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### VISITING SPEAKERS:

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### WEBMASTER:

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## WEB ADDRESS

[WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM](http://WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EDITOR'S NOTE

THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY TO ALL MEMBERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU WISH TO SWITCH FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC DELIVERY, NOTIFY ME AT ([ROBERT.LUCAS@USASK.CA](mailto:ROBERT.LUCAS@USASK.CA)). EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON NOV. 25<sup>TH</sup> AT DUTCH GROWERS, COMMENCING AT 1:30 P.M.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2007-2008 ARE DUE AND WILL BE ON SALE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THE FEE IS \$25.00 FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP AND \$30.00 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. A NEW FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE PURCHASE. FAILURE TO RENEW BY NOV. 25<sup>TH</sup> WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES INCLUDING RECEIPT OF THE NEWSLETTER.

### FLORESCENT LIGHT ORDER

THE SOCIETY ORDER OF FLORESCENT LIGHTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING AT THE RESOURCE TABLE.

### PANEL DISCUSSION

THERE WILL BE A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING ON WATER AND FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS FOR ORCHIDS. CAROL S. AND BOB LUCAS WILL BE TWO OF THE MEMBERS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE.



### OSA SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF ALBERTA SHOW AND SALE WILL BE HELD IN EDMONTON ON FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008. A DECISION TO ENTER A DISPLAY WILL DEPEND UPON THE NUMBER OF SOCIETY MEMBERS ATTENDING, FOR EXTRA HANDS ARE NEEDED. IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND COULD HELP OUT WITH TRANSPORT OF PLANTS TO OR FROM THE SHOW, PLEASE TELL SHERIDA. WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF RENTING A BUS FOR THE TRIP TO EDMONTON. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

### SLIDE SHOW

BECAUSE OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION, THERE IS NO SLIDE SHOW SCHEDULED FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

### GARDENSCAPE

GARDENSCAPE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 29-30. THE SOS WILL ENTER A DISPLAY.

### MEETING AGENDA

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PROBLEM CORNER
- SHOW AND TELL
- COFFEE/SUPPLIES
- PANEL DISCUSSION
- PLANT RAFFLE
- PLANT SALE
- ADJOURNMENT

## OCT. 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES

SHERIDA WELCOMED EVERYONE ESPECIALLY NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

### ELECTION OF SECRETARY

AT THE LAST MEETING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECRETARY POSITION HAD BECOME VACANT AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE WOULD BE SEEKING A REPLACEMENT. A NOMINATION OF LAUREL DUCZEK FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY WAS RECEIVED. THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE FLOOR TO FURTHER NOMINATIONS. NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS WERE MADE. SARAH AND WILMA NYKIFORUK JOINTLY MOVED THAT LAUREL DUCZEK BE ACCEPTED AS THE NEW SECRETARY. THE MOTION WAS JOINTLY SECONDED BY PHYLLIS MYKOTA AND SHARON WALLENTINY. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANY UNPAID MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2007-2008 WERE DUE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING. THE FEE IS \$25.00 FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP AND \$30.00 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE TO HEATHER ANDERSON, TREASURER.

MARILYN LIGHT, A COC SPONSORED SPEAKER, PRESENTED LECTURES ON TWO TOPICS AT THE JS WOOD LIBRARY, OCTOBER 22, 2007. THE FIRST WAS "PERIODIC AND SEASONAL DORMANCY IN ORCHIDS" AND THE SECOND WAS "ORCHIDS OF THE PHILIPPINES". A HANDOUT FROM THE PRESENTATION ON DORMANCY IS AVAILABLE AT THE HEAD TABLE.

MEMBERS ARE TO GIVE THEIR FLUORESCENT LIGHT ORDERS TO BOB FARTHING AT THE RESOURCE TABLE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SOS ORDER WILL BE PLACED WITHIN 1 WEEK OF THE OCTOBER MEETING.

A CD AND WRITE-UP WERE PREPARED BY JAMES SATHER BASED ON THE AOS SLIDE SHOW ENTITLED "THE BIG THREE CATTLEYA SPECIES". IT WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIBRARY HOLDINGS.

THE NOVEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING WILL FEATURE A PANEL OF EXPERIENCED ORCHID GROWERS WHO WILL DISCUSS HOW THEY FERTILIZE AND WATER THEIR PLANTS. COME WITH YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ABOUT WATERING AND FERTILIZING.

