

# Suzanne Susko

## Growing Orchids in Palm Coast



My first orchid – circa 1976



Dtps. Taiwan 'Red Cat'

# This Evening's Topics

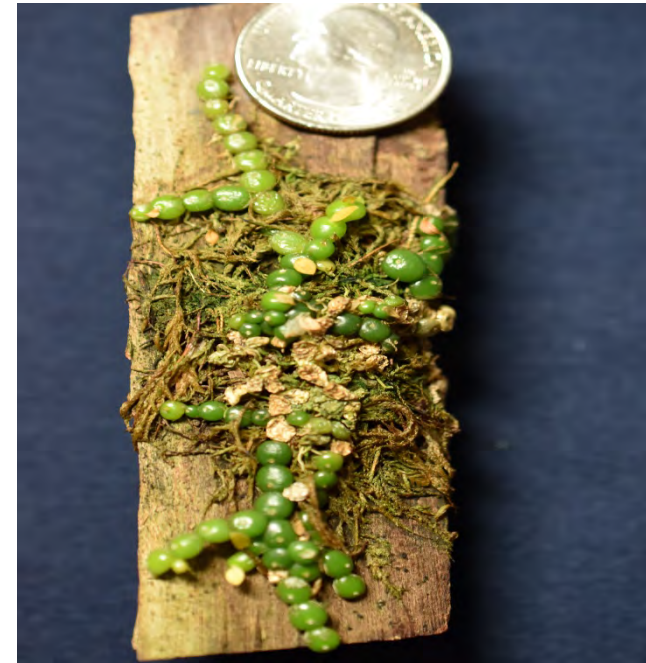
- . What do I grow?
- . How are my orchids grown?
- . Summer/Hurricane Growing
- . Winter Growing
- . To Pot or Not to Pot?
- . Different Media I Use
- . Food and Water
- . Pest Threats
- . Tips and Tricks
- . Check your garden for this Orchid

# The weird and wonderful

Cstm. Razzle-Dazzle



Thrixspernum merguense



Bulbo. moniliforme

A few of my favorites



Blc. George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS

## A few of my favorites



Dracula lotax



Bulbo. Wilbur Chang

# A few of my favorites



*Bulbo. saltatorum* var. *ciliatum*

*Neofinetia falcata*  
'Amami Island'



# Summer Growing Area



THE KIDS LIVE IN THE  
SCREENED POOL LANAI

RESCREENED WITH  
COMMERCIAL GRADE  
SCREENING

PROVIDES 25% SHADING

# Summer Growing Area



- EVERYONE IS MOBILE
- METAL RACKS PURCHASED AT HOME DEPOT ON CASTERS
- RACKS MOVED UNDER LANAI DURING HEAVY RAIN
- FLOOR FAN ADDED FOR AIR FLOW

# Summer Growing Area



- SHELVES ARE HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE TO ACCOMMODATE TALLER PLANTS
- LOTS OF SPACE FOR HANGING CONTAINERS, SUCH AS, NEOFINETIA

# Prep for Hurricanes



- POOL AREA CLEARED
- MOBILE RACKS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
- WIND SCREEN RATED FOR 140 mph.
- SCREEN BRAND NAME: STORM FORCE

# Winter Growing Area



(before)

THE PORTABLE GREENHOUSE

ITS IN A BAG!

BRAND NAME: FLOWER HOUSE

# Winter Growing Area

- 200+ ORCHIDS ROLLED INTO THE GREENHOUSE
- SMALL LASCO SPACE HEATER SET TO 70 DEGREES
- FAN ADDED ON WARM DAYS



(after)



# Winter Growing Area



TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY  
MONITORED FROM MY KITCHEN



