

The next Meeting of the  
**Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**  
will be held on  
**Wednesday 23 July 2008**  
at the  
**Burnside Community Centre**  
**401 Greenhill Road Tasmore SA**

**Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
of each month February to November**

**Visitors Welcome**

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### **Program**

- 7.00 pm Auditorium opens, benching of plants & trading table
- 7.15 pm Beginners Class. Note early start time (All Welcome)
- 7.45 pm Viewing of Plants & Popular Vote
- 8.00 pm Official Opening and Presidents Report
- 8.15 pm Seedlings on the Show-bench
- 8.20 pm Guest Speaker—Stephen Early
- 9.00 pm Plant Raffle Draw
- 9.15 pm Popular Vote and Judging Results
- 9.30 pm Close of Meeting and Supper.

THE NEW

# CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South  
Australia Inc.

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**JUDGE'S CHOICE—BEST OVERALL**

*Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream*

Grown by Wayne Baylis

Volume 9 Number 6 July 2008

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The New Cymbidium News is published monthly – February to November inclusive and is the Official Newsletter of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc

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**SUPPER ROSTER 2008**

Wednesday 23 July	Coralie Hime / Jeanne Hall
Wednesday 27 August	Carmel Beasley / Wendy
Wednesday 24 September	Jeanne Hall / Raelene O'Donoghue
Wednesday 22 October	Raelene O'Donoghue / Glenn Stearnes
Wednesday 26 November	Geoff Spear / Rosemary Bray

*Many thanks to all the volunteers—all meetings now filled!*

**PROGRAM 2008**

Wednesday 23 July	Stephen Early from Melbourne
Wednesday 27 August	Good Bug—Bad Bug—Glenn Heylen
Wednesday 24 September	Colin Gillespie
Wednesday 22 October	Panel Discussion
Wednesday 26 November	Justin Priddy from Gympie—Qld

**SHOW DATES 2008**

National Show	-----	Noarlunga Leisure Centre 23—24 August 2008 (set-up and judging 22nd)
Spring Show	-----	West Lakes Shopping Centre 31 August 2008—6 September 2008 (set-up 30/8/08)

**NATIONAL SHOW DINNER**

**National Dinner : \$30 per head.**

*In order to keep the price down to the very lowest level, the menu [covered in the June edition of COCSA News] comes strictly on a 50/50 basis. That is, the 2 choices of each course will have 5 of each selection delivered to each 10 seat table. Should you receive the non preferred course then you only need to swap with a partner or friend. However we expect that all the food will be delicious and problems will be minimal. The only exception will be for those people who specifically order the vegetarian option, at least 2 weeks in advance of the night.*

**We look forward to receiving your payments for what will be an entertaining evening. Again, cheques to be made out to COCSA and sent to Andrew Nowakowski, as soon as possible.**

## NOTICE BOARD

### SEAMUNGUS

*We still have Seamungus available at \$15.00 per bag.*

### COCO FIBRE

*The coco fibre is available from Graham Morris—Valley Orchids  
There are 3 sizes available  
\$9.50 per 4½ kg block*

### COFFEE MUGS / PENS

*Coffee mugs and Adler Pens are now available at club meetings.  
Mugs: \$7.50 each—Pens : \$5.50 each.*

### WANTED



*A copy of the old judging handbook.  
Please contact: Peter Hall—[pejeh@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pejeh@optusnet.com.au)  
Telephone: 08 8294 5562 or 0416 179 019*

### NEUTROG PRODUCTS

*Your club has negotiated very competitive prices on a number of Neutrog products for the benefit of club members.*

*This is on the basis that we purchase in pallet loads, which is 50 x 20 Kg bags, payable in advance.*

*For those who follow world news events, you would be aware that many products are skyrocketing in price. Agricultural fertilizer products have begun to increase and are expected to have dramatic increases in prices in the coming months.*

#### **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED**

*Therefore now is the time to take advantage of the following prices, especially the 20 Kg bag prices, because we are not sure how long these prices will remain at this level,*