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY (CPAWS) SENT AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR A RECENT DONATION FROM THE SOCIETY. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BOX IN THE COFFEE AREA ARE DONATED FOR CONSERVATION WORK.

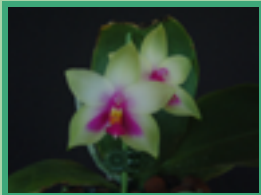
### PRESENTATION - GROWING DENDROBIUMS

JAMES SATHER DISCUSSED THE GROWTH AND FLOWING HABITS OF SEVERAL DENDROBIUM PLANTS ON DISPLAY. THE INFORMATION ON DORMANCY PERIODS FOUND IN REFERENCE BOOKS SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO SUIT THE GEOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS WHERE YOU LIVE. WHEN SPECIES AND CROSSES REQUIRE A COOL REST WITH DIMINISHED WATERING, JAMES HARDENS OFF THE PLANTS STARTING IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BY REDUCING WATERING TO ONCE EVERY 3 WEEKS. HE PROVIDES BRIGHT



PHAL BEDFORD GEM

*A SPECIAL WELCOME TO LAUREL IN HER NEW POSITION AS SECRETARY OF THE SOS.*



PHAL BELLINA

LIGHT THROUGH THE DORMANCY PERIOD AND RESUMES NORMAL WATERING IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY. WITH THIS TYPE OF CARE THE PLANTS FLOWER IN MARCH/APRIL. JAMES ALSO DEMONSTRATED HOW TO SELECT, REMOVE AND POT KEKIS.

THE KEKIS REMOVED FOR THE DEMONSTRATION WERE DONATED FOR THE PLANT RAFFLE. JAMES PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE COMPACT FLORESCENT BULBS THAT HE USES FOR ORCHID GROWING.

#### PROBLEM CORNER

AN ODONT. TITANIC “BLACK SABBATH” WAS BROUGHT FOR DISCUSSION. AFTER PURCHASE, THE PLANT PRODUCED BLOSSOMS THAT TURNED HARD AND BLACK. THE THIN LEAVES WERE EXTENSIVELY COVERED WITH BLACK SPOTS. THE PLANT WAS TAKEN BACK TO THE SELLER FOR ADVICE AND IT WAS TREATED WITH SULFUR FOR A SUSPECTED FUNGAL INFECTION. THE PLANT BLOOMED AGAIN THIS SUMMER AND THE BLOSSOMS AGAIN TURNED BLACK. THE PLANT IS IN A SOUTH-EAST EXPOSURE. THE HOUSE NEVER GETS VERY COOL.

SUGGESTIONS: REPOT THE PLANT AND SPRAY WITH SOAP. PROVIDE COOLER CONDITIONS, BRIGHT LIGHT AND HIGH HUMIDITY. SOME LEAF SPOTTING IS COMMON WITH THIN-LEAVED ORCHIDS.

## WEB PAGE OF THE MONTH

EACH MONTH WE WILL FEATURE A WEB PAGE. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE, SEND IT TO THE EDITOR. THIS MONTH’S FEATURE, COURTESY OF CHERYL A. IS:

[WWW.SLIPPERORCHIDS.INFO/](http://WWW.SLIPPERORCHIDS.INFO/)

#### SHOW AND TELL

PLANTS ON DISPLAY WERE GROWN BY: RUTHANNE HANBIDGE, EUGENE KUCEY, RYAN DENKERT, RON JENSEN, BOB FARTHING, SARA NYKIFORUK, SHARON WALLENTINY, JAMES SATHER, HEATHER ANDERSON, AL HARTRIDGE, CHERYL ADAMSON AND SHERIDA GREGOIRE. MARY ORCHARD BROUGHT CUT FLOWERS FROM A SPECIMEN PLANT WITH OVER 60 BLOOMS AND PICTURES OF OTHER FLOWERING ORCHIDS.

#### PLANT RAFFLE WINNERS

JAN DOUGALL– PAPH. RUBY LEOPARD ‘VINI’ X CHARLESWORTHII;  
GWEN PAQUIN– TWO DENDROBIUM KEKIS;  
SARA NYKIFORUK– ODCDM. WILDCAT ‘TOW;’  
CLARENCE SMITH– WILS. ALOHA SPARKS ‘RUBY EYES;’  
YVETTE LYSTER– BRS. ETERNAL WIND ‘TOW’ (BRACDIANA X REX)  
SHERIDA GREGOIRE– MILT. BOULIVOT ‘THX 1138.’

