

The next Meeting of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.
will be held on
Wednesday 28 October 2009
at the
Burnside Community Centre
401 Greenhill Road Tasmore SA

**Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday
of each month February to November**

Program

- 7.00 pm Auditorium opens, benching of plants and trading table
- 7.15 pm Beginners Class. Note early start time (All Welcome)
- 7.45 pm Viewing of Plants and Popular Vote
- 8.00 pm Official Opening and Presidents Report
- 8.15 pm Seedlings on the Show-bench
- 8.20 pm Kevin Hipkins
- 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.

<http://www.cymorchids.com.au>

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POPULAR VOTE / BEST SPECIES
lowianum 'Pitts'
Grown by: Elmore and Pamela Leske

Volume 10—Number 9—October 2009

The New Cymbidium News Vol 10 No 9—October 2009

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 2009

Wednesday 28 October Geoff and Lucy Spear
Wednesday 25 November Jeanne and Wendy Schiller

Roster now complete. Thanks everybody!

PROGRAM 2009

Wednesday 28 October Kevin Hipkins—Tracyanum
Wednesday 25 November Roger Herraman—canaliculatum—and Christmas Breakup

NEW MEMBERS

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc extend a warm welcome to:

**Nico Jong
Jack Cortolezzis and Susan Hadley
Kosta and Sevasti Galanis**

NOTICE BOARD

2010 NATIONAL CYMBIDIUM SHOW

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 August 2010

Cannington Exhibition Centre, Cannington, Perth WA

We would like as many members as possible to attend.

The club will be subsidizing some costs towards members attending.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Contact: Jeanne Hall—pejeh@optusnet.com.au

Telephone: 8294 5562

CYMBIDIUMS FOR SALE

Cymbidiums for sale, major reduction due to health problems.

Show and pot plant cym—all colours and sizes.

Contact: Bob Stock 08 85362120

PLANT AUCTION

There will be a small auction of very exclusive plants again at the October meeting. The successful bidders at the last meeting got absolute bargains (more at the meeting), and there will be more bargains to come. Don't miss it

WANTED

Don't forget our Wanted Section

Please contact: Peter Hall—pejeh@optusnet.com.au

Telephone: 08 8294 5562 or 0416 179 019



NEUTROG PRODUCTS

- Strike Back for orchids 20 Kg bag \$22
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- Rapid Raiser 20 Kg bag \$13.50

Please place your orders and payment with John and Yvonne Longbottom—(cheques to be made out to COCSA)

NB: product to be picked up from Graham Morris at Valley Orchids



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 2009

At our last meeting members were made aware of the changes happening at Graphic World, the printers of our current bi-monthly magazine. The ACS has stated that the cymbidium section will be losing its editor and the annual cost will be increased by \$13.90 and this will affect our annual club fees. After a lot of discussion the combined ACS clubs are making a concerted effort to put out an annual magazine. Our fees have been reduced to \$40, which includes each member's capitation fees to the national body. The annual magazine, however, is not included. Those who want it will have to purchase it for approximately \$10 – not as yet confirmed. Should anyone have any queries please feel free to ask for any clarification.

At the end of this year we have some changes to make on the committee and we need people to put up their hands so they have the maximum time to be taught by the existing committee. Jeanne and Peter Hall have done the secretary and editor's job better than anyone could have expected and we, as a club, owe them a huge thank you. John Longbottom is a life member and after twenty-two years on the committee deserves a rest. There are people within this club quite capable and they are needed to continue building this great club.

We are currently two years away from hosting our National Show and in the past we began preparations eighteen months before and we are going to need all the help possible.

Next year's National Show in Western Australia will be an absolute beauty as they do all their shows very well and we should give them our support.

At our next meeting we have Kevin Hipkins as our guest speaker. It would be appreciated if everyone could attend.

Ray Brady—President

CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB WORKSHOP – SUNDAY OCTOBER 11

Wayne Baylis had advertised the workshop on radio over two weekends. It was held at Valley Orchids and conducted by Graham Morris. Forty members of the public attended as well as a dozen or so members. The main aim was to teach all levels of growers, all they need to grow cymbidiums successfully, including the breaking up an oversize plant and repotting it (hands on).

