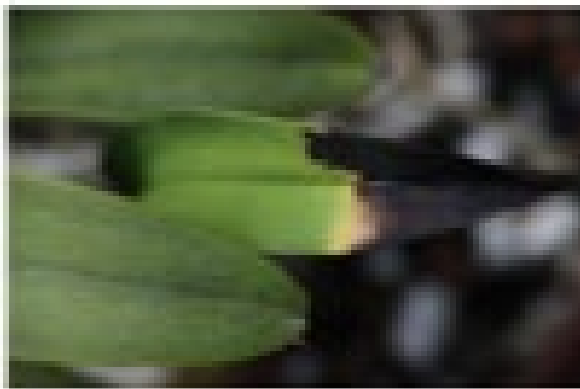
Editors Highlight – Calcium deficiency in Cattleyas

Recently, I found I had an orchid with calcium deficiency – I wasn't sure what was going on in the beginning to be honest, but after doing some research, the below article clearly showed what was going on for my plant. I found it very informative, so have made it the Editors article for the month. I hope you get something useful from it. Happy Orchiding! 😊

Orchid growers spend a lot of time worrying how best to supply the proper nutrition to their plants. Not only do you have to give them enough calcium, you need a healthy root system than can absorb the calcium. There must be sufficient moisture available for the calcium to move upward in the plant with the transpiration

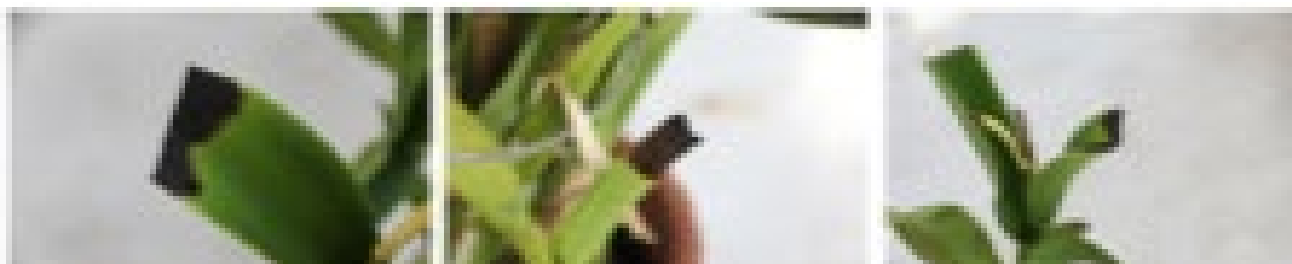
stream. It is all about the roots, a healthy root system is the key to your orchid growing success. Calcium is an essential nutrient required for optimal growth of your orchids. Calcium is absorbed through the roots and upward through the xylem via the transpiration process. It increases cell wall thickness and strength among other things as well as a plant resistance to fungal and bacterial disease. The plant requires calcium during periods of active growth, while it is building new tissue. It must be supplied to the plant ratably in proportion to its growth rate. Calcium is mostly immobile in the phloem so the plant cannot translocate it from the older growths to the newer growth, like it can some of the other essential elements. An easy way to supply calcium to your plants is through water soluble calcium bearing fertilisers or calcium nitrate applications.

Signs of Calcium Deficiencies



RIGHT: Despite using a Cal Mag fertiliser & other calcium supplements, black necrotic tissue at the leaf tips, often with a yellow halo, suggestive of calcium deficiency occurred through the growing season.

The most obvious signs of the deficiency is rapidly expanding tissue that becomes necrotic, such as a newly forming leaf or pseudobulb. Do not mistake the damage for the black rot caused by water molds just because it is black and the tissue looks like it is rotting. Black rot is a fast moving disease that often starts at the base of pseudobulbs and moves upward through the plant, killing within days. The necrotic tissue from calcium deficiency slowly continues to blacken. It is unsightly but not fatal to the plant. If you have been supplying enough calcium to your orchids in your fertiliser program, but are still seeing the signs of calcium deficiency, there is some other cultural issue for you to diagnose and correct.