#### PLANT SALE

IN ADDITION TO THE CLUB PLANTS AVAILABLE, RON JENSEN OFFERED MANY PLANTS FROM HIS COLLECTION FOR SALE.

THIS SITE, HOSTED BY STEPHEN MANZA, FEATURES IN SITU CONDITIONS FOR ALL PAPH SPECIES, AS WELL AS SPECIES, PRIMARY AND COMPLEX HYBRID PHOTOS. IT IS VERY EASY TO NAVIGATE AND IS WORTH A VISIT.



PHAL SUN JE  
DIAMOND

## HOW I GROW PHALAENOPSIS ORCHIDS

BY BOB LUCAS

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF CULTURE ARTICLES BY SOS MEMBERS WHO ARE KNOWN FOR GROWING FINE PLANTS. SEE THE MARCH, APRIL, MAY, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTERS FOR THE FIRST FIVE ARTICLES IN THIS SERIES ON PHRAGMIPEDIUM PAPHIOPEDILUM, DENDROBIUM, MASDEVALLIA AND VANDA ORCHIDS.



*MY POTTING MEDIUM IS A COMBINATION OF EXPANDED CLAY PELLETS AND SPHAGNUM MOSS*

THE FIRST QUESTION THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IN AN ARTICLE ON THE CULTURE OF PHALAENOPSIS ORCHIDS IS, 'WHO CARES?' WHEN WONDERFUL BLOOMING MERISTEMS FROM TAIWAN CAN BE BOUGHT FOR \$20.00 FROM YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET, AND DISCARDED ONCE PETALS DROP, WHO NEEDS CULTURE TIPS?

I HAVE THREE ANSWERS THAT I HOPE YOU FIND COMPELLING. FIRST, THERE IS JOY TO BE HAD FROM A WELL-GROWN PLANT, EVEN BEFORE IT BLOOMS. SECOND, THE ANTICIPATION OF GROWING AND BLOOMING OUT A FLASK OF A NEW HYBRID IS OFTEN MORE REWARDING THAN THE BLOSSOMS THEMSELVES. THIRD, IF YOUR COLLECTION CONTAINS ONLY MERISTEMS THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS, YOUR ABILITY TO MOUNT A VARIED AND ENTERTAINING DISPLAY IS SEVERLY CURTAILED.

### LIGHT

I GROW MY SEEDLINGS AND REJUVENATING MATURE PLANTS UNDER FLORESCENT LIGHTS. I HAVE 2 THREE-TIERED LIGHT STANDS WITH 4 48" TUBES ON EACH LEVEL. THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LIGHTS AND THE TRAY BOTTOMS ARE 13, 16 AND 18 INCHES TO ALLOW FOR DIFFERENT SIZED PLANTS. THE LIGHTS ARE ON TIMERS SET FOR 14 HOURS. LIGHT IS AUGMENTED BY EAST AND SOUTH WINDOWS AND ON A

TYPICAL SUMMER DAY IN SASKATCHEWAN THE LIGHT INTENSITY AVERAGES AROUND 900-1000 FOOT-CANDLES.

I RUN A CEILING FAN 24 HOURS A DAY ON LOW, JUST ENOUGH TO IMPART A GENTLE MOTION TO FLOWER SPIKES.

### WATER

I DO NOT USE SASKATOON WATER BECAUSE I FOUND THAT WITH IT MY PLANTS DISPLAYED PITTING OF THE LEAVES. I ATTRIBUTE THIS TO THE HARDNESS OF THE WATER. IT MEASURES ABOUT 210 PPM OUT OF THE TAP AND SINCE I AIM FOR A TOTAL PPM OF 450, IT DOES NOT LEAVE MUCH ROOM FOR FERTILIZER. IN ADDITION I HAVE NO IDEA OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE MINERALS IN THE WATER. CONSEQUENTLY I SWITCHED TO RO WATER ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO AND I HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED ANY PITTING SINCE THEN.

I WATER ONCE A WEEK EXCEPT IN JULY AND AUGUST WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IN MY GROWING ROOM ROUTINELY REACHES 30-35 DEGREES C. THEN I SOMETIMES AUGMENT THE ROUTINE WITH ADDITIONAL WATER.

### POTTING MEDIUM

MY POTTING MEDIUM IS A COMBINATION OF EXPANDED CLAY PELLETS AND SPHAGNUM MOSS.

THIS CHOICE IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT I GROW MANY PLANTS IN MY HOUSE AND I WANT TO MINIMIZE ANY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DECOMPOSITION. AN ADDED BENEFIT IS THAT I CAN RECYCLE THE PELLETS AFTER CLEANING THEM.

