BPS JOURNAL Winter 2019



Growing Tropical Slippers In The Home & Garden

Growing Paph Seedlings Under LEDs I Want To Make Hybrids! Tips for making your first crosses

CULTURE * REPORTS * EVENTS * REVIEWS

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Front cover - Paphiopedilum Stone Praetorian (stonei x praestans)

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Editor's Welcome

I have decided I should go on holiday more often. After a strange summer here weather-wise (that seemed to confuse my plants as much as me) I returned from two weeks away to find no less than six of my plants coming in to bud. As I only have around sixty plants, most of them young single-growths, I thought a 10% hit rate not bad at all. I am just hoping it was my culture in the months beforehand that paid off, rather than the route-one 'hosepipe treatment' by my neighbour's son while I was away! I have detailed my indoor/outdoor culture in this issue, which may be of interest, if only because it is so different to greenhouse growing.

When first planning the content for each Journal it was this issue that worried me most. With our summer activities done and reported and our annual meeting yet to come, I was afraid that 'filling the gap' with content would be a problem. Thankfully a number of members, including our own President, Paul Phillips, have kindly come forward with articles and photos that have made up the majority of this issue. I hope you will find their contributions as interesting and informative as I have. It would be nice to think this is a trend that will continue! I urge you to send in any content you may have that you think would be of interest to the membership and help diversify the subject matter. If writing something is beyond you then just some good quality photos are still helpful.

Looking forward, you should by now have registered for the annual meeting in Solihull. Hadley Chase of Marriott Orchids will be 2020's guest speaker, delivering lectures on his particular area of expertise: complex Paphs. At the time of writing, there is still just time to preorder plants from him to collect at Solihull. His latest lists are on the Members area of the website (see back page). Please email your orders as soon as possible via his website—www.marriottorchids.com. It promises to be another enjoyable event and I wish you all luck in getting something spectacular in bloom in time for the plant appreciation. I hope to see you there!

With best wishes for Christmas and New Year,

Chris

email the editor at info@paphiopedilum.org.uk

JOURNAL CALENDAR

ISSUE	PUBLISHED	FEATURES	COPY DEADLINE
Spring	March/April	Winter Meeting Awards Winter Meeting Lecture 1 report	End of February
Summer	July/August	Winter Meeting Lecture 2 report Malvern report	End of June
Winter	November/ December	General news Other events reports	End of October



<u>I WANT TO MAKE MY OWN HYBRIDS!</u> <u>By BPS President, Paul Phillips</u>



"Anyone can cross two flowers but it takes knowledge to make a successful cross."

I remember my friend and mentor Eric Young once saying that regarding some obscure cross we were discussing. Knowledge of parentage is a vital factor in choosing which to cross with what.

Most *Paph* and *Phrag* growers are aware of certain species dominating in a cross. What do I mean by dominating? An example is *P. rothschildianum*. Most of us recognise a good *P. roths* hybrid and usually the typical characteristics of flower shape, petal formation, flower count and colouration are apparent. Likewise, *P. niveum* dominates in colour. White breeding is of particular interest to me.

White dominates all through paphiopedilum breeding lines and later I will show some examples. Jim Grieves article, which follows this one, talks about his P. Woluwense (*P.rothschildianum* crossed with *P.niveum*). His is a beautiful example of the shape and flower count of *P. roths*, then the dominance of *P. niveum* making the pink colour!

This article is aimed at trying to explain and advise those of you contemplating making seed pods. Therefore, some simple examples to

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begin with.

If you intend to increase your species collection but only have one example, the only way to produce a pod (some call it a capsule) is to self pollinate. That is, to use the flowers own pollen on itself. It is better to obtain a pollen from a colleague if possible and maybe agree to share the results. Over the years line breeding, that is selecting the best from resulting progeny then breeding on, has produced some amazing improvements. Purists are now going to say how can you improve a species? Many examples are available in today's literature: better shape, size, texture and colour!

