

June 2019

Volume 5 Issue 6

The Orchid Oracle



Presidents Message

A special thank you for all the members who participated in the **SPRING AUCTION** at the last meeting on **May 8th!** It was postponed from April until May to accommodate a special guest speaker from Hawaii and despite being a late auction, it was still a big success and a lot of beautiful plants were had, at very reasonable prices.

JTOS Picnic/Pot-Luck/POTTING & MOUNTING PARTY

at 5515 S.E. Ault Ave., Stuart, FDL 34997 North off of Salerno Rd

Saturday June 15th, 9:00 AM - POTTING AND MOUNTING BEGINS!

THERE WILL BE THREE STATIONS- practical - how to -demonstrated-do it yourself!

1. DIVIDING-When, how to, preparation, tools, sterilizing
2. POTTING AND MOUNTING
3. GROWING -Practical hands on and real life observations of W.A.N.T.S + D.I.M.

QUICK REFRESHER - Water-Air-Nutrition-Temperature & Sunlight = WANTS

Disease - Insects & Media = DIM

12:00 NOON LUNCH BEGINS - Club supplies meat, buns, trimmings, refresh

BRING A PREPARED DISH - desert, beans, corn, salad, BYOB if you want.

DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER, THE PARTY CAN LAST TILL 5 PM

BRING YOUR PLANTS TO BE REPOTTED OR MOUNTED. THE CLUB HAS POTS, and so do we, very reasonable prices! WE ARE SURE YOU CAN ALSO FIND THINGS TO MOUNT ON, or bring your own. Learn about everything you need to know to grow orchids!

SEE YOU ALL SATURDAY!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION,

Weyman

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And Post your

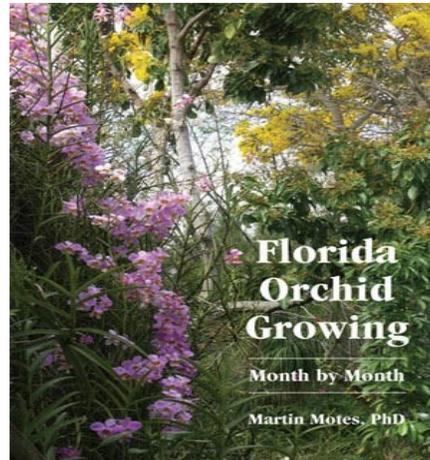
“blooming”

Pictures

June: In Your Orchid Collection

June Climate Data

- Average high: 89.5
- Average low: 75.2
- Average mean: 82.4
- Average rainfall: 9.54"



Excerpted from [*Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month*](#) by Martin Motes. *All rights reserved.*

June is the most dramatically tropical month in South Florida. As the southeast Trade Winds blow cool moist air off the Gulf Stream daily, as surely the heating effect of the center of the peninsula percolates up massive thunder heads. The increased cloud cover drawing a veil across the afternoon sun provides much cooling relief for our plants late in the day. Because of this additional cloud cover, our plants are less stressed than in the brightest of May sunshine. The increased humidity makes June feel hotter to us, but this humidity brings blessed balm to our plants from the unrelentingly dry heat of late spring. The shading clouds are also the harbinger of the almost daily rains that arrive like clockwork with the thunderstorms that re-circulate the moisture laden air back toward the ocean in the afternoon. These showers can drop the temperature 10-12 degrees in almost no time, again bring our plants relief when they need it most in the peak heat of the day. In June, such soaking rains that can sometimes be an inch or more an hour, are the norm rather than the exception. For orchids grown outside in South Florida this month, how to dry them out becomes more the question than how or when to water them. For most sympodial genera (cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, etc.) the natural rainfall of June is sufficient. Only in those rare once or twice times during June when no rain falls for nearly a week is it necessary to think of watering sympodial orchids in June. Even then it usually is a thought that can be dismissed. A thorough, "hard" drying in this first month of the rainy season is usually of much more overall value to sympodial orchids than the slight extra push of additional water. Harder plants that have not been pushed with extra water are much more disease resistant than softer more lushly grown orchids. Vandas and other high water requirement plants may still need periodic watering in June but remember that these types too relish occasional "hard" drying and the heavy often lingering, rains of June are just the nostrum for re-hydrating them even when they have become as dry as the cork in a wine bottle dry. When watering in June, remember at no season is the standard 'water early in the day' rule more relevant; those extra hours of drying are crucial. If your vandas or other orchids really need water, water early in the morning to allow time for them to dry not merely by night but by the time the all too likely afternoon thunderstorms arrive to soak them again. Be sure when you water that the roots of the vandas are saturated until they turn overall dark green. This will still take two applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. June is the archetypical month for careful but totally thorough watering. For those of us committed to sloth, this month is one in which benign neglect becomes a virtue.