SENSOR IN THE GREENHOUSE

# Winter Growing Area



ADDITIONAL  
EQUIPMENT/SENSORS FOR HIGH  
AND LOW TEMPERATURE

# To Pot or Not To Pot?



Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi' on CYPRESS KNEE

## VARIETY OF POTTING METHODS:

CLAY POTS

WOOD FLATS

CLEAR AND GREEN PLASTIC POTS

BASKETS

CYPRESS KNEES

CHICKEN WIRE

- NEW PLANTS WAIT A YEAR
- WHEN OUT OF CONTROL
- MEDIA NEEDS TO BE REPLACED

# To Pot or Not to Pot?



Coconut palm and sphagnum



Flat basket with sphagnum

# To Pot or Not to Pot?

STANHOPEA BLOOM FROM THE BOTTOM



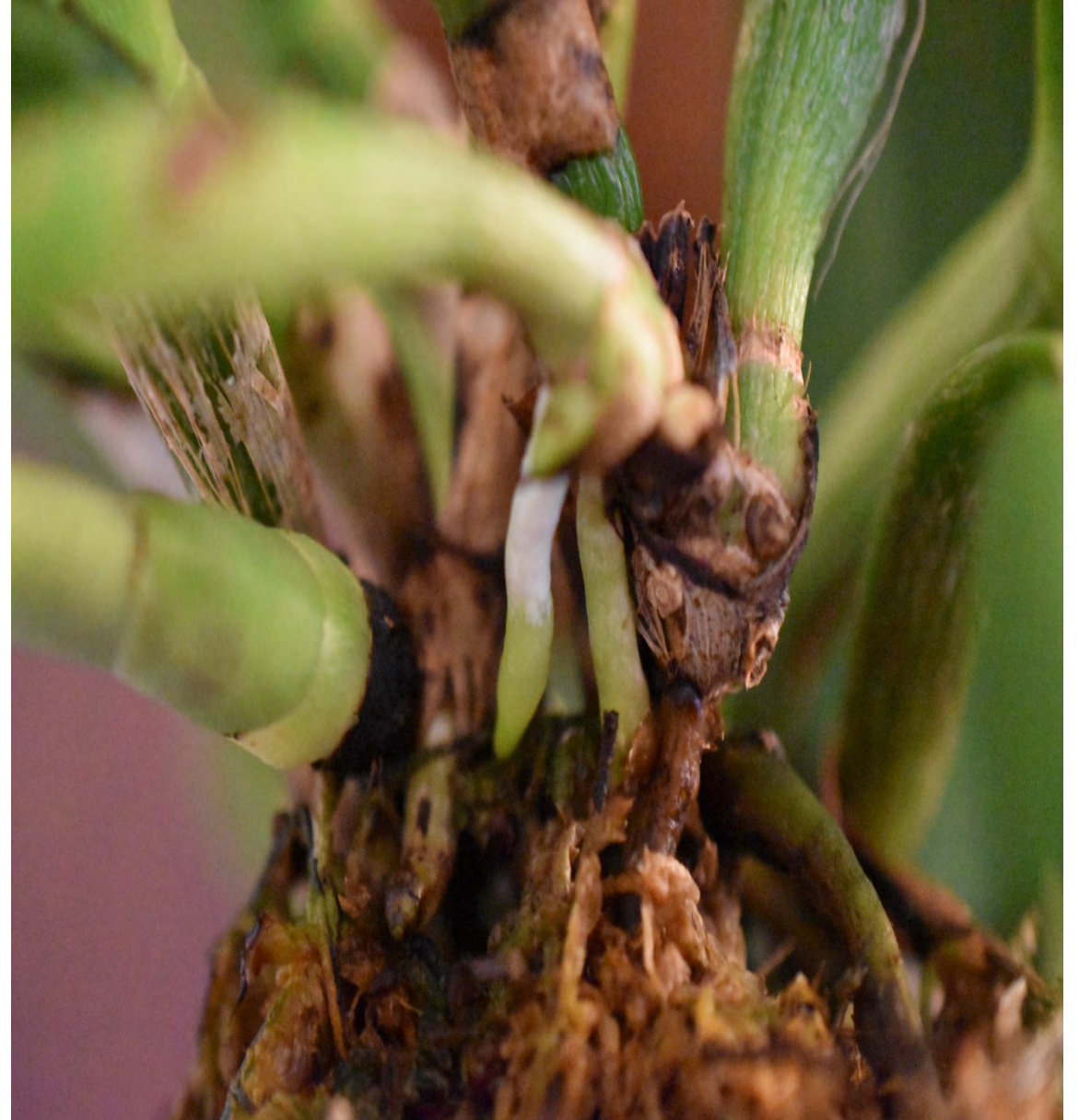