A little more exciting are primary crosses. Primary = two different species together.

I mentioned *P. niveum* earlier. Crossed with *P. bellatulum* makes P. Psyche. Results are, as in the example, an increase in spots and rounder shape. The dominance of white also shows in crossing *P. niveum* onto *P. sukhakulii* = P. Nivarose, or, in P. Ron Williamson (*P. primulinum* x *P. niveum*). Dominance normally shows in



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most *P. malipoense* hybrids too. P. Ma Belle for example is *P.malipoense x P. bellatulum*.

I mentioned earlier that *P. rothschildianum* dominates crosses, but when crossed with *P.bellatulum*, to make P.Rolfei, neither really dominates as you have a spike of, on average 3 flowers, with some of the fullness of *P. bellatulum*. Not dissimilar to P.Woluwense mentioned previously.

I do not have an example to show here, but early on in my journey into hybridising, I wondered about the green Maudiae's. Was the base colour of white and green recessive? I decided to try introducing them into white lines. BIG MISTAKE! Strangely, the results were "dirty", muddy, washed out, insipid and often mal-formed. I never bothered to follow this up, but they seemed genetically incompatible.

Hopefully these few words of wisdom will aid your thoughts. It is a subject that continually raises more questions than answers!

If you really want to "test the water" and make your own crosses then I hope my comments will help. One simple answer to "what crosses shall I make?" is to remake a proven cross, one that you have seen and like. Have fun!!





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Paphiopedilum Woluwense A blooming rarity by Jim Grieves

Paphiopedilum Woluwense is an old primary hybrid between *Paph niveum* and *Paph rothschildianum*, of unknown or forgotten origin and registered in 1910.

Woluwense has a reputation as a reluctant bloomer. I've had my plant at least 20 years so it would seem a deserved reputation. Having searched I can only find a single registered hybrid using Woluwense as a parent: *Paph*. Mustafa Marvel, which is a back-cross with its parent, *P.niveum*. Sadly I'm unable to find any photographs of this hybrid.

The fact that only a single hybrid has been produced would seem to confirm that *Paph*. Woluwense is an infrequent flowerer.

Is it really worth the wait? Many would say not but looking at the flowers now I believe it was. I can not remember for certain when and where I purchased plant. I do my remember a plant with approximately a 3in leaf span in a small pot.



Paphiopedilum seedling growing under LED lights

by new BPS member, A'na Sa'tara, of Ancient Energy Orchids, USA



Once upon a time, after wishing for more quality Paphiopedilum seedlings, we rubbed the magic eBay lantern, and a flask of Paphiopedilum fairrieanum arrived at our house. Not content with one wish, we kept wishing, and more flasks of Paphiopedilum species appeared in the coming year. One shelf of orchid seedlings became two shelves of orchid seedlings. Two shelves of orchid seedlings became three shelves of orchid seedlings ...

In this article, I will introduce our orchid seedling growing area setup, and why we made the switch to using LED lights for growing our Paphiopedilum seedlings. We are very pleased that we did!

The debut of the "orchid seedling station"

We began our Paphiopedilum seedling project by converting one shelf of a three tier, vertical vegetable seedling shelving unit that my husband Paul used for garden starts. The seedling station, as we liked to call it, was located in his home office, which, quite conveniently, is the warmest room of our house.

With that feature, we were already off to a good start for creating a designated "orchid warm room" for recently deflasked seedlings. From my prior experience, and reflections from an orchid society talk by

Brandon Tam about the Huntington Garden Paphiopedilum collection, it was impressed upon me that warmer, and more humid, conditions accelerate Paphiopedilum seedling growth.

The small office easily accommodated a small electric heater to bump the temperature up a few degrees at night, to 61-62F (16C), and a room humidifier maintains the humidity at 50-70%. We use an oscillating fan to circulate air in the room, plus small USB powered fans on every



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shelf. During winter rainy periods, which are both very humid and cool, a tower fan runs 24 hours a day for additional air movement over the lower two shelves of the seedling station.