- *Strike Back for orchids 20 Kg bag*                      \$22
- *Sudden Impact for Roses 10 Kg pail*                      \$23
- *Sudden Impact for Roses 20 Kg bag*                      \$22
- *Seamungus 20 Kg bag*                      \$14.50
- *Sudden Impact for Lawns 20 Kg bag*                      \$24.50

**Please place your orders and payment with Andrew Nowakowski  
(cheques to be made out to COCSA)**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT July 2008

The Munno Para Show is all set and the next one will be the National Show and we currently have twenty-seven displays to be set up. We need to help all those who are taking part to make this a show to be remembered. This show would not take place without the total support of all our sponsors and I would like to say thank you on behalf of both the club and committee.

Many people have worked over and beyond what is expected. The dinner, on the Saturday night, really does take a lot to organise, so that each and every one of us has an enjoyable evening. Andrew and Luania have had to deal with changing management, resulting in trips south to sort out problems.

Without advertising, no-one knows the show is on, which leaves a very large job for both Wayne Baylis and Graham Morris. Des Alsop is organising banners to be placed at strategic places. Jeanne and Peter have made sure all relevant information is available on the web site.

Once again there will be a pot plant segment in all shows, thanks to the support from the Koreans. At this stage it appears that seventeen people from Korea will be attending the National Show and also the dinner.

At our July meeting we have been able to get Stephen Early, from Melbourne, as our special guest speaker. Stephen was recently a speaker at Santa Barbara.

## CYMPPLICITY JULY

It's July, and already only a few weeks to go before the spring flowering rush. A good collection however should have flowers from April right through to well into December but as these notes are based on the spring rush lets assume we have no flowers yet.

Typically July is cold and wet and as such protecting our cymbidiums is a priority. This is even more important as many of our spikes will break through their protective sheaths and we get our first glimpses of the all important bud count that will ultimately decide what plans will make the show and what ones won't. Once exposed the buds are subject to many elements.

Firstly the weather. Rain and even the humidity will mark the buds with black fungal spots. These can enlarge as the bud grows and mark the flower. In severe cases there will be bud drop. Sudden fluctuations in temperature will also cause bud drop as well as extreme temperatures , and in July it's usually frost with sub zero readings. The cure is dry cover in a protected and well ventilated flowering house. If you have not got that luxury then there is usually a cool dry room in the house to protect them if you only have a few. I like to use the laundry. It is bright, well ventilated and cool. I only leave the plants there until the conditions improve then it is back outside. More than a couple of weeks in unnatural conditions will have your cymy dropping buds anyway. For those who always seem to have marked cymy try the above tips and you should be rewarded with spotless blooms. The more effort you put in the better the results. Next time you see that champ presented in such a magnificent way with spotless blooms just remember it did not grow that way. The grower put a lot of effort in the presentation and care before the show and you will only get out what you are prepared to put in. The sun can be a problem too with some buds getting various degrees of sunburn that will not harm the flowers but certainly distracts from their appearance. A pure white loses appeal with a pink stripe down it's back. Greens and pinks are also susceptible to sunburn. More on how to reduce or avoid this problem next month.

Next are pests and diseases. Slugs and snails love cymbidium buds, especially champions. Their telltale streaks and brown eaten marks on the spikes and buds are a dead giveaway. After an attack the flower spike is not going to look all that flash. Obviously snail baits work ok and in some cases where the pots are full of micro slugs and garlic snails a metaldehyde drench may be needed. Some growers wrap copper strip around the edges of the pots and the snails won't cross; too bad if they are already in the mix! I like the cotton wool wrapped around the spike as a deterrent. It pokes them in

## STEPHEN EARLY

Our guest speaker for July is Stephen Early from Melbourne. Stephen will be talking about species orchids and will give the same presentation that he gave at the Santa Barbara World Conference at which our own Graham Morris was a guest speaker.

Stephen will be bringing a selection of plants with him for sale (see below).