WIRE BASKET, CHICKEN WIRE, SPHAGNUM

# To Pot or Not to Pot?

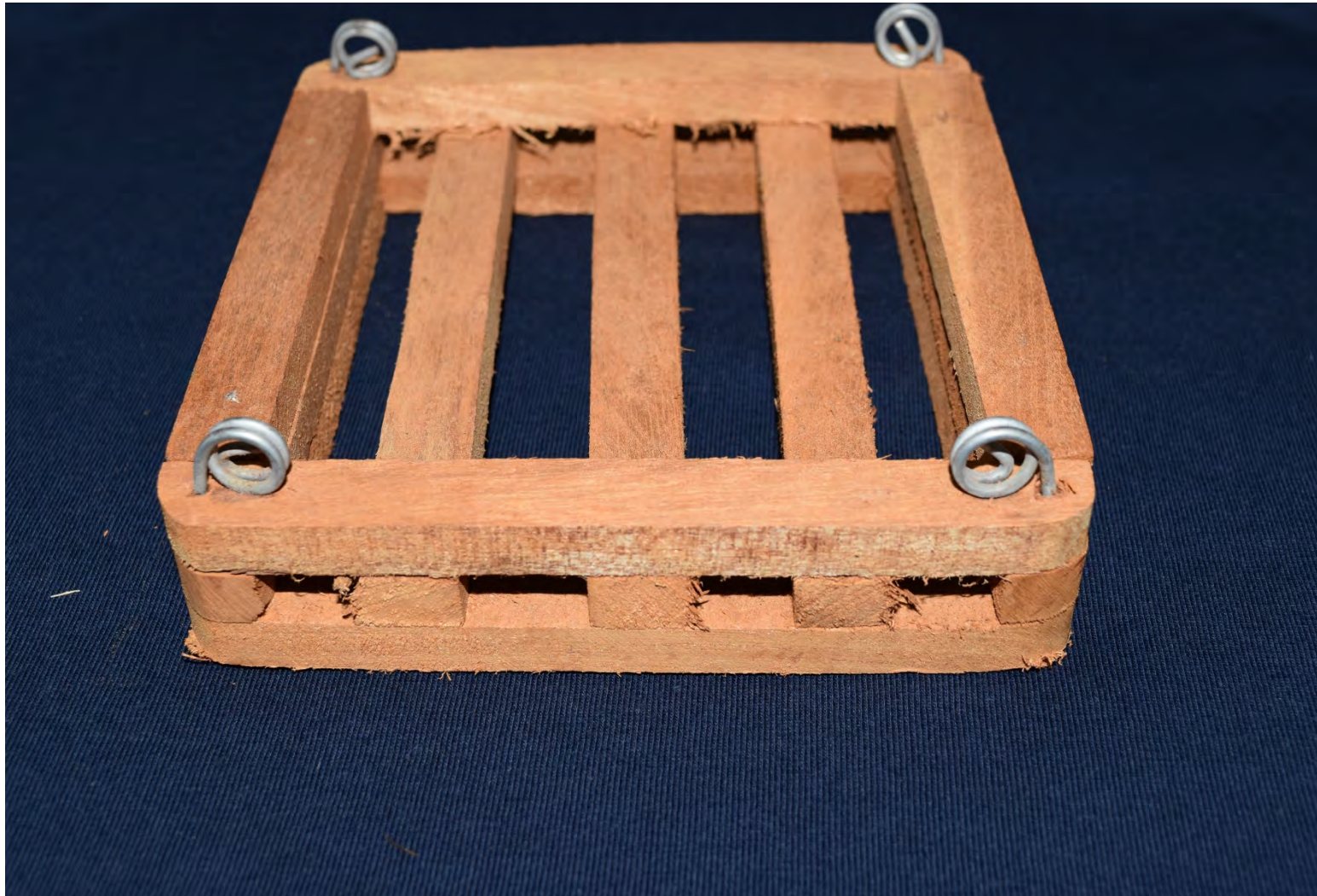


RE-POT ONLY WHEN ITS  
GROWING

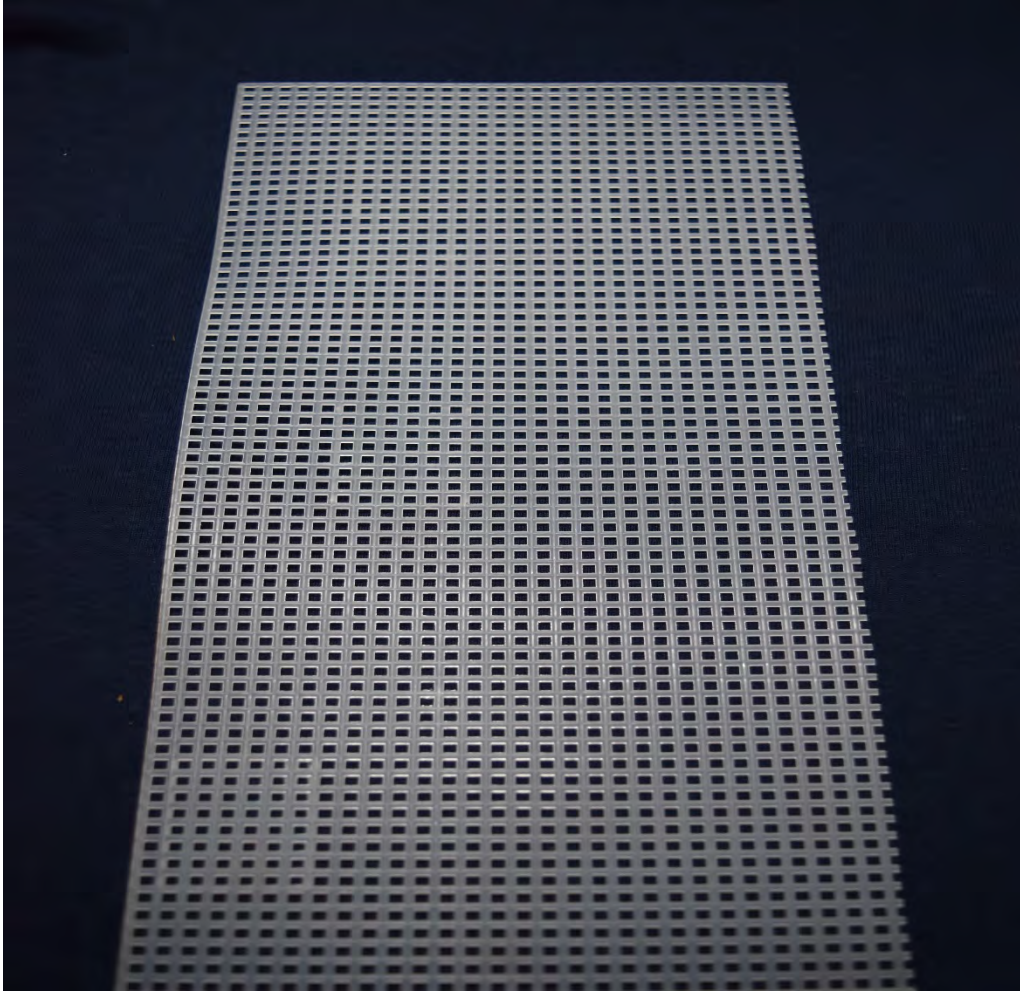
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# Trick to Potting with Flats or Baskets

