

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 48 - Issue : 1

Next Meeting: Friday – 21 February 2025

**Venue: NEW Venue -
Parkmore Primary School
38 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.**

ITEM OF THE EVENING: Video –

Time: 8.00PM

Topic: Video – Clive Hall on Masdevallias

Topical Chat: Summer affected plants – please bring any plant that has been affected by direct sun

Supper: Please bring a plate

Special Effort: Tickets at door \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.00

Sales Table: Pots, stakes, labels and hangers

President's Report

Happy New Year to all our members and your families.

2025 looks like being a great year for the Maroondah Orchid Society with a terrific line-up of guest speakers for our monthly meetings.

2024 saw us move from St Timothy's in Vermont to Parkmore Primary School where we held our Christmas Dinner in late December. An enjoyable night was had by all and some beautiful plants were benched for the popular vote.

Once again our summer has hit with vengeance over the last few weeks with January and early February serving up a few scorchers. So appropriately, our topical chat in February will be coping with heat stress on our orchids.

Sadly, it is with regret that I advise the passing of Barbara Walker on January 5th this year. Barbara loved orchids and was a founding member of our Society and a forming member of the OSCOV judging panel. Barbara will be fondly remembered by her many friends in the orchid growing family. As a mark of respect to Barbara, we will hold a minute's silence at the commencement of our February general meeting.

Michael Chivell

Please note: If you have changed your contact details such as phone, email address or home address can you please contact Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096 so we can update our records.

Thank you!

M.O.S. Inc. Patron: David Cannon

Life Members: The late Frank Date, Jim Foster-Johnson, David Cannon, Alan & Nancy Cockram, Dieter Weise, The late Barry Robinson, Susanne Redpath, The late Max Bomford, Cheryl Luth, G Moffat.

Current M.O.S. Inc. Committee:

President Michael Chivell (M) 0402 568 217

Vice Presidents: David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282
Ron Coleman

Secretary: Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492:
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Committee: Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793
Leanne Le (M) 0416 818 290
Genny Chivell (M) 0434 995 174
Jim Foster-Johnson (M) 0412 366 686
Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096
Heather Coleman
Claudia Ng

Membership Secretary: Edith Yu-Chan

Newsletter: Leo Orland

Floral Art: Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307

Website Manager Heather Coleman

MOS Website Address [www.oscov.asn.au /mos](http://www.oscov.asn.au/mos)

MOS Facebook Address www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety

Photos from the Christmas Dinner







Plants on Display at the Christmas Dinner





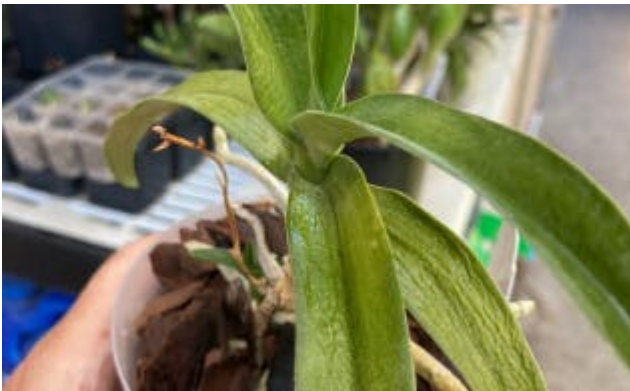
What to do if leaves are limp and wrinkly...

Root Rot



When the roots have rotted away, the plant cannot absorb water, leading to the limpness and wrinkling of leaves. Plants maintain their shape through water pressure, and water needs to be restored in order for the plant to recover. You may notice that the potting medium is soggy or even mushy and may smell. In the case of rot, the plant will need to be unpotted, disinfected with a fungicide, infected/dead roots removed, and repotted in fresher, more coarse media to recover. Plants can also be bare-rooted in a high-humidity environment, such as a clear plastic bag or glass terrarium until new roots show. This is a difficult form of rot to treat.