**50mm Tubes—\$10**  
*Cymbidium ensifolium*

**80mm Tubes—\$10**  
*Cymbidium erythrostylum*  
*Cymbidium tracyanum*  
*Cymbidium elegans*

**80mm Tubes— \$8**  
*Cymbidium mastersii*  
*Cymbidium iridioides*  
*Cymbidium lowianum var. lansonii*

**80mm Tubes—\$12**  
*Cymbidium devonianum*  
*Cymbidium floribundum*  
*Cymbidium whiteae*

There will also be an assorted collection of other Cymbidium species in various sizes and covering a wider range of cymbidium species. These will vary in price and if anyone wants to reserve a specific plant may contact Stephen on [swearly@bigpond.net.au](mailto:swearly@bigpond.net.au) and he will let them know what size he has and the cost.

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## MUNNO PARA

Many thanks to Ray Brady for an excellent job organising the Munno Para Winter Show and for setting up display sites along with his helpers, Brian and Mary Heddle, Alan Beck and Roger Long.

Also a big thank you to the management of Munno Para for their most generous support once again.

It was a pity that more members didn't support the event as it provides necessary funds to help run the club.

Note: On Saturday 19 July, please do not start taking out displays until after 5.00pm. Please place all plastic ground sheets, hooks and any other display items into the bags provided which are under the plastic ground sheets. It took Brian Heddle and Alan Beck 4 hours to sort all the bags so they were ready for this years event.

A big thank you to all the helpers that make this Winter Show such a success.

JUDGES CHOICE—FIRST DIVISION

**Gypsy Rose 'Pacific'**

*grown by: John Robinson*

Two spikes of 15 flowers, more red than pink. Slightly cuppy with a bold dark red labellum. A clean and well presented plant. Well done, John Robinson.



JUDGES CHOICE—SECOND DIVISION

**Fixfire Angel 'Princess' x Foxfire 'Snowbird'**

*grown by: Peter and Jeanne Hall*

A pastel yellow with a red spotted labellum. Only 5 flowers but a genuine first flowering seedling. It will be interesting to see it next season.



their eyes as they crawl up the spike and they about face and head south. Set out a few baits like some apple or bran in the shade house near and in the cym pots ( in a small dish). That's an idea for earlier on before the spikes break sheath. It will give you a heads up on your snail and slug problem before bud initiation. Grab a torch on a damp night and have a wander in the shade house and you will see them feasting away. That too will show up all sorts of other nocturnal critters that may cause harm later on. Aphids will also make their presence felt, especially later on as the spikes elongate. Small infestations can be washed off with water then blow dry the spike (with your breath, not a hairdryer!). Check a few days later as there is a chance you did not get them all. Large infestations will need to be sprayed with a contact spray such as pyrethrum. On the subject of sprays there are many sprays that are safe to spray on a spike and then there are those that will mark them. If using any spray on a cymbidium bud or flower for the first time test it out on a sacrificial plant first. No point ruining a show plant. Some growers will use predators to biologically control orchid pests. There is a book called the Good Bug Book and most club libraries have a copy. It is a worthwhile read if biological control of pests is warranted. If you suspect any aphids in your collection then check out your Sarah Jean Ice Cascades. If they are anywhere they will be on that clone. Also learn to observe other signs of aphids. Small sticky spots on your cymbidium leaves are a sure sign that they are nearby. The presence of ants are a good sign too and they are usually up to no good ,so they are either harvesting scale or having a drink of aphid nectar. Ensure your area is free from aphid attracting plants where they over winter. Thistles are a prime over wintering host.

The plant itself can be it's own worst enemy. Frequently buds get caught up in the sheathing bracts and these must be pulled away carefully. If left too late you end up with a flower at 90 degrees to the rest. It is best to do this mid morning on a warm day. Once the sap rises the spikes become supple, too early and they are brittle. This is an important lesson for later on as we commence adjusting our spikes, training for presentation, stretching etc.

Watering and feeding is the same as June and will the same next month. Keeping them evenly moist is the goal. Given the plants are 98% water this is common sense and the developing spikes do need their fair share.