I initially placed the Paphiopedilum seedlings on seedling heat mats for extra warmth, but determined that it was easier and more consistent to simply use the electric heater a few hours a night. And, of course, other orchids moved into the room. The Phalaenopsis heard about the 62F (16C) nights and nearly came running.

T5 HO fluorescent lights for orchid seedlings

All of the seedling and blooming size orchid shelves were initially illuminated with T5 HO florescent fixtures, the carryover from the original vegetable seedling setup, and our small growing area for Phalaenopsis. As our endeavor grew, we started to observe some challenges with the T5 HO fluorescent fixtures.

We began deflasking our first orchid seedlings in the cooler part of the year. And, back then, there was only one shelf of Paphiopedilum seedlings. As months went on, it both grew warmer outside, and as more shelves (and lights) were used, it began to grow warmer inside. While the small size of the office was beneficial for maintaining humidity and warm temperatures in the cooler part of the year, it also accumulated heat more rapidly.

By early autumn, it was reaching into the mid 80s (30C) in the "warm room" in the afternoon, despite only being in the low 70s (22C) outside. We needed to cut the heat load in the room, and the fluores-



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cent lights were the obvious target. My initial foray into LED grow lights for mature Paphiopedilum and other warm growers showed such an improvement in growth, that my attention soon turned to the Paphiopedilum seedlings.

They shouldn't be left out of the LED grow light benefits ...

The benefits of LED grow lights for orchids

LED grow lights for orchids has become a bit of a passion of mine, after understanding — and observing — the benefits of full spectrum, white light LEDs over fluorescent lights. Look at the diagram below and you will see a dramatic difference in the light spectrum between fluorescent lights and full spectrum LED grow lights. Having sporadic wavelengths across the natural light spectrum (like the fluorescent lights) is very different than actually providing a continuous spectrum of "plant usable light," known as photosynthetically active radiation (PAR).



Comparison of light spectra between fluorescent lights and ActiveGrow LED T5 HO replacement lights. Used with permission from Active Grow Sustainable Horticultural Lighting

Suffice to say, the quality (spectrum) and quantity (intensity and duration) are key to simulating an optimal indoor orchid growing environment.

Within a few weeks of the LED conversion from T5 HO fluorescents, I noticed many new roots on the majority of plants (we use clear pots). Root growth has continued into the winter, and leaf colour is vibrant. All of the blooming size Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis have flowered, or are in spike, at their regular timing under the LED grow lights.

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LED grow lights for the orchid seedling station

Back now to the orchid seedling station. I noticed two immediate differences after replacing all three of my T5 HO fluorescent fixtures with the LED lights. First, the temperature in the room dropped at least five degrees during the day. Second, the seedling pots did not dry out as quickly, an ob-

vious result of reduced heat radiation from the LED grow lights compared to the fluorescent bulbs.

The reduction in surface drying will likely be as significant as the improved light spectrum for the seedlings, particularly the recently deflasked seedlings. The root system of most Paphiopedilum seedlings is relatively shallow. I've noted that many Paphiopedilum seedlings, particularly smaller ones, have horizontally structured roots coming out of flask. Until they develop longer, deeper roots, they are more susceptible to drying out.

While I've noticed that all of the Paphiopedilum seedlings are vigorous and have good leaf colour under the LED grow lights, the smallest seedlings appear stronger. And some seedlings that I did not think would survive seem to be starting to grow now. I have a high survival rate when deflasking, about 95% for all Paphiopedilum species I've deflasked (except Paphiopedilum adductum). Which means that there are many smaller seedlings in our care, and I am hoping that they will now have a greater chance of growing and reaching blooming size.

