

E.O.C. 2018 Workshop at Tuross.

Clive Hall of MT. Beenak Orchids in Victoria.

Sarcochilus

Clive's collection of sarcs. has been strongly influenced by Neville Roper's stock. (For many years Clive handled Neville's flasking.) Clive declares Neville's plants to be strong and easy to grow.

Below is Clive's method of growing sarcs:

1. After deflasking the seedlings are mass planted into punnets using Orchidata Precision Bark...2-4mm. A sprinkle of slow release Osmocote (8-9 months) is placed on the first layer of bark before seedlings are planted.
2. When sufficient growth has occurred these are potted up in groups of 2 or 3 into Orchidata Classic Bark (6-9 mm) and again Osmocote is used under the bark mix.
3. For repotting of mature plants Clive uses the following mix:
Power Orchidata Bark (9-12 mm)
20% perlite...jumbo or extra large
flecks of dried sphagnum moss crumbled into the mix.

Clive's basic rules:

Water before repotting

When repotting remove dead roots and trim broken ones and clean up the plant.

Do not over pot. Use a smaller pot if not sure.

Deeper pots are good for sarc's long roots.

Double potting is beneficial as it helps with insulation in hot weather.

Use a small sprinkle of Osmocote on the mix before placing plant in the pot. This will last for 12 months under the surface of the mix.

Pack the bark mix in tightly. Orchids like to be anchored.

The 3 to 4 weeks after reporting is critical. Give extra shade and water as necessary.

Others sarc. information.....

Many sarcs, enjoy being mounted.

No virus is found in sarcs.

Air movement is vital.

Sarcs. like short periods of summer light but love winter sunshine. By mid-April remove as much shade cloth as possible.

They like to dry a little before being watered and need less water in winter.

They will tolerate temperature extremes but need shade and moisture to handle high temperatures.

David Brooks

Registrar of Cymbidium Society of Australia, NSW branch.

The Basics of Cymbidium Growing.

Cymbidiums prefer cool growing conditions.

Housing.

They are hardy plants and will grow under a tree, under shade awnings or in a specifically designed house.

Light.

Grow them under 50% shade cloth plus extra in summer and give them as many hours of good light as possible. The aim is to have gold/green leaves.

Temperature.

Cymbidiums will tolerate a large range of temperatures but must be protected from frost.

Water

Water them 2-3 times a week in summer and once a week or less in winter.

Potting Mix.

Any mix can be used as long as it provides support, allows aeration, allows water retention and release and will let nutrients be taken up.

This is the mix David uses:

2 parts of coco mulch

1 part large perlite.

Repotting.

David repots in Spring or Autumn. He is careful to sterilise tools and he uses disposable gloves which are discarded after each plant. He tries to keep at least 3 bulbs so that flowering will occur in the following year.

He treats cuts with a Creme Brûlée torch to seal them.

Fertiliser.

Use which ever fertiliser you wish in small amounts. From mid Spring to Christmas use a fertiliser higher in nitrogen and then change to one higher in potassium and phosphorus.

David stressed there is no magic formula to growing cymbidiums . It comes down to the relationship between potting mix, water and fertiliser.

Pests.

David's User-Friendly Formula for all pests, including ants, which are nasty little disease spreaders.

3 mls tea tree oil

10 mls eucalyptus oil

20 mls colloidal silver ...available in health food shops. Store in refrigerator in a dark bottle .

70 mls canola oil

Make this mix up to 1 litre with water and add a few drops of dish washing liquid.

This mix can be kept.

Use 50 mls in a litre with the addition of 3 grams of Eco Fungicide for all pests and fungal problems. This mix must be used immediately.

Use this spray 2 or 3 times when problems occur to ensure its effectiveness.

David also posed the question 'Where to from here?'

Given the work which has taken place over the last decades to produce round filled-in blooms in pure colours of amazing size with strong tall spikes, how much further can this path take us?

He reflected on the work of Kevin Hipkins whose hybridising of species orchids in all their wonderful shapes and sizes has produced some beautiful, different and captivating blooms.

He asked how orchid growers of the future might cope with climate change, smaller backyards and apartment living.

Perhaps hybridisers of the future will be challenged to produce smaller plants with compact growth and great flower count.

Maybe they will work towards producing a cymbidium which can tolerate harsh conditions and a greater range of temperatures. Perhaps we will follow the practice of growing under lights indoors which is so common in the US.

Only time will tell.

Jeanne Dunn from Passion Orchids in Victoria.

Jeanne is passionate about the genus *Dockrillia* which she grows so well.

There are 29 described species in the world and 19 of them are in Australia with most growing in NSW and QLD.

Jeanne showed photographs of each of the Australian species and outlined their cultural needs.

Jeanne has been hybridising since 2008 and she showed photographs of her crosses.

She is looking for colour, size, the ability to grow under varied conditions and the ability to flower prolifically.

Jeanne's main message.....

AIR MOVEMENT is vital for dockrillias to grow well.

Jeanne is also passionate about her **Australian Twig Epiphytes** which are listed below.

All of these need HIGH HUMIDITY and plenty of AIR MOVEMENT to grow well. They do not need much fertiliser.

A number of them can be grown successfully given the right environment.

Water containers under the benches encourage humidity and Jeanne grows her plants on a southern wall so they receive no direct sun.

Plectorrhiza tridentata

Plectorrhiza brevilabris

Plectorrhiza australis

Sarcochilus falcatus

Sarcochilus hillii

Sarcochilus hirticalcar

Sarcochilus parviflorus formerly *olivaceous*

Sarcochilus argochilus

Sarcochilus serrulatus

Schistostylus purpuratus

Papillilabium beckeri

Peristeranthus hillii

Sarcochilus spatulatus

Sarcochilus weinthalii

Drymoanthus minutus