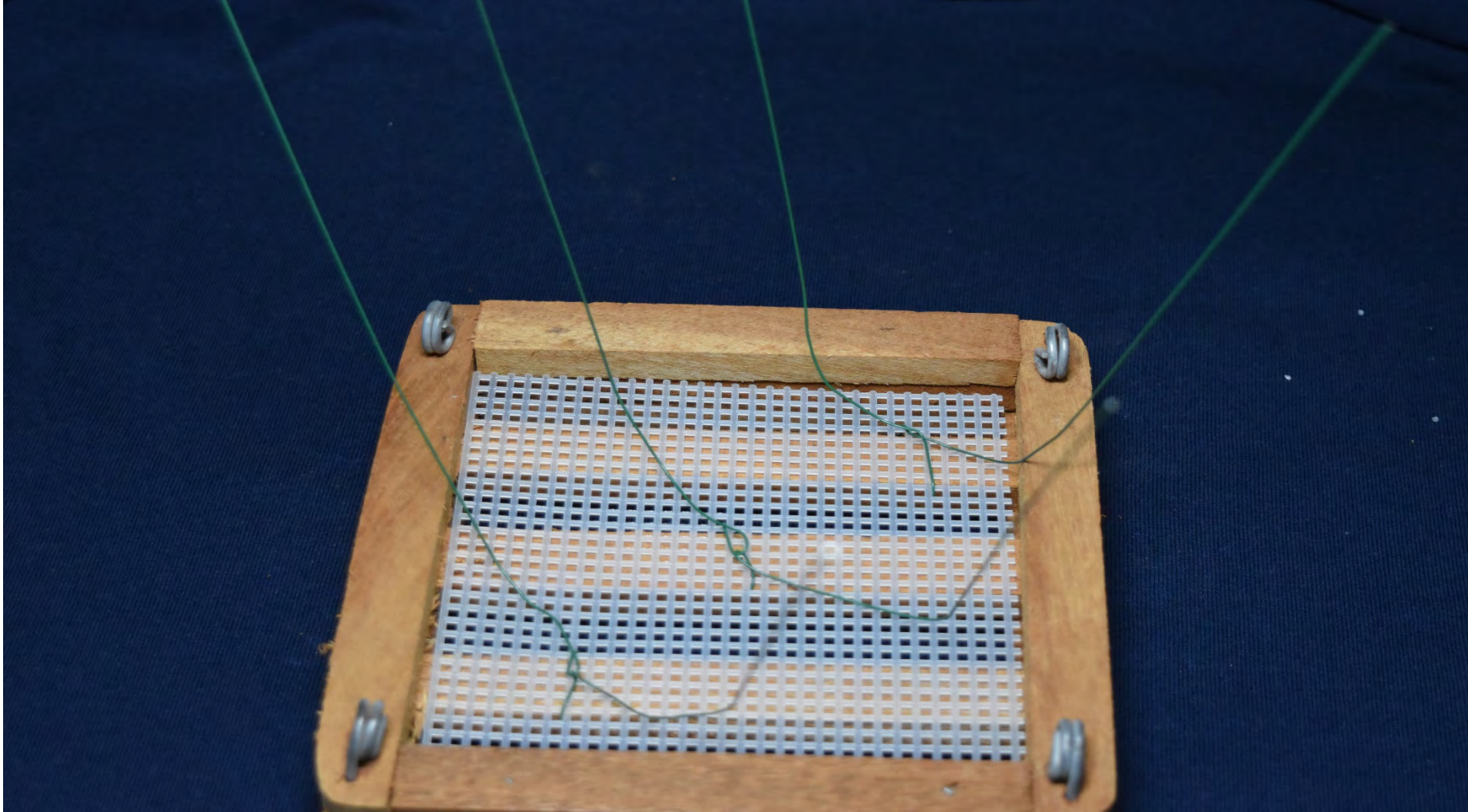


# Trick to Potting with Flats or Baskets



PLASTIC CRAFT MESH

# Trick to Potting with Flats or Baskets



ADD WIRE

# Trick to Potting with Flats or Baskets



ADD SPAGHNUM OR BARK MIX  
PLACE PLANT AND TIGHTEN WIRE TO SECURE

# Different Media I Use

BIG ROOTS USE THIS



PHALS AND SKINNY ROOTS USE THIS MIX



Arcadia Premiere  
(fine)

(available from  
[OrchidSupply.com](http://OrchidSupply.com))

# Different Media I Use

AAA New Zealand Sphagnum Moss



Premier Extra Long AAAAA Sphagnum Moss



# The Spring Foods



**Mag Amp K**  
SLOW RELEASE  
FROM JAPAN (on EBAY)

Nitrogen 6

Phosphorus 40

Potassium 6

Magnesium 15

# The Spring Foods



SLOW RELEASE ORGANIC

Nitrogen 5.5

Phosphorus 6

Potassium 3

Minor elements:

Iron

Copper

Molybdenum

Sulfur

(Available online from Dallas Bonsai)

# The Growing Season Foods

IN ADDITION TO SLOW RELEASE:

- FERTILIZE 1/2 STRENGTH EVERY WATERING WITH PETER'S EXCEL CAL-MAG SPECIAL (15-5-15)
- SWITCH TO FERTI-LOME BLOOMING & ROOTING IN THE FALL (9-59-8)
- ONCE A SEASON WATER WITH EPSOM SALTS (Magnesium Sulfate) (1 TBL. PER GAL.)

# The Water

## VANDAs TAKING THEIR MORNING BATH



- USE RAIN WATER WHEN POSSIBLE
- CITY WATER RUNS THRU A WHOLE HOUSE WATER SOFTENER AND A FILTER (filter available from AMAZON)



ZERO WATER –  
Five stage filter –  
2 gal.



# The Water



HAND WATER PHALS  
USING PUMP SPRAYER

# Managing the Pests

TALSTAR (general purpose) – from Amazon

AVID (kills spider mites) – from Amazon

ORTHENEX (great to control thrips)

MALATHION (general purpose)

ORTHO BUG-GETA (slugs and tiny bush snails)

# TIPS and TRICKS

- BANROT AFTER REPOTTING DOES WONDERS
- USE SILICA GEL PACKS (DESICCANT) TO PREVENT FERTILIZER FROM HARDENING — (available online from AMAZON)
- BACK CUT CATTLEYAs A YEAR BEFORE REPOTTING — OLD EYES WILL GROW
- ALWAYS CUT DISEASED LEAVES—DUST EDGES WITH CINNAMON
- USE MILK TO CLEAN CRUD OFF LEAVES

# TIPS and TRICKS





Zeuxine (ZOYX-eeen-ee) Lawn Orchid

Check your  
yard for this  
Orchid

????????????

QUESTIONS

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