Graham welcomed all those who attended, and introduced various members of the Cymbidium Club of S.A. who were there to assist the visitors. Two visitors from Holland were also welcomed and everyone was invited to a free barbecue lunch.

Two plants with bad virus were on display (kept just to show the virus) and it was explained what to look for in plants. HIV in humans was used as a comparison, as it was thought the best way for learners to understand.

Growing plants in the home gardener's backyard was to be the main concern. A full rundown on shadehouse conditions using 50% shade cloth in an area with the best position for maximum light available.

With water restrictions currently in South Australia many people asked how to water. Graham elaborated on systems of low water, cooling systems and the periodic watering in conjunction with the warmer weather. Watering in a fully enclosed shadehouse, is not restricted, and can be done either manually or automatic.

Several people asked about the use of bore water and it was explained the salt content in the water could cause leaf dieback, and were shown how EC meters can keep growers informed of the salt content, for them to be able to adjust accordingly. Fertilisers also have the effect of raising the salt level.

For years orchids have been potted in pine bark and it was composted before using it. Now with the availability of coconut fibre in blocks, various mixtures are being made, mostly 50% of each. Purchasing of these necessitates wetting them, to make them usable. Rinsing the fibre may be necessary to remove salt content. Many growers also use other ingredients such as canungra shell, perlite, marble chips and polystyrene as well.

Currently Neutrog are producing very good fertilizers for orchids, and the Cymbidium Orchid Club of S.A endorses "Strike Back" for Orchids. This is used in conjunction with another product "Seamungus", and both are available to members at a reduced rate.

It is best to set up the home gardeners benching at a level where it will not create back strain. It will also aid air movement, which is very important, especially in

JUDGES CHOICE— BEST IN FIRST DIVISION

Kimberley Winter

grown by: Peter and Jeanne Hall

One large upright spike in an 8" pot, well clear of the foliage, cream coloured, complimented by a light red spotted lip.



JUDGES CHOICE— BEST IN SECOND DIVISION

Valley Splash 'Awesome'

grown by: Steve Howlett

Two spikes, white with an attractive pink splash and a bright dark pink edged lip. Will always be a favourite. Well grown Steve.



Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Winter Valley 'Eye Catcher'	Steve Howlett
Miniature Pink First Prize	Nancy Maxwell 'Shirley'	Laurie and Sue Carter
Miniature Green First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Jennifer'	Laurie and Sue Carter

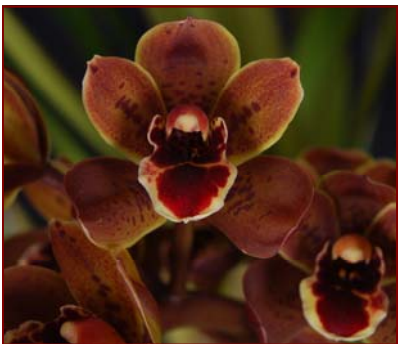
PLANT WRITE UP SEPTEMBER 2009

JUDGES CHOICE—BEST IN OPEN DIVISION / BEST OVERALL

Mad Magic 'Amber'

grown by: Helmuth Gerber

Four arching spikes in an 8" pot with approximately 25 flowers per spike. Coffee brown colour with a dark red lip which makes it look every effective. Clean and well grown. Well done Helmuth.



trying to avoid fungal problems. Other pests, such as scale, can also become a nuisance. These show as a small round, brown or white helmet on leaves. These can be removed or killed by Eco-oil, or if there are only a few a small toothbrush will do the job. Red spider mite is one of the main menaces in South Australia. These appear silver grey on the underneath of leaves. Confidor and other insecticides is very good in helping to keep them at bay, although the spider mite does build up an immunity so alternatives need to be used periodically. Predators can be purchased to combat these from a supplier in Loxton.

A tour of the shadehouse was conducted, where explanations on various stage of growth from the planting of flasks to community pots. There was also evidence of plants still in flower.

We then had a break for the barbecue lunch, well prepared by Des and Hazel Alsop, with assistance from Allan Beck, after which we returned to the potting area.