Summary: LED grow lights for orchid seedlings

While this article and my experience has emphasized the benefits of LED grow lights for Paphiopedilum seedlings, I see no reason that other genera would not thrive as well. Although lower intensity LED grow lights, like conversion T5 HO tubes and strip lights, are ideally suited to lower light orchids, I am also having blooming success with species that

have higher light requirements. Furthermore, higher light levels are generally not necessary for vegetative growth, or even beneficial for newly deflasked seedlings.

The bottom line is that light — whether natural or human-made — must be the right quality and quantity to support plant growth. Well designed LED light spectra are enabling indoor orchid growing to have access to a quality of light comparable to natural sunshine. This is a remarkable new opportunity for orchid growing and all horticulture.

Happy growing!



For more information on LED growing and A'na's own experiences growing under lights, go to her website—www.aeorchids.com

BPS events Diary

Sat 18th & Sun 19th January 2020 BPS Annual Winter Meeting (including AGM)

Ramada Jarvis Hotel, The Square, Solihull, W.Midlands, B91 2RF Main Speaker - Hadley Chase (Marriott Orchids, USA) Pre-order plants via - www.marriottorchids.com

Sat 30th & Sun 31st May 2020 (set-up Fri 29th) Southport International Orchid Show Incorporating the BOC Congress

Southport Theatre & Conference Centre, Southport The BPS will most likely take a stand at this event. RHS judging on the Saturday.

12th-14th June 2020 Malvern International Orchid Show 2019

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW The BPS will have its usual stand alongside InCharm. There will as usual be an RHS Orchid Committee. For more information - www.malvern-ios.org or 01642 654748

SPOTLIGHT will return next issue

If you have knowledge or images of a particular species or group, please contribute to 'spotlight'

info@paphiopedilum.org.uk

MEMBERS GALLERY IMAGES (OPPOSITE)

TOP LEFT & RIGHT: *Paph.acmodontum* by A'na Sa'tara CENTRE LEFT: *Paph. tonsum* by A'na Sa'tara BOTTOM: *Phrag*. Peruflora's Cirila Alca (*besseae* x *kovachii*) on the left, and Hanne Popow (*besseae* x *schlimii*) on the right by John Garner.

MEMBERS GALLERY SHARE IMAGES OF YOUR LATEST BLOOMS & PLANTS









GROW AREAS Growing Slipper Orchids in the Home & Garden - by Chris Jones



I have only ever grown orchids as houseplants, and over the years have experimented with all sorts of cultural variations. Since getting back into orchids several years ago, I decided, to not only concentrate on Paphs and Phrags, but to try and grow them as 'naturally' as possible. By this I mean trying to give them natural light, rain and wind when possible, rather than relying on lights, watering systems and fans. As I live in a relatively small house (and much as I would like to fill it with plants), it is a little impractical to have them all over the place, especially in summer when the children are off school and the house is generally busier. To this end, I have developed a twin-culture approach - keeping my plants indoors during the colder months and then moving them outside for the summer. I have been doing this for three years now and it is an ongoing experiment. Much of the culture I have developed has come by trial and error and as a result of the limitations of my environment, but the following description may prove helpful to anyone else wishing to grow their plants in a similar way.

In the Home (Autumn to Spring)

Set-Up, Light, Temperature and Humidity

My house was previously ill-suited to orchids. Being a semi, the whole south side is screened by our neighbour and what good-sized windows we have all have radiators below them.

Happily, several years ago an excellent grow area presented itself when we had our kitchen extended. It is west-facing, with full-width sliding patio doors and two roof Velux windows that permit as much light as possible. It is also painted white, with pale floor tiles, meaning that it reflects a lot of light. Best of all, the kitchen is naturally quite warm and humid from washing-up and cooking and maintains an almost constant humidity of 50-70%, except during the driest weather.

I bought a humidifier when I first set up, but it proved to be superfluous. At this time of year temperatures range from about 14°c minimum on the coldest nights, to 25°c max daytime.