I LAYER THE TWO, BEGINNING WITH PELLETS THEN MOSS, THE PLANT, PELLETS, MOSS AND PELLETS. THIS SEQUENCE ENSURES THAT THE ROOTS ALWAYS HAVE AIR SPACE INTO WHICH THEY CAN GROW, THEREBY MINIMIZING THE ROOT ROT THAT CAN OCCUR IN MOSS ALONE.

## FERTILIZER

ONE MIGHT THINK THE NUTRIENTS CONTAINED IN THE FERTILIZER, AND THEIR CONCENTRATION LEVELS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN EFFICIENT FERTILIZING, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE. THE MOST CRITICAL ELEMENT IS THE PH MEASURE OF THE SOLUTION, SO LET ME START WITH THIS.

BEFORE I STARTED GROWING ORCHIDS I GAVE LITTLE THOUGHT TO HOW PLANTS TAKE UP NUTRIENTS. IF PRESSED I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE MENTIONED CAPILLARY OR OSMOSIS ACTION, BUT, IN TRUTH, MY CLOSEST ANALOGY WOULD HAVE BEEN, 'LIKE A STRAW.'

AFTER READING HOW TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR GARDEN, BY G. REINDERS AND M. MAINLY (MAINLY PUBLICATIONS, ABBOTSFORD, B. C., 1999) I DISCOVERED THAT, "THE NUTRIENTS, THE WATER, THE TRACE ELEMENTS, THE GROWING MEDIUM, AND THE GASES AT THE ROOTS HAVE DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL CHARGES ALL ENGAGED IN A CONSTANT BATTLE.... EXCHANGING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELECTRICAL CHARGES, AND IN THIS WAY NUTRIENTS ARE ABSORBED INTO THE ROOTS TO FEED THE PLANT," (P. 66).

WHO KNEW? ANYWAY, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WITHOUT THE CORRECT PH, THE PLANT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE NUTRIENTS REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED.

FORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS ARE TAKEN UP OPTIMALLY WITH A PH LEVEL BETWEEN 6 AND 6.5. HOWEVER, THIS READING MUST BE TAKEN FROM THE RUNOFF, AS VARIOUS MEDIUMS WILL DIFFER IN THEIR ELECTRICAL CHARGES. FOR EXAMPLE, MOSS, BEING SLIGHTLY ACIDIC (POSITIVELY CHARGED) WILL BRING THE PH MEASURE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY. THUS, I HAVE TO START WITH A PH READING OF 7.5 TO END UP AT THE ROOTS WITH 6-6.5.

I USED TO COMPLICATE MY FERTILIZER ROUTINE BY ALTERNATING AMONG VARIOUS PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS I HAVE STUCK WITH MSU AND I HAVE NOT NOTICED ANY DETERIORATION IN MY ORCHIDS. HERE IS MY MIX FOR 18 LITRES OF RO WATER:

3 TBSP OF MSU (FOR RO WATER)  
1 TSP PRO-TEKT  
1/4 TSP MAGNESIUM NITRATE  
ADJUST THE PH TO 7.5 (ABOUT 5 ML OF PH UP).

THE PRO-TEKT (DYNA-GROW SILICON SUPPLEMENT) IS SUPPOSED TO PROMOTE DISEASE RESISTANCE AND IT SEEMS TO CREATE A SHINY HEALTHY LEAF. THE MAGNESIUM IS A BLOOM ENHANCER AND I USE THE NITRATE FORM SINCE HORST BOHNE MAINTAINS THAT, "YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH NITROGEN." THIS SOLUTION MEASURES OUT AROUND 450-475 PPM DEPENDING ON HOW CAREFULLY I MEASURE. I FERTILIZE WITH EACH WATERING



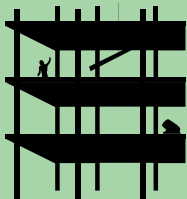
PHAL TEXAS FANCY



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*VIOLACEA, BELLINA AND THEIR PRIMARY HYBRIDS SEEM TO DO BETTER WITH LESS FERTILIZER.*

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AT A FREQUENCY OF ONCE A WEEK. IF MORE FREQUENT WATERING IS REQUIRED IN THE SUMMER HEAT, I DO IT WITH RO WATER WITH A TRACE AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER.