A mix of coco fibre and bark had previously been prepared and placed in three wheelbarrows ready for potting. With a badly over grown plant, Graham proceeded to show how to break it up and repot it. Assistance from a large mallet was required to extract the plant from the pot. When breaking the plant up, a separate knife was used for each plant so virus could not be transmitted from one plant to another. After each piece had been cleaned up and repotted Graham wrote the name on a label. All visitors were assisted by members of the club to divide and pot plants and were able to take them home at pot cost of \$1. The use of back bulbs for future use was also shown.

The Cymbidium Club of South Australia gives thanks to Valley Orchids for the supply of properties and for a truly professional job.

Already we have gained a few new members from this venture and more are expected at the next club meeting, where we hope they may be encouraged to join the club.

Ray Brady

LADIES NIGHT – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14

We were asked to be part of a ladies night at Bunnings, Woodville, probably a first for any Orchid Club. Wayne Baylis and Graham Morris attended and heard Jason Hodges, from Better Homes and Gardens, give a great and informative presentation, talking about the Television Show, but also giving good growing advice for landscaping. Hopefully we will gain new members from this effort.

Graham Morris

CYMPPLICITY FOR OCTOBER

The shows are over and our plants are back where they belong. Give show plants a good soak in water and remove the flowers and take them inside to enjoy. After a week in a hot shopping centre our plants need no more stress. Give them a week or so to recover before commencing the feeding program.

I top dress all my plants this time of year with Osmocote plus and some rapid raiser as they enter a rapid growth phase. I also spray for scale now as well but confine that to a period of cooler weather. Many sprays for scale are oil based and this oil kills scale by suffocation. It also suffocates the leaves as they cannot transpire when it gets hot, so you end up killing not only the scale but your plant too. Spray when temperatures are under 20°C to be safe.

The job of division now waits for me. Fortunately I read my own notes and have got into the habit of dividing a third of my plants each year. Now I am not confronted with 20 monsters that need a chainsaw to cut up each year. Before dividing I dry the plants out a bit so the roots are easier to manage and the mix falls away easily.

With good culture you wont have to dry them out anyway, your pots should be so chock a block full of roots you wont find any mix, not on the outside of the root ball anyway. The roots should be a firm white/creamy colour with active growth tips visible. Unfortunately many roots are stunted, brown or black and rotten and with no evidence of growth tips. These plants invariably struggle and most likely did not flower. Good roots equal good flowers. So, why did they turn out like that? There are many reasons and only experience will tell you why. It could be virus, fungal attack, over watering, fertiliser too strong, or attack from nasties in the potting mix. When you empty a pot like this on a sheet of paper and the roots are like that look thru the mix. It's probably full of slaters, slugs and little mites, not to mention blobs of white fungus. Also the mix which was once bark now resembles mud and smells sour. This causes acidity in the mix and is a symptom of over watering and poor drainage. No wonder the roots were so crappy! Best thing to do is prepare a new mix and trim off the crummy roots and re pot. This plant will need support until new roots emerge. I would only do this to a plant with a reasonably sized new growth lead that will send out new roots very soon. You will get roots from older bulbs but not many. If there is no new lead or shoot evident then leave the crappy roots on otherwise the plant will go backwards very quickly.

Give the plants two or three doses of Seasol® over the first month or so to help them initiate and develop a new root system. Remove and destroy wooden stakes used this year and place aluminium stakes in a solution of Tri-sodium phosphate (available from the club). Why? You ask. Cleanliness is vitally important in a collection. When you stake a plant the stake will

Intermediate Cream Third Prize	Valley Legend x Mini Splash	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Intermediate Pink First Prize	Kiwi Dream	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Pink Second Prize	Kiwi Dream	Pauline Hockey
Miniature Pink Second Prize	Tina Leung 'Alan	Silvester Ng
Miniature Red Second Prize	Prolific 'Velda Joy'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Miniature Green First Prize	Hearts of Gold 'Enfield'	Pauline Hockey
Miniature Brown First Prize	Mad Magic 'Amber'	Rod and Judy McRedmond
Miniature Other Colour First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Shon'	Peter and Jeanne Hall