Most of my plants are kept in 50cm plastic troughs, with a layer of clay pellets beneath a strip of plastic grille that I have cut to size to prevent the plants sitting in water. The troughs fit on a metal, wheeled shelving trolley that was being thrown out by a local school. It is very practical, as I can move it easily and I adjust the height of the shelves. I place the most light-loving Paphs on the upper shelves and mottled leaved seedlings ones and lower



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down. I site the trolley about six inches back from the glass doors and occasionally turn it to give both sides a turn nearer the light. My few *Phrags* I keep on a couple of tables near the doors on the side that receives most light and I have a few further troughs of *Paphs* on top of some cupboards near one of the Veluxes. This latter site is by

far the darkest area, but also the warmest, due to its height, so I keep the really shade loving ones here – *anitum*, *sanderianum* and their hybrids, for instance.

For anyone growing indoors I cannot stress enough the importance of getting a light meter to assess the light your plants are actually getting. The amount of light that penetrates into your home is surprisingly little, and our eyes naturally adjust, making us terrible at assessing the true brightness of an area. The following online resource is an excellent insight into this:

http://www.orchidsusa.com/3Lightlevels.htm

During the darker winter months, direct sun never hits the plants at any strength or for very long. The only tricky period is during the final month indoors (usually May) before I move them outside, when the sun has moved further around the house and can start to be prolonged and strong through the glass, necessitating moving the plants further away from the windows.

Air Movement, Watering & Feeding

I give my plants little or no air movement most of the time whilst inside. Fans are impractical, noisy, and expensive to run in the home environment, so I have dispensed with them. This of course carries an added risk of rots and infections, so I adhere to certain practices to try and prevent this. 1) I give all my plants as much calcium as possible, which has been shown to increase plants' resistance. I use limestone chips in the potting mix and use a fertiliser with a calcium content. 2) I only mist lightly and/or water on sunny mornings, and 3) when the outside temperature allows (anything over 12°c) I also open the Velux windows a little to admit fresh air and some movement for a while to aid evaporation. 4) I do not foliar feed in winter as the residue of feed in the leaves can encourage rots at low temperatures. By sticking to these rules I have only lost one plant to rot in recent years, and that was due to careless watering on my part. Leaves remain sturdy, even without the presence of a constant breeze to firm growths up.

I try to pot all my plants (*Phrags* included) in clear pots and then put them inside a black pot to cut out the light. This means I can check the true moisture content of any plant at any time and the condition of the roots. It immediately becomes apparent that each plant is best treated individually (impractical if you have a large greenhouse, but easy with a small collection) as they dry at different rates. With this in mind, I generally water once per week, but skip any plants that are still wet. I feed weakly each watering and flush with clean water once per month, always watering from the top of the pot and avoiding getting the plant itself wet. If a plant is developing new roots I use little or no feed until the roots are well established. With this regimen I generally see slow but steady growth throughout the winter months, only stalling during the darkest or coldest periods.

<u>Changeover</u>

The exact time to move the plants inside or out is obviously weather dependent and varies each year. I aim to move the plants outside when night temps are reliably stable over 10°C, rising to at least 18°c during the day, and obviously there is no longer a chance of a cold snap or frost. This is usually sometime in late May.

It is worth noting that the change almost always makes the plants pause their growth for a time and so I would not recommend moving any plants developing flower spikes. Also, the increase in light levels invariably causes the rapid loss of an old leaf no matter how well fed the plant. As with all plants, some love the change and adapt quickly, others can sulk.

In The Garden (Spring to Autumn)

Set-Up, Light, Temperature and Humidity

The access path down the north side of our house is the perfect spot for the *Paphs* when they move outside. It runs East to West, so during the summer months it is in bright shade all day and receives a little dappled and direct sun between 9 and 11am. Even in this shaded position, light levels are considerably higher than indoors, so it is important to keep the plants shielded from the strongest light for a week or two when first moved outside. Occasionally an individual may 'white out' due to its personal light preference or because of an unavoidable patch of light, but usually a few days of more overcast weather is enough to return the plant to a healthier colour. If not, I simply swap it for a plant in a darker spot.