As you inspect your plants, especially the show plants, remove any dry husks and give the leaves a wipe down with a damp rag both sides and remove any weeds. This will make life a little easier when preparing them for display as by the time they get to this stage they are relatively clean and won't need as much effort to clean up. If you are wiping down the leaves don't pull too hard. The leaves of immature new growths especially will

break away very easily. Sometimes you end up with several leaves in your hand so don't expect that lead to flower as the reduced leaf number will not support a big enough bulb to flower.

By July I have made arrangements to where my plants will stay until show. This depends on colours but also forms. For example greens, whites and light pinks get a fair degree of shade on their spikes but the plant itself still gets maximum light, the reds, browns, yellows etc get brighter light all over. This is to enhance colours. The under 60mm plants with arching and pendulous habits are hung whilst those with straight spikes are benched. In all cases anything of any reasonable show quality will now go under cover. It may be a good idea to start thinking about some support, especially for large standards and intermediates with a lot of spikes that in time will become top heavy and unbalance the pot. With lots of wind this time of year a few pots falling over will not do your chances of good flowers any good at all. And as is Murphy's law it is always the best plant that will fall over. The one key element if you do move your plants is aspect and that is the orientation of the spike to the sun. If you move a plant and the spikes are facing north keep them facing that way if you move them. Have them south and watch them corkscrew. This effect magnifies as the spikes lengthen.

That will do for July. By the end of the month our spikes start to lengthen and with it steps up the efforts required to bring our plants to show condition. August we will look at some of the techniques used in the presentation and training of our flowers but until then keep warm and don't forget your cymbs as the rain falls and the wind blows. They need protection too!

**Steve Howard**

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#### **VISITING BACKYARD GROWERS**

When Jeanne and I joined the club there was a visiting program organised by Graham Morris that had new members and not so new members visit good backyard cymbidium orchid growers as well as some of the commercial growers.

The idea, I thought was terrific as it gives the visiting growers a chance to see the how and why of various ideas and methods. If you ask 30 growers about their potting mixes, fertilisers, colour and density of shade cloth and watering you would get 30 different stories.

If you would like to visit other growers please let me know and I shall pass the information on to Graham Morris and he will organise the visits. I would certainly like to see how a few more club members grow their orchids.

## **PLANT WRITE UP JUNE 2008**

**JUDGES CHOICE—ORCHID OF THE NIGHT / BEST IN  
OPEN DIVISION**

**Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream**

*grown by: Wayne Baylis*

A very bright deep pure colour yellow. The plant was clean and well presented with 7 spikes with an average of 8 flowers on each. We saw this plant for the first time last season. Well done to Wayne Baylis.



**OPEN DIVISION**

Miniature Pink First Prize	Peggy Sue 'Five'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Miniature Pink Second Prize	Sarah Jean x Ned Kelly	Valley Orchids
Miniature Pure Colour First Prize	Dolly x Red Nelly 'Little Doll'	Valley Orchids
Miniature Other Colour First Prize	Jimbo Tupp x (Patrol Lady x Bewitched Baker)	Malcolm and Gay Hall

**FIRST DIVISION**

Intermediate Pink First Prize	Kelly Blakiston 'Jean May'	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Yellow First Prize	Tracy Doll 'Babe'	Silvester Ng
Intermediate Pure Colour First Prize	Pharaoh's Gold x Dolly	Brian and Shirley Brand
Miniature Pink First Prize	Gypsy Rose 'Pacific'	John Robinson
Miniature Red First Prize	Ruby Blakiston 'Ruby'	Pauline Hockey

**SECOND DIVISION**

Large Standard Pink First Prize	Winter Royal 'Pink Peach'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Small Standard Yellow First Prize	Valley Call Drum 'Golden Dream'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Intermediate White First Prize	Gowling's Gem 'Snow Queen'	Roger Long
Intermediate Red First Prize	Marilyn Levy 'Osborne'	Brian and Shirley Brand
Miniature Pink First Prize	Peggy Sue 'Five'	Peter and Jeanne Hall

**HOME MADE PEST CONCOCTIONS**

A few people have asked me in the last couple of months what I use for treating scale on my orchids. I have in the past used eco oil and where it is eco friendly it is fairly expensive. I have searched through past notes and magazines and I have found some cheap and eco friendly solutions.

