

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

November/December 2020

There is no meeting in November and we are sure everyone is sad we will not have our yearly party in December, but it just means we will have to celebrate harder in 2021. We hope everyone is able to have traditional celebrations safely over the next two months.

We are looking forward to the new year and speakers have already been reserved if things improve.

For the next two months, any photos of your blooming orchids, interesting discoveries about orchids, and orchid news that is sent to the newsletter editor will be forwarded to members.

Thanks to everyone who voted by e-mail. We are still waiting for a few members to respond to officially congratulate our new board for 2021:

President	Ed Kidder
Vice President	Laura Blackmon
Treasurer	Margaret Croucher
Secretary	Carolyn Anderson
Directors:	

Bert Forbush

Donna Morris

Kathy Jacobson

Libby VanZino

Peter Pancoast (Past President)



Third blooming this year! This is a cross of *Rhynchorides Thai Noi* and *Aerides houlettiana*. While it's not a large spike the coloration is lovely and also fragrant. It is advertised as "flowers in early winter". Grower Betty Adamson

SUNSHINE

Speedy get well wishes are sent to Barbara Naylor as she recovers from eye surgery.

We are glad that Tammy kept the society informed during Mike's illness. It is a reminder to all of us to let Betty know when one of our members needs some sunshine. Especially now, when we are not meeting, we rely on each other for news about members.

CALENDAR

No meeting in Nov./Dec.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

American Orchid Society Centennial Celebration has been postponed until Oct. 30, 2021.

GREAT PLACES FOR MEMBERS TO FIND INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS:

1. Programs—Take notes—someday they will make sense.
2. AOS Magazine articles. “Orchids” is available at every meeting for check out.
3. Members— Ask longtime members about orchids, but realize that your yard and potting choices are key. We all use trial and error to succeed.
4. Internet sites—**www.aos.org**—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify the best way to grow your orchids.
6. Our society newsletter is available on platinumcoastorchidsociety.org

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There’s an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Ask Betty Adamson for an application if you’re interested in joining.

For all current members, remember that your renewal notice will arrive in the Orchid Magazine prior to your month of renewal.

www.aos.org

Many members are having an invasion of thrips right now. Almost all of the 18 flowers on our George King ‘Serendipity’ have been marred by them. They are so small that they are sometimes hard to notice until they have done their damage before the flower even opens. Charlie typically uses acephate, but fell behind since he hadn’t noticed any. If the flowers on any of your orchids look weird, scan for teeny tiny bugs and then read the article below from the AOS website.

Thrips

By Susan Jones

Many species of thrips feed on orchids; some of the most common include western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), Cuban laurel thrips (*Gynaikothrips ficorum*), greenhouse thrips (*Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis*) and flower thrips (*Frankliniella bispinosa*).

Thrips are a common problem on vandaceous plants, dendrobiums and to a lesser extent, cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Because they are quite small (about 1/16 to 3/8 inch [1 to 5 mm] long), they are difficult to see with the naked eye. Much more easily detected is the damage to plants, deformed foliage and injured floral tissues caused by their feeding. They most often attack buds and new growths with their rasping mouthparts, sucking the plant sap.



Thrips can make a mess out of flowers you have waited all year to see.

Symptoms

Much like aphids, thrips feed in buds and flowers by using their mouthparts to pierce the surface of the plant tissues and suck up juices from leaves, stems and flowers. Blooms may become prematurely brown, and their petals spotted, streaked, silvery or discolored. Damage to leaves appears as chlorotic spots, wilting and eventually dropping. Plant growth can be stunted, and a severe thrips infestation will kill an orchid. If you suspect that thrips are present, gently blow into an open flower and watch for the insects crawling around inside the blossom.

Because of their method of feeding and ability to travel from plant to plant, thrips, like aphids, may introduce and spread virus through an orchid collection.

Life Cycle

The majority of the pest thrips belong to the family Thripidae. The adults of most species are brown or black. The winged adults (males and females) are found mainly on flowers and developing growths. Females deposit their eggs beneath the surface of the plant tissue. Often the only visible evidence of this is the callus tissue formed by the orchid in response to the wound. The nymphal (immature) stages are creamy yellow to pale orange and resemble adults without any wings. The nymphs feed on the tender young plant growths, then drop to the medium to pupate. The pupae are a darker orange color than the nymphs. As they are generally below the surface of the medium, they are unlikely to be spotted and more difficult to control with pesticides. When they emerge as winged adults, they fly back up to the plant to feed, lay eggs and begin the cycle once again.

Each female is capable of producing 25 to 50 eggs at a time, and many species reproduce at a rate of three to five generations per year. Their reproduction rate is more rapid in warmer temperatures, making thrips a more difficult pest to control in southern climates.

Prevention

Thrips are among the more difficult insect pests to prevent and control, but some measures that help include covering all vents and doorways with insect-proof netting, segregation of infested plants and disposal of all affected loose plant material, and overall good general sanitation, removal of all weeds and plant debris from the growing area.

Thrips can be monitored using blue or yellow sticky traps, which should be checked weekly. Thrips will appear as small dark specks on the traps. This will allow the application of pesticides while populations are small, so as to minimize chances of damage and infestation.



Thrips are very small and may go unnoticed until significant damage has been done.

Controls

The nature of the thrips life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages fairly well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest.

Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, malathion and acephate (Orthene) are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well.

If your growing area is enclosed and is not part of your living space, such as a greenhouse, biological control with a predatory mite is an option. The female *Amblyseius cucumeris* deposits eggs in thrips. When the young hatch, they parasitize their hosts, killing them.

The use of insecticides is not compatible with employing predatory mites for control, as the insecticides are harmful to the mites as well as the thrips. As always, adhere strictly to the manufacturer's instructions for safe application and use of chemical pesticides.

As with any spray-on pest control measure, any orchid plants infested with thrips should be managed to allow easy and thorough pesticide application. Arrange the plants in the growing area so that they have adequate space for air circulation and ease of spraying, and be sure to cover all plant surfaces, such as those between and on the undersides of leaves, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment.



Thrip damage on Blc. George King 'Serendipity'

2020 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Ed Kidder

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VICE PRESIDENT

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

Margaret Croucher

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

SECRETARY

Carolyn Anderson

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

DIRECTORS

Laura Blackmon (2020)

Bert Forbush (2020-2021)

Kathy Jacobson (2020)

Donna Morris (2020-2021)

Peter Pancoast (Past President)

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

GREETER

Margaret Smith

PROGRAMS

Ed Kidder

PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlie Scholes

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

JoAnn Amos

WEBMASTER

Jody Romanowski

AUDIO

Laura Blackmon

REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Jacobson

SHOW CHAIR

Laura Blackmon

UPCOMING WEBINARS FOR AOS MEMBERS

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	October 06, 2020 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	October 20, 2020 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	November 10, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	December 02, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Paphiopedilums, Their Care and Understanding	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dave Sorokowsky Owner Paph Paradise Awarded grower and AOS Judge	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer



Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:30 PM EDT

Greenhouse Chat - Join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Have your questions answered by our resident orchid expert! Please send your queries to greenhousechat@aos.org two days prior to the chat. *Open to all.*