After two summers of moving the trolley outside it was starting to rust in places (a risk to both the plants and the trolley) so this summer I invested in a couple of two-tier aluminium greenhouse stages. These have the added benefit of allowing all plants to be exposed to the sky and so receive similar light and rainfall. More shade loving plants can be put on the lower shelf. My Phrags sit on a metal fire pit in

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the shade of our neighbour's wall, which provides slightly brighter shade and a little full sun in the late morning. The importance of the metal support for both sets of plants cannot be understated - most creepy crawlies, particularly slugs and snails avoid climbing them, and this year I have put two-inch copper tape around the base of the table legs as an extra precaution. So far it seems to have worked.

Temperatures obviously shift with the vagaries of our climate and have occasionally dropped as low as 8*c at night in May and September and as high as 30*c midsummer but with no adverse effects on the plants. Humidity is much more variable than indoors - often dropping to 40% or lower during hot, dry spells but generally rising most nights to over 70%. During wet weather of course humidity is constantly high.

Air Movement, Watering & Feeding

The great benefit of growing outside is the ubiquitous fresh, moving air. I find it encourages good roots and new growths. The plants also develop stronger leaves from the effects of wind and rain. Orientation of the plants can be important though. As you will see from the photos, the plants are aligned perpendicular to the direction of my path. This is because the prevailing breeze runs between house and fence. In the first year I wanted to face the plants the other way, simply because they were more attractive to look at, but quickly realised that

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stronger winds would fold over larger leaves, even snapping one in half! Since I have arranged them at right-angles to the wind direction I have had no such issues.

I will admit it took me a while to have the courage of my convictions the first year I put the plants out. When you first see all the crowns fill up with rain it is hard to resist the temptation to run around after with the tissues drying them out! But you need not fear. As in nature, the abundant fresh, moving air and the purity of rainwater ensures that the plants do not develop rots no matter how wet they get or how long water remains in the crowns. I have yet to encounter a single instance of rot in plants grown outside. Water may be continuously in the crowns during periods of wet weather, but crucially the water is refreshed with each new shower and will still evaporate in a matter of hours once it stops. *Phrags* dry slower, with their deeper crowns, and I noticed one plant remained water filled for three days but was still not adversely affected. In fact, I would say that it is my observation that plants show a slight growth spurt in the immediate aftermath of these heavy downpours. Slippers love rain!



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Because of the constant wind and greater light, drying out and regular feeding is more of an issue outdoors. During hot, dry weather it may be necessary to water almost every day, but, considering our previous observations regarding crown rot, it need not be as arduous or time consuming as indoors - plants can be completely soaked without concern at any time of day or night. I use a 6L sprayer to rain over the plants from above and if time is pressing, even dousing with the garden hose on occasion. I increase the feed strength and nitrogen content from spring onwards and do a misted strong foliar feed once per week using a hand sprayer.

<u>Changeover</u>

I usually give the plants a good spray of bug killer before bringing them in but damaging creepy crawlies from the garden are generally not a problem - springtails in the compost and spiders in the leaves are usually the extent of it.

In recent years the warmth of summer seems to linger later into the year, once even until mid-October, but whatever the weather, I only move the plants inside when completely dry and at a time of day when there is minimal temperature difference between inside and out, to minimise shock.

Conclusions

Although I have not grown enough plants in different conditions to have any comparative observations as to the benefit or not of this type of culture, I have certainly come across many written and verbal anecdotes from other growers that swear to the advantages of growing outdoors. Sam Tsui recommends it for plants that stubbornly refuse to flower. He told me the story of just such a plant (a massive *Paph*.Prince Edward of York that had never flowered) that produced many spikes after one summer out in the wind and rain. Plants can become too pampered in a stable or repetitive environment to do anything other than grow, but the instability of the great outdoors can pressure them into making an effort to reproduce. This year, after a slow start, I have had five *Paphs* flowering for the first time - including

a few reticent bloomers such as Gloria Naugle. Whether it would have still flowered if kept indoors it is impossible to say.