### TEMPERATURE

I FIND THE BEST GROWTH RATES OCCUR WITH A DAYTIME TEMPERATURE BETWEEN 25-30 DEGREES C AND 18-22 DEGREES C AT NIGHT. IN THE SUMMER HEAT ABOVE 30 DEGREES C, THE PLANTS EXPERIENCE STRESS AND APPEAR TO GO INTO A HOLDING MODE.

### FLOWER INDUCTION

IN NATURE, FLOWER INDUCTION IS TRIGGERED BY THE DROP IN TEMPERATURE AND THE INCREASE IN LIGHT INTENSITY THAT ACCOMPANY THE END OF THE MONSOON SEASON.

TO REPLICATE THESE CONDITIONS, I MOVE PLANTS I THINK ARE CAPABLE OF BLOOMING TO A ROOM IN THE BASEMENT. THE LIGHT IS PROVIDED BY A 400 WATT HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM LAMP MOUNTED ON A TRACK. THE TRACK ALLOWS ME TO EXPAND THE GROWING AREA TO 9X4 FEET WITH ONE LIGHT, THEREBY ECONOMIZING ON ELECTRICAL BILLS. THE PLANTS DIRECTLY UNDER THE LIGHT RECEIVE JUST OVER 1000 FOOT-CANDLES AND THE LIGHT IS ON FOR FOURTEEN HOURS A DAY. AN OVERHEAD FAN RUNS ON MEDIUM 24/7.

BY ADJUSTING THE AMOUNT OF AIR CONDITIONING THAT ENTERS THIS ROOM, I CAN ENSURE THAT THE TEMPERATURE RANGES FROM A LOW OF 15 DEGREES C TO A HIGH OF 22 DEGREES C, EVEN IN THE SUMMER. AFTER ABOUT SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS, 90 PERCENT OF THE PLANTS HAVE SPIKED. THOSE THAT HAVE NOT ARE RETURNED TO THE GROWING ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

AN ADDED BENEFIT OF USING THIS TYPE OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IS THAT I AM ABLE TO BLOOM PLANTS YEAR ROUND. THIS IS

PARTICULARLY USEFUL WHEN ENTERING PHALS IN FALL SHOWS. IN ADDITION, ALWAYS HAVING PLANTS IN BLOOM IS BETTER FOR THE SOUL THAN AN EXPLOSION OF BLOOMS FOR A FEW MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

### MISCELLANEOUS HINTS

I REPOT WHEN THERE APPEAR TO BE MORE ROOTS ABOVE THE MEDIUM THAN IN IT, FOR THEN THE PLANT IS AT A DISADVANTAGE IN ACCESSING NUTRIENTS. I DON'T HESITATE TO REPOT A PLANT IN SPIKE OR BLOOM, AS REPOTTING APPEARS TO INVIGORATE THE PLANT.

BEFORE REPOTTING, I SOAK THE PLANT IN A WEAK SOLUTION OF RO WATER AND A ROOT BOOSTER SUCH AS SUPERTHRIVE FOR 15 MINUTES

VIOLACEA, BELLINA AND THEIR PRIMARY HYBRIDS SEEM TO DO BETTER WITH LESS FERTILIZER SO I DILUTE MY SOLUTION BY HALF FOR THEM (AND MY PAPHS), ALTHOUGH I FERTILIZE WITH EACH WATERING AS WITH THE OTHER ORCHIDS.

ON THE BASIS OF AUTOPSIES CONDUCTED ON ORCHIDS THAT I AND FRIENDS HAVE KILLED, NINE ORCHIDS DIE FROM ROOT ROT ASSOCIATED WITH OVER WATERING FOR EACH ONE THAT DIES OF DEHYDRATION. THE SIMPLE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE EVIDENCE OF DEHYDRATION, DROOPY OR LIMP LEAVES, IS READILY APPARENT BEFORE LETHAL DAMAGE OCCURS. IN CONTRAST, ROOT ROT IS USUALLY IRREVERSIBLE ONCE THE PLANT DEPICTS SIGNS OF DISTRESS. THE MEDIUM SHOULD BE DRY BEFORE WATERING, BUT NOT EXCESSIVELY SO. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHETHER TO WATER OR NOT, DON'T.

DON'T LET YOUR PLANTS BLOOM FOR MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS. I USED TO BE EXCITED IF BLOOMING LASTED SIX MONTHS OR MORE. HOWEVER, MY JOY DISSIPATED WHEN I FOUND THE PLANT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT NEAR DEATH'S DOOR, AND FACING A TWO-YEAR RECUPERATION PERIOD.