SECOND DIVISION

Large Standard Novelty First Prize	Kirby Lesh 'Lonsdale'	Steve Howlett
Small Standard Other Colour First Prize	Valley Splash 'Awesome'	Steve Howlett
Intermediate Pink	Ruby Valley	Laurie and Sue Carter

Miniature Brown First Prize	Mad Magic 'Amber'	Helmuth Gerber
Miniature Brown Second Prize	Enterprise Voyage x Last Tango	John and Sandra Nicholls
Miniature Pure Colour First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	Helmuth Gerber
Miniature Other Colour First Prize	Tina Leung 'Carmen'	Helmuth Gerber
Miniature Other Colour Second Prize	Mary Green 'Little Annie'	Helmuth Gerber

FIRST DIVISION

Large Standard Pink First Prize	Flaming Pepper 'Yew Lian'	Silvester Ng
Large Standard Yellow First Prize	Kimberley Winter	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Large Standard Yellow Second Prize	Vibrant Bliss x Lofty Glow	Silvester Ng
Small Standard Pink First Prize	Sylvan Star x Valley Vapour	Silvester Ng
Small Standard Pink Second Prize	Rumours x Lancashire Rose	Silvester Ng
Small Standard Green First Prize	Beau Guest x (Volcano x Wyanga)	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Cream First Prize	Millennium Dancer	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Cream Second Prize	Phar Promise	Pauline Hockey

invariably penetrate the roots and virus can be transferred this way to the next plant you stake. Virus can stay viable for months so I don't chance wooden stakes, they are cheap anyway and new stakes look better than old ones. Aluminium can be reused and the Tri-sodium solution will do the trick in knocking over any virus.

Division can be a daunting task with big plants. Most *Cyms* will break into natural divisions along the rhizome but have to be cut occasionally. Keep divisions to flowering size unless you want to wait a few years until it flowers again. Three to 4 bulbs and leads with leaves is a good starting point. Remove leafless back bulbs if possible unless one or two are required to keep the plant in one piece or to improve stability of the division. Always use newly sterilised instruments for each plant. Cuts should be dusted with fungicide or can be sealed with Steriprune® or similar. Division is also a good time to clean up the plants, wiping the leaves to remove dirt and mites, remove husks and scales. Pot into a pot that gives enough room for 2 years growth. Plant in the middle of the pot and make sure the plant is firmly in position once the mix is added. Plants that move around after repotting and division will have new roots growth tips damaged by the movement. Sometimes a stake or two may be required for plants for support where the root system is not that flash. These plants are then moved to a shadier and cooler spot in my shade house and observed until they settle in. You may lose a leaf or two and that's natural. If you lose them all, especially with a new lead then you will most likely have rot. One sniff and you'll never forget its sickly smell; if it is rot then you need to act quickly to save the plant. If it's only an ordinary plant then bin it, wash your hands and treat all surrounding plants with a fungicide just in case the infection has spread. A good plant should have the offending bit cut off. With experience you can easily tell by the colour of the rhizome which is clean tissue and which is infected. Once you hit clean tissue trim it again with a different cutting tool. Why cut with a tool already covered in the disease, all you do here is transfer it to an uninfected part of the plant. Seal the cut and treat with fungicide. It might be a good idea to isolate the plant from the rest of the collection.

October can be summed up as a maintenance month and the trick is to start early and give our plants maximum time to re establish before next year. It's also a good time to swap a few divisions with friends and the like and increase your collection. Look after the divisions even if the plants are not show bench standard. There is a hungry public out there wanting nice pot plants and it's a good little income earner for both the grower and the club. It also covers the costs of pots, mix and fertilisers so it's always nice to get something back out of your hobby.