ABOVE: Black tips from calcium deficiency, just kept moving down the leaf – even after cutting damaged tissue away.

Sometimes even with a high calcium diet, there are still black leaf tips on cattleyas during the growing season (as above photos depict), a characteristic sign of calcium deficiency. An accumulation of salts in the root zone or inadequate hydration can all impede calcium uptake.

Root Damage

Despite your best efforts to supply sufficient calcium, your plants can still suffer from deficiency, if something interferes with the uptake of this critical element. Calcium is mostly absorbed through the roots so a compromised root system can easily manifest itself in signs of calcium deficiency. Root function can be disrupted for many reasons. One of the most common causes of root damage is the repotting process itself, particularly when orchids are repotted when new roots are not actively forming. The older roots are damaged in the repotting process and the plant must send out new roots to stabilise. Chewing pests like snails can eat the tender new root tip. Once damaged, the roots need to regrow before the plant will stabilise and be able to absorb water and nutrients. A waterlogged potting medium can suffocate roots. Water logging does not occur as a result of overwatering per se, it occurs when there is insufficient air around the roots because the potting medium is too fine, or the organic matter has degraded and compacted around the roots.

Salt build-up around roots

As long as the concentration of salts in the potting media is less than that inside the roots, water is pushed into the root by osmotic pressure, termed root pressure. Salts naturally present in your water supply or

added by fertilisers can build up in the potting mix from the repeated wetting and drying cycles. Organic matter like peat and sphagnum moss tends to retain salts. Unless flushed from the pot, high salt levels can build up to unsafe levels so that water will tend to move out of the root rather than into the root. The root damage might be obvious, roots look stunted and may have brown markings. A sure sign of excess salts is when the root looks fine until it touches the clay pot or top of the media and then blackens.



LEFT photo:

Look at the salt accumulation on this pot after a single growing season. If you see salt deposits on the outside of your pots, you can assume the roots on the inside of the pot are also exposed to a high salt content. FLUSH!!

Inadequate Hydration

Calcium uptake is directly related to the transpiration rate, the process by which most of the water absorbed by the roots is pulled upward through the vascular tissue and ultimately evaporated from the stomata (openings) in the leaves. Plants that are not transpiring at a high rate do not take up large amounts of calcium. One adaption to an epiphytic orchid lifestyle is a thick cuticle with few stomata to limit water loss. Cattleyas have adapted to a xeric environment by keeping their stomata closed during the day, only opening at night when temperatures are a little cooler and humidity is higher, in an effort to prevent water loss. When humidity is very low, the stomata may remain closed both night and day, in which case transpiration cannot occur severely limiting the amount of calcium that can be absorbed. If grown under too dry conditions, there may not be enough moisture taken up by the roots or than can be robbed from adjacent cells for there to be a continuous flow of water from the roots to the leaves for transpiration. A strong transpirational pull is essential for calcium uptake.

Excess Phosphorus Levels

High phosphorus levels have been found to increase die back symptoms in cattleyas because excess phosphorus is antagonistic to calcium absorption by the root system. The phosphorus level of 100 ppm used in experiments to induce leaf-tip die back is probably more representative of what might be expected when using bloom booster fertilisers, those with a high middle number in the fertiliser formula. As long as you are not using bloom boosters too frequently or acidifying your water with phosphoric acid, excess phosphorus levels are probably not a concern to the orchid hobbyist. To a lesser extent, potassium and some other nutrients can be antagonistic to calcium uptake, but this would not be expected to occur with most fertiliser formulations.

Unusually High Temperatures

Unusually high temperatures in the absence of the cooling effects of frequent watering can interfere with calcium uptake.

Several factors must therefore be present in order for die-back symptoms to occur. First, the plant must be in an active vegetative growth, especially the stage of rapid leaf expansion, which would require high light intensities, good fertilisation and warm temperatures. Second, temperatures surrounding the root system must be higher than normal. The epiphytic medium can be expected to reach temperatures comparable to the high air temperatures of a greenhouse during the summer months unless some control of root temperatures is used, such as more frequent watering.