Plant is too dry



If the plant is too dry from either underwatering or low humidity, wrinkles and limpness will occur in the leaves. Plants maintain their shape through water pressure, and water needs to be restored in order for the plant to recover. The medium will be dry and crispy very quickly (a few days for indoors; within a few hours in a greenhouse). Simply water more frequently, possibly with a higher volume of water, and increase humidity to lengthen the time between waterings and when plant dries.

Leaves become limp, then turn black



Cold Shock can happen when plants are exposed to excessively cold temperatures (potentially any temperature under 50F (10C)). This can be from transporting the plant without insulating it during cold weather (such as when taking it home from the grocery store), leaving a window open near the plants during winter, or any source where cold air under 50F (10C) is hitting the plant.

American Orchid Society

WATERING ORCHIDS IN SUMMER

by Brian Milligan

Most orchid growers agree that in winter orchids should be watered in the morning, preferably on sunny days when the temperature is rising, so that the foliage is dry by nightfall. Watering in summer is more controversial. For a typical summer day in Melbourne with a maximum temperature around 25°C, I stick to the winter schedule and water in the morning. Foliage that remains wet overnight is prone to fungal attack, especially if the relative humidity is high. Glasshouses and other enclosed structures are always humid at night when the temperature falls.

Watering in hot weather, when temperatures exceed 30°C, and especially when hot, dry northerly winds are blowing, is another matter. Under these conditions small pots watered in the morning will be dry by midday. Watering in the evening is then much better, as the plants have all night to absorb water through their roots. If the weather is very hot, I water my small pots (up to 50 mm in diameter) both in the morning and at night. The above comments refer to plants, such as Australian native dendrobiums, grown in bark-based mixes. Plants grown in Sphagnum moss retain moisture much longer and seldom need watering more than once every second day, even in the hottest weather. Some orchids, such as dendrobiums and varicosum-type oncidiums, like to dry out between waterings, whereas cymbidiums and paphiopedilums do much better if their potting mix is never allowed to become completely dry.

There is an added benefit to watering cymbidiums at night in summer. The cooling effect produced by watering at that time induces flowering. Temperatures need to fall to 13°C or

lower over a succession of nights in December and January for this to happen. The required cooling effect is fairly easy for us to achieve but not for Brisbane growers, who have great trouble in persuading many of their cymbidiums to bloom. One genus that definitely benefits from watering at night is Pleione. Max Akam, one of Melbourne's largest pleione growers, always waters his plants at night, and believes it is particularly important in hot weather. Some growers with heated glasshouses water the orchids therein in the evening all year round. Their rationale is that rain falls mainly in the late afternoon or evening in the tropical regions where most of their species orchids grow, and that they are doing only "what comes naturally". However, unless the minimum temperature is about 15°C and there is excellent air circulation, I believe that watering at night throughout the year will ultimately lead to attack by Botrytis and other fungal infection.

No orchids should be watered at midday in very hot weather. Soft-leaved orchids, such as lycastes and pleiones, will suffer from leaf scald, and so may the new growths on soft-cane and Australian native dendrobiums. Also, it's best not to apply liquid fertilisers in hot weather, and preferably not when the roots are dry. Always ensure that the potting mix is damp before applying liquid fertilisers, or you may damage the roots (this advice has been handed down by a long line of expert orchid growers but may not be scientifically based). I prefer to play safe and water one day and fertilise the next. By choosing a cool spell of weather, then it won't be necessary to water for another couple of days. This allows time for the nutrients to be absorbed by the plant before they are flushed away with the next watering. Whatever your watering technique, the most important thing to your plants is that they are watered. The effort that you put into your cymbidiums during summer will be reflected in how well they flower in winter and spring. So give them a Happy Christmas too, and water them regularly over the holiday season.

LAST THOUGHT



If Undeliverable Return to:
The Hon. Secretary,
Maroondah Orchid Society Incorporated
P.O.Box 5076, Ringwood. Vic. 3134

NEWSLETTER



Collectors Corner/Garden World - You can get 10% off some items within the store by showing either your membership badge or membership card.

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