Steve Howard

CULTURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

October marks the beginnings of a new season for many. The shows are finished and the task of preparing our plants for next year begins now. Spring has usually sprung by now and the weather stabilises somewhat. Temperatures are mild with the odd warm to hot day thrown in. Rainfall becomes less reliable (as if it wasn't already) but it is still a rather windy month. The chores this month are numerous so where do we start. Firstly October marks the active commencement of new growths, often just after flowering and we need to get these new growths underway to help form next years flowers, although this is not always the case. For example natives, some epiphytes will flower on last years canes, not this years so in effect your culture of this year may not bear fruit (or flowers!) until 2008. A brief rundown in my shade house sees all my *Sarcochilus* in flower; they are early this year like so many natives. Most of the natives with *Den. speciosum*, *kingianum*, *falcostrum* and *tetragonum* in the background have long since withered and new growths are evident. Last year they were still in flower, testimony to strange weather patterns and their effects on plants. Get used to it, global warming that is.

Time to pot on the natives and divide those that are too big if you want. I won't, I love specimens! Dry out plants ready for division, it makes the old mix easy to remove. A mix of small to medium composted pine bark, some charcoal, diatomite and some scoria is not a bad mix to start with; mind you plain bark is OK too. Ensure divided plants are treated with fungicide and the divisions kept stable by using stakes. Mist occasionally and use Seasol to help the plants create a new strong root system. I often wait till I see the new growths with new root buds developing then divide/pot on. The new roots take off quickly and the plant suffers little setback.

Now is a good time for dividing *Zygopetalums*, *Paphs*, in fact any orchid that shows evidence of new growth. It is also a good time if you want to try your hand at mounting some orchids. They establish quickly this time of year.

Ensure the rules applying to hygiene apply when it comes to cutting instruments etc; it's not only *Cyms* that are exposed to virus. Newly divided plants are in a stressful state and need special care. They are also open to infection from fungi and attack from insects so precautions are required. I have a separate plant hospital where these plants are nursed for awhile before returning them to general population.

Watering increases as the weather warms but don't flood them, especially if the weather is cool and wet. New growths are often lost at this time of year due to over watering. Naturally with increased growth the plants will respond to feeding with high nitrogen based fertiliser but start off with low doses and increase later as the weather warms and the growths take off. I find a mixture of both organic and inorganic fertilisers work well. Always water your plants first before you feed and don't underestimate foliar feeding either. If your plants have a waxy surface use a wetting agent like a dash of detergent when foliar feeding. Try and water your plants in a way that they are dry by nightfall.

OPEN DIVISION

Large Standard Yellow First Prize	Oakbank 'Stath Gold'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Large Standard White First Prize	Valley Splash 'Red Spot'	Rodney and Lesley Philp
Small Standard Pink First Prize	Sim's Vision 'Cambridge'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Small Standard Red First Prize	Midnight Flame 'The One'	Malcolm and Gay Hall
Small Standard Pastel First Prize	Kelly's Winter x Allumination	Rodney and Lesley Philp
Small Standard Other Colour First Prize	Valley Vapour x Khan Flame	Malcolm and gay Hall
Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Diane Spencer 'Jaffa Orange'	Helmuth Gerber
Intermediate Other Colour Second Prize	pumilum x Claude Pepper	John and Sandra Nicholls
Miniature Pink First Prize	Sarah Jean x pumilum 'Lofty'	Helmuth Gerber
Miniature Red First Prize	Enterprise Voyage x Last Tango	John and Sandra Nicholls
Miniature Red Second Prize	Enterprise Voyage x Last Tango	John and Sandra Nicholls
Miniature Green First Prize	Mini Dream 'Irma'	Helmuth Gerber
Miniature Green Second Prize	Sarah Jean 'Karen'	Helmuth Gerber

Monthly Competition Results For 23 September 2009

POPULAR VOTE

Best Species	Lowianum 'Pitts'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
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JUDGE'S CHOICE

Best Overall	Mad Magic 'Amber'	Helmuth Gerber
Best in Open Division	Mad Magic 'Amber'	Helmuth Gerber
Best in First Division	Kimberley Winter	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Best in Second Division	Valley Slash 'Awesome'	Steve Howlett
Best Small Standard Seedling	Sylvan Star x Valley Vapour	Silvester Ng
Best Intermediate Seedling	pumilum x Claude Pepper	John and Sandra Nicholls
Best Miniature Seedling	Kiata x Tapestry x Tethy's	John and Sandra Nicholls
Intermediate Hybrid First Shown	Millenium Dancer	Pauline Hockey

Aphids abound around the garden now and may be in the shade house feasting on the new growths. Even if you cannot see them, their telltale sugary spots on the leaves or the black inky coating indicative of sooty mould will give them away.