Scale: I usually run my thumbnail down the leavers and get most of them off. I then use this homemade recipe which is almost the same as the eco oil.

- 500 ml vegetable oil
- 250 ml pure liquid soap

Mix using a blender and store in a container. Dilute 1 tablespoon in 1 litre of water. Spray as required making sure that the top and underside of leaves are covered. Note: I was unable to track down 'pure liquid soap' so I purchase some pure velvet soap and I shave it with a knife and put it in a large coffee jar with water.

Mealy Bugs: Use a cotton bud or cotton ball dipped in methylated spirits and dab the mealy bugs. This dissolves their waxy coating so they dehydrate and die.

Snails and Slugs: Saw dust barriers are effective as are beer traps. A jar containing beer set at an angle draws the pests. The best organic eco friendly way is to make a coffee spray. Dilute 1 part strong espresso coffee to 10 parts water. Once cool, pour into a spray unit and spray plants, pots and the surrounding area. The slugs and snails absorb the caffeine and die.

Aphids: Use a homemade chilli spray.

1. Combine a generous handful of hot chillies and 1 tablespoon of pure liquid soap
2. Add 1 litre of hot water and puree using a blender
3. Once cool, strain through a stocking and pour into a spray unit.

Downy Mildew: 1 level table spoon full cream powered milk to 1 litre of water.

**A CULTURAL TIP**

Dying buds give off ethylene gas which can cause other buds to drop off particularly when buds are still encased in the sheath and air movement is lacking.

**JUDGING MATTERS—by Murray Weston** **GUIDELINES FOR THE JUDGING SYSTEM**

*Reprinted from Cymbidium News Volume 8, Number 3, April 1995*

A recommendation from Committee is to publish details of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia's Judging System. Each month a section will be published to familiarise members with the Judging System. The following is taken from the Judging and Awards Manual—1991:

**Foreword**

The Judging System of the CCSA was formulated after extensive research into the major orchid judging systems of the world namely, RHS, CSA, AOC, OCNZ. The strengths and weaknesses of these systems were carefully analysed and the best and most practical aspects were incorporated into a workable whole. Innovative and exciting ideas were sought over a considerable period to ensure that this judging system would enthuse a broad spectrum of *cymbidium* growers and exhibitors.

It is especially significant that this system offers recognition to an extensive range of colours, forms and types of *cymbidium* flowers in their various size classes. It also encourages and offers incentives for new developments in the hybridising of this genus. Furthermore, it has been designed with a fresh approach and for a specialist club, and as such it represents a significant improvement in the recognition and judging of cymbidiums.

**Guiding Philosophy**

The CCSA utilises an Appreciation Method to assess Cymbidiums for Awards. It is based on a wide range of categories for Cymbidiums with colour and size class being the major factors determining these categories.

**Appreciation in Context**

To appreciate is to be mindful of the good qualities of a clone, and be sensitively aware of the significance and desirability of the aesthetic qualities of that particular clone. To undertake this in an objective manner, the CCSA has identified a set of criteria upon which appreciation will be based. These criteria are:

1. **The Current Standards** of quality for Cymbidiums for each specific category as identified by the CCSA.
2. A range of **Desirable Attributes** upon which the beauty of a plant is enhanced.
3. **Extraordinary Factors** which necessitate special attention.

**The Current Standards**

The Manual details those plants which set the standard for each category. This list is updated with new Awards being made, as published in the Cymbidium News, and represents the benchmark upon which potential new Award Clones will be compared. As the standards improve cultivars of lesser quality will be removed from the list.