With an eye to efficient drying which the season demands, June is an excellent time to review the spacing of our plants. Always give your plants sufficient space to allow for good air circulation to permit rapid drying. Crowded plants stay wetter longer encouraging fungus and bacteria. Scale and mealy bugs also thrive on the soft lush growth generated by overcrowded, overshadowed plants. Mites too love the extra protection from dislodging rain that overgrown plants provide. When looking at the spacing of your plants also allow some extra space for the new growth that will be rapidly developing in the new growing season. Remember your well grown plants will be much larger at the

end of the rainy season when the fungus are savagely on the prowl. Plants and trees in your yard also will have grown in the past year and will be growing more in the rains of summer. June is a good time to think of pruning vegetation that is blocking light and air from our orchids. Come the true heart of hurricane season in September you will be glad that you did! Tree pruning alas, slips to a low priority in the face of an approaching storm. Your orchids will be glad right away that you pruned, rewarding you with harder, healthier growth sure to produce yet more lavish blooms in season.

A persistent problem in June is how to apply liquid fertilizer to our plants under these often persistently wet conditions. As all of our orchids are in rapid growth in June they need to be fed, ironically this comes in the face of super abundant moisture. While rain contains minute quantities of nitrogen, heavy persistent rain can in fact strip nutrients from our plants by reversing the normal osmotic process. To a degree this effect of the heavy rains can be positive leaching away any excessive fertilizer salts that have accumulated over the dry season but overall the rain leaves them needier than before. Those of us who have kept our plants well nurtured in May will be ahead of this curve but we all must keep our plants fat and happy at the onset of the heavy growing season. For orchid grown in pots with media, the relatively new, slow release fertilizer widely sold as "Dynamite" (*i.e.*, Nutri-cote) is of especial value at this time of year. Other brands of slow release fertilizer have not proven to be as reliable (neither consistent nor durable) under the hot humid conditions of South Florida. In general, a good rule in June, is that when some opportunities to water present themselves, think rather of applying liquid fertilizer instead of just water. Remember too, the oft repeated bad advice to water your plants before fertilizing them is particularly erroneous in June when over-watering can quickly have negative consequences. In June, as always, replace a watering with an application of the proper concentration of liquid fertilizer. Another frequently sought strategy is to apply fertilizer in conjunction with fungicidal sprays. In general it is not advised to combine balanced fertilizer (20-20-20, 18-18-18) with sprays because with South Florida's highly alkaline water. Any phosphorus in the fertilizer tends to bind up most of the trace elements when conjoined to South Florida ground water. Phosphorus (a very active metal) can also have adverse reactions to the fungicide itself, lessening or abnegating its effectiveness. The solution to this dilemma is to use a fertilizer without phosphorus when a bit of nutrition is desirable. The best source is potassium nitrate 13-0-44 (available at farm supply stores in 50lb. bags) which provides the additional potassium our plants crave. 1 Tbs per gal can be added to the spray solution. Be sure to use "Spray Grade" not "Prilled" which would need to be dissolved in hot water. Thiophanate Methyl, Cleary's 3336 or its combination Banrot or Duosan should be applied prophylactically in June. Keep a sharp eye on your plants for any signs of black rot (*Pythium*). Should soft black or brown spots appear, they should be excised immediately using a sterile knife as this disease can spread quickly in wet conditions. Banrot gives good control but Alliette is the best fungicide to control this disease if it persists. To minimize the need to apply fungicides, June is an excellent time to review our overall sanitation and cultural conditions in the growing area. It is always important to keep the growing area as clean as possible. In June, cleanliness becomes even more essential because water is the chief vector of most orchid diseases. Dead leaves, roots or other dead orchid tissue frequently harbor diseases that can be loosed upon our orchids by the heavy rains of June. Weeds (dead or alive) can hamper air flow and also harbor disease. This month whatever one can do to enhance air circulation is a plus. Under cover, fans to move air are of great value to Phals and other genera. Hopefully, if we have been doing a good job, our plants will have grown significantly since last year's rainy season. They all may well need more space. Remember that old time orchid growers would say one needs a cat to be a good grower in South Florida because a cat should be able to walk orchid benches without knocking plants down when they are properly spaced.