A new flush of weeds will soon be evident. Oxalis is one of the worst culprits in my shade house. Small plants are removed as they appear. Larger plants have their leaves painted with a 50/50 mix of a Glyphosphate based weed killer and water. Just paint a few leaves of the weed and they are history. Weeds on the floor are spot sprayed. Place a 2 litre plastic bottle with the bottom cut out over the weed and spray through the narrow end. This is time consuming but stops herbicidal drift that can affect sensitive orchids nearby.

Keep up the baiting problem for slugs and snails as they feast on new growths.

Flowering wise there are still plenty of *Cyms*, late natives and quite a few terrestrials on the go. Terrestrials are largely a forgotten orchid outside the native clubs but are a worthwhile plant to grow and you don't have to water them over summer! They can range from the ridiculously easy to grow to downright impossible so if you intend going down this path give me a nudge and I'll let you in on the easy ones.

The most important observation I have made this season relates to those plants that didn't flower or struggled in their growth and I will try and turn things around. Orchids are a plant that responds to good culture and this is a good lesson to learn. If they struggle then something is wrong. Don't persist with the same potting mix or place on the bench. Learn some more about the plant, talk to others and change. The worst thing that will happen is the plant dies, but it was going to anyway. As October ends we front up to the most changeable month of the year, November. Another busy month where we complete our dividing and get ready for the onset of the summer.

Steve Howard

GUEST SPEAKER OCTOBER MEETING 2009 - KEVIN HIPKINS FROM ROYALE ORCHIDS, NSW

We are privileged to have Kevin to address us for the October meeting. He is a colourful and very entertaining speaker, who is very knowledgeable about many orchid species. Kevin has lots of really interesting and great quality cymbidiums to discuss. We previously announced that he was to speak on the species cymbidium, tracyanum, but that will be just a small part of his presentation. He is well travelled, well acknowledged worldwide, & will also discuss the overseas cymbidium scene, and tell us where we fit into it. There will be information, for cymbidium growers of all levels and some real surprises. **Don't miss it.** Kevin will also bring some very special plants for sale, varieties which you won't get elsewhere, and will very definitely enhance your collections, so bring your cheque books. **Again - don't miss it - it will be a good meeting.**

Graham Morris

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ON 0412 391 989**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

I have some new plants which will be flowering in 2010 which will be selling for \$10.00 each. See below:

- Kelly's Winter 'Patricia' x Choc Valley 'Missy'
- Kelly's Winter 'Patricia' x Strath Wonder 'Cream Puff'
- Kelly's Winter 'Patricia' x Strath Beauty 'Julianne'
- Kelly's Winter 'Golden Sovereign' x Choc Valley 'Missy'
- Kelly's Winter 'Golden Sovereign' x Strath Wonder 'Cream Puff'
- Kelly's Winter 'Golden Sovereign' x Strath Shades 'Eye Catcher'

- Choc Valley 'Sylvie' x Strath Shades 'Eye Catcher'
- Choc Valley 'Sylvie' x Strath Beauty 'Super Lips'
- Choc Valley 'Sylvie' x Strath Wonder 'Cream Puff'

- Cronulla 'The Khan' x Strath Beauty 'Super Lips'

- Strath Wonder 'Cream puff' x Strath Beauty 'Super Lips'

- Regal Fire 'Camens' x (Sleeping Beauty x Janis Lin)
- Regal Fire 'Camens' x Chocarunta 'Wow'
- Regal Fire 'Camens' x Chocarunta 'Triumph'
- Regal Fire 'Camens' x Chocarunta 'Summer Gold'

- Paradise Wonder 'Lost and Found' x Choc Valley

Community pots also available @ \$5.00 per plant.

Discounts apply to large orders, hundreds of new seedlings of many other crosses to see in flower this year will also be available.