There are of course some drawbacks to growing outdoors, most notably, the little blemishes and imperfections in leaves and growth that can occur due to weather, insects and the occasional bird poo! If you are after perfect show-quality plants this is possibly not the best option for you.

So far I have been happy with the results and enjoy nothing more than seeing the plants growing in both sunshine and rain as nature intended.

Summary of Pros and Cons

In the Home

<u>Pros</u>

Plants are more pristine looking No bugs/easier to control them Growth rate can be steady

<u>Cons</u>

May not get enough light and temperature swing to stimulate flowering

Growth can be weaker

Stale/dead air which can lead to bacterial rots

Watering/feeding must be careful and can be time consuming

Plants become dusty

In the Garden

Pros

Free light, wind and rain

More light and greater temperature range to stimulating flowering

Plants are stronger and healthier

Watering quick and easy (often unnecessary)

Root growth is better

No rots

<u>Cons</u>

Leaves can be blemished and plants less attractive

Risk of sunburn/wind/weather damage and insects

Some plants may take time to adapt/ growth rate varies

Lower leaf loss/bleaching when first moved

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Why not tell fellow members about your grow area and culture? email the editor at -

info@paphiopedilum.org.uk



BPS Vice-Chairman, Mark Turner, chooses his top 5 Phragmipedium species.

Phrag. kovachii

Who couldn't love he biggest of the lot with that velvet magenta pouch? Though I have never flowered one, several are on the way. I'm just praying they are good ones !!

Phrag. andreettae

At the other end of the spectrum, the most delicate of flowers. I like the pinky/white colour and super cute size.

Phrag. besseae

The bigger and rounder the better - with lots of texture. Such an intense orange colour to brighten any collection.





Name your top five slippers! Just send a few lines explaining why you like them (with any pictures you have) and you may just introduce fellow members to their next 'must have' plant!

<u>Phrag.longifolium</u> 'Expression'

These always have plenty of character. With their black 'moustache' above the staminode and long twisted petals, they remind me of a cavalier or French musketeer!

Phrag. caudatum

Lovely long petals and a mixture of bronze to brown colours. Just striking and very classy looking.







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ALAN SMITH An obituary

Many of you will have heard that Alan Smith, a member of the BPS, sadly passed away recently after a long illness. He was a founder member and attended the first BPS meeting, along with his wife Wendy, held at Marwell December 1st 1990.

Alan was an excellent grower and always had a cheery, laidback attitude. We will all miss him. The following passage is taken from the eulogy written by our President, Paul Phillips, that was read at Alan's funeral.

"Alan was a long time member of Thames Valley Orchid Society, member of Orchid Society of

Great Britain and a very keen member of the British Paphiopedilum Society. He was a Judge of the British Orchid Council and enjoyed giving his opinion on plants at TVOS meetings and elsewhere. He would be seen at judging during BOC Conferences, also on several occasions at international conferences overseas. He and I were on the same team in Johannesburg at the World Orchid Conference a few years ago.

'He was never happier than when he was talking *Paphiopedilums* or *Phragmipediums*! His dream was always to own a plant of the famous *Paph rothschildianum*. I think he in fact finished up owning many plants of this rare and exotic slipper. His real love eventually became the *Phragmipedium* family. I can honestly say I do not think he had a favourite...he loved them all!

'He had great pride when he put up a plant for exhibition. I shall miss his phone calls. He often rang to swap news or report something he had seen or heard. Yes he loved to gossip!

'Alan was a quiet, thoughtful friendly person. Never opinionated but willing to share an opinion. Willing to help when required. He enjoyed working part time with Ivens Orchids in St Albans for quite a few years.

'We will miss the mischievous grin and his chuckle when amused by some remark. A friend to all....he will be missed."



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