**Desirable Attributes**

**Colour**—shall be lively and distinctive.

.../Cont

**OPEN DIVISION**

Large Standard Pink Second Prize	(Valley Royal x Cloris Jean) x President Gorbachev	Ben Knobben
Large Standard Yellow First Prize	Kelly's Winter x Tracy Reddaway	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Large Standard Other Colour First Prize	Willunga Eyecatcher x Tracy Reddaway	John Nicholls
Small Standard Pink First Prize	Ripe Cherry 'Dazzle'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Small Standard Pink Second Prize	Valley Olympic	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Small Standard Brown First Prize	Valley Chestnut x Showoff x Arunta	Wayne Baylis
Small Standard Other Colour First Prize	(Margaret Thatcher x Ming Splash) x Tracy Reddaway	John Nicholls
Intermediate White First Prize	(Charlet Susan x Via Arcadian Rincon) x (Via Del Playa x Ol...)	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Intermediate Red First Prize	Jessie Blakiston x Terama	Malcolm and Gay Hall
Intermediate Green First Prize	Rembrandt x Yellow Silk 'Smooth Line'	Valley Orchids
Intermediate Green Second Prize	Katy's 'Gold Medal'	Ben Knobben
Intermediate Pure Colour First Prize	Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream	Wayne Baylis
Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Dolly x (Pure Dawn x Yowie Flame)	Valley Orchids
Miniature White First Prize	Elegant Elf 'Nan'	Ben Knobben

Cont/...

# Monthly Competition Results For 25 June 2008

## POPULAR VOTE

Best Overall	Winter Wonder x White Valley	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Large Standard	Winter Wonder x White Valley	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Intermediate	Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream	Wayne Baylis
Best Miniature	Peggy Sue 'Five'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Best Species	Erythraeum 'Paradise'	John Nicholls

## JUDGES CHOICE

Best Overall	Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream	Wayne Baylis
Best in Open Division	Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream	Wayne Baylis
Best in First Division	Gypsy Rose 'Pacific'	John Robinson
Best Large Standard Seedling	Foxfire Angel 'Princess' x Foxfire 'Snowbird'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Best Intermediate Seedling	Valley Olympic	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Miniature Seedling	Sarah Jean 'Peach' x Red Nelly 'Crimson'	Valley Orchids
Best Specimen	Pharaoh's Gold x Dave's Dream	Wayne Baylis

## OPEN DIVISION

Large Standard White First Prize	Winter Wonder x White Valley	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Large Standard Pink First Prize	Lancashire King x Early Khan	John Nicholls

*Cont/...*

The flowers shall be of fresh appearance. Dirty, muddy and dull colours are not desirable, whilst colour with 'life', whether dark or light are encouraged.

**Foliage**—shall be in proportion to the overall display of flowers, ie leaves shall not dominate over flowers.

**Spike habit**—shall be straight, and not wandering in profile. All forms of presentation are desirable—upright, semi-arching, decorative and pendulous.

**Growth habit**—plants shall demonstrate the ability to grow well.

**Flower arrangement**—shall be easily identified, and preferably not hidden, or partially hidden by the foliage. Flower should be eager to be seen, as if they seek to show off their beauty.

**Presentation**—it is expected that owners will present their plants with a clean and neat appearance. Dead husks, die-back etc shall be removed.

### Extraordinary Factors

In establishing standards for each category, it is recognised that other factors should be taken into account when assessing the worth of a clone.

**Flower numbers**—the more, the better. Potential new award types will be compared with the numbers of flowers displayed by Award Standard clones.

Thus the CCSA promotes the flowering of Cymbidiums twelve months of the year, and recognises that in achieving breakthroughs in months when there are traditionally no or few flowers, that due recognition should be given. Any other extraordinary factor will likewise be considered.

**Number of spikes**—the more the better. Multi-spiking bulbs are preferred.

**Individual flowers**—star shaped, saucer shaped and others are encouraged. Of importance is that flowers must be in balance, rather than being out of proportion. Furling and reflexing are considered faults. Twisting segments, however, can be desirable attributes (as in the species *lowianum* and *tracyanum*).

**Labellum**—the heart of the flower. The CCSA seeks character in the lip. It can be bold, it can be large, or sweet and delicate, but balance with other segments is desired. Pinched and rolling labellums are considered

## **PAULINE'S LABORATORY SERVICE**

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