However, any cultural factor that would injure the roots and affect their capacity to absorb calcium during periods of active vegetative growth could in itself induce calcium deficiency without high root temperatures. Third, the degree of susceptibility is dependent upon the genetics of the plant.

In conclusion: These changes should ensure that the leaf tips of your plants will look happier in the next growing season with healthy, hydrated and cooler roots, in addition to the calcium now penetrating the plant.

Upcoming Events Schedule:

SEPTEMBER 2023	
1, 2 September 2023	Childers & IDOS Show (set up 31 st August)
1,2 September 2023	Nambour OS Show (Setup 31st of August)
8, 9 September 2023	Glasshouse Country OS Show
14,15 & 16 Sept 2023	Maryborough District OS Show – (set up on 13 th)
15, 16 September 2023	Noosa DO&FS show, Cooroy Memorial Hall, Maple Street (set up 14 th)
22- 24 September 2023	OrchidFest, sponsored by Hervey Bay OS (Setup 21st of September)
23 rd September 2023	STOCQ mtg, hosted by Hervey Bay OS
30th Sept – 1st Oct 2023	Rockhampton OS Show (Setup 29th of September)
OCTOBER 2023	
13th – 14 th October 2023	Bribie Island Orchid Society show. (Set up & Judging on the 12 th)
NOVEMBER 2023	
4 th & 5 th November	Brisbane Orchid Species Show at Mt Coo-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium, Mt Coo-tha Road, Toowong
11 th November 2023	Nambour Species Show (set up 10 th), Buderim Uniting Church, 2-10 Gloucester Rd, Buderim
2024 Dates	
10th February 2024	STOCQ AGM and Ordinary Meeting, Indoor Bowls Hall, Graham St, Gympie
1st – 4th March 2024	TIOS & WOC Tainan, Taiwan
29th – 31st March 2024	Gladstone OFS Show, Bill Robertson Toyota, Gladstone (Setup 28th of March)
29th – 30th March 2024	Bribie IOS Show (Setup 28th of March)
5th – 6th April 2024	Sunshine Coast OS Show (Setup 4th of April)
20th April 2024	South Burnett OS Show, Diggers Club, Wondai
27th – 28th April 2024	Gympie & District Orchid Society Show (Setup 26th of April)
June 2024	STOCQ Meeting, hosted by Calliope O & FS
11th – 12th October 2024	Bribie Island Orchid Society (Setup 10th of October)
November 2024	STOCQ Meeting, Hosted by Maroochydore OS
March 2025	15th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference & Show, Taiwan

Next Meeting – Please note that the September meeting will be our AGM.

If you are not able to attend, you can give your proxy vote to someone to vote for you. A list of the people nominated will be distributed 14 days prior to the AGM meeting so you know your voting options.

DATE: Saturday, 30th September 2023

ADDRESS: Mel Wheeler's at 6 David Court, Southside

PLANTS: Benching of plants will commence from 1.30pm – 1.45pm.

JUDGING: Voting will be held prior to meeting (between 1.45pm – 2.00pm).

MEETING: Will commence at 2.00 pm.

Please bring your plants, a chair and a plate to share for afternoon tea

Future Meetings:	Location
28 October 2023	Kent & Sharon Bartlett – 6 Tailor Street, Tin Can Bay
25 November 2023	Christmas Party – 1.00pm at Sublime (previously known as Silky Oak Tea Garden), at 33 Priddy Road, Kia Ora

Newsletter snippets

Club members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Please email Sharon Stretton for inclusion (prior to the upcoming meeting, otherwise they will be included the following month). Email: sharon.m.stretton@tmr.qld.gov.au

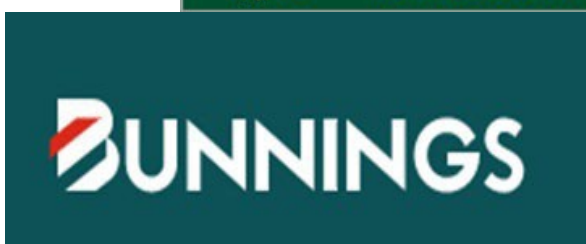
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