Snails and slugs will have the whole world as their stage in June and can travel considerable distances to eat our tender orchid shoots. Baits containing metaldehyde are very effective if applied evenly and often. Remember, bait draws the pests; spread it thinly but repeat weekly for thorough control. Snails and slugs always require multiple applications. Overly heavy applications of bait will merely waste in the heavy rain.

Although mites and to a degree thrips are washed away by the heavy rains of June, the warm conditions of summer speed the growth of scale and mealy bugs. At the first sign of either of these pests spray with Soap at 2 oz. per gal or an appropriate insecticide. Oil is no longer an option in the heat of summer. If the soap doesn't prove effective enough, try something stronger but apply with care early in the morning or late in the evening as the high temperatures of mid-day in June can acerbate phytotoxic reactions.

June is a great month for top cutting strap leaf vandas, teretes (papilionanthes) and reed stem epidendrums. Most sympodial orchids are already in growth and unless their media in totally broken down are probably best left undisturbed till their new growths have matured and they have flowered. If you have not gotten your *Phalaenopsis* out of last year's sphagnum moss wait no longer! Phal roots in soggy medium in June is a receipt for "Fails".

For those of us so in love with Florida that we would never think of insulating ourselves with air-conditioning, the rains of June provide pleasant relief from the harsh Mediterranean sun of late spring. As my son Bartholomew at age two so aptly said "Rain sweet as honey". Enjoy! Our orchids do.



If you purchased orchids at our auction in May, this Saturday's BBQ would be a great time to repot those phals and get them out of their sphagnum moss before its too late! Or, you can also mount an orchid on a piece of wood. Your orchids will thank you. Don't forget to bring a dish to share and it wouldn't hurt to bring a chair to sit in, also. Hope to see you there! Kim



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Please help make our meetings more enjoyable by providing a tasty treat for all to share.

A free raffle ticket is given to those that bring in goodies



JTOS Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance \$2,938.22

We are in need of volunteers to step up next year to fill the following roles.

President, Treasurer, and Secretary for 2020.

No experience necessary! Training is free! We just need your willingness to help out!

Our society is run by volunteers. If you enjoy coming to our meetings and would like to help us continue, please talk with one of our board members and find out how you can help.



Jupiter Tequesta Orchid Society

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 7 pm unless otherwise noted
Jupiter Community Center 200 Military Trail

Board Meetings are held on the following Tuesday after each meeting
at Panera Bread, Indiantown Road at 6:30pm (All members are welcome to attend)

<p>January 2019 9th 7 pm</p>	<p>February 2019 13th 7 pm</p>	<p>March 2019 13th 7 pm Vern Bloch Brassavola Nodsa</p>	<p>April 2019 10th 7 pm Roy Tokunaga H&R Nursery <i>Dendrobiums, Species And Hybrids</i></p>
<p>May 2019 8th 7 pm Auction</p> 	<p>June 2019 Sat. 15th start 9am BBQ-Potluck Potting Party Home of Weyman & Alexis 5515 SE Ault Ave Stuart, FL</p>	<p>July 2019 10th 7 pm John Budree Paph's in South Florida</p>	<p>August 2019 14th 7 pm Patrick McClintock History of FOG</p>
<p>September 2019 11th 7 pm Omar Gonzales Orchid growing</p>	<p>October 2019 9th 7 pm Prem Subrahmanyam Endangered Native Orchids</p>	<p>November 2019 13th 7 pm Auction</p>	<p>December 2019 11th 6:30 Holiday Party</p> 