



Orchid
Society
OF MAURITIUS
EST. 1980

NEWSLETTER July 2026



*L.C Blue Boy
'Gainsborough'*



**L.C Blue Boy
'Gainsborough'**
Grower: Perry Chung

ABOUT OUR COVER ORCHID

Lc. Blue Boy 'Gainsborough' (also registered as *Cattlianthe* Blue Boy) is a highly awarded, compact *Cattleya* orchid recognized for its striking blue (*coerulea*) petals. It is a complex primary/secondary hybrid that descends from ancestral species like *Cattleya purpurata* and *Guarianthe bowringiana*.



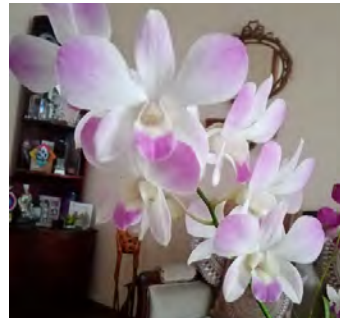
MEMBERS' SHOWCASE



**Aliceara Winter
Wonderland
'White Fairy'**
Grower: John Hunma



Rhycholaelia digbyana
Grower: Shashi Puddoo



Den. Pink splash
Grower: Ravin Cavoordin



Bc. Makai
Grower: Dharmen Isari



Ric. Yen Golden Sensation
Grower: Bhavish Singh
Ramkhalawon



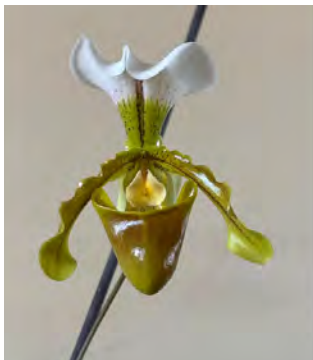
Paph. henryanum
Grower: Marie Rose
Konfortion



**BLC Rain Forest "Summer
Green" x LC Chine
"Safrani"**
Grower: Alix Chung



Princess Diana
Grower: Sandhya
Khadun Devasagayaum



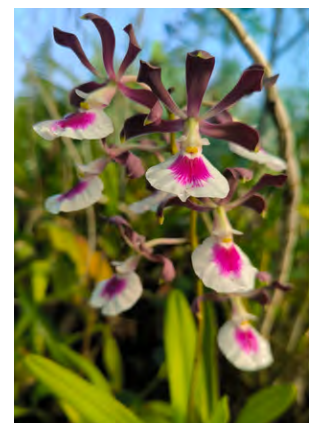
**Paphiopedilum
spicerianum**
Grower: Gérard Bax



Aerangis biloba
Grower: Manoj Ramchandar



**Dendrobium
fimbriatum**
Grower: Sahil Ramnauth



Encyclia cordigera
Grower:
Gerard Leung



BILLET DU PRÉSIDENT



Visite de l'exposition d'orchidées



Chers membres,
chers amis passionnés d'orchidées,

C'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que nous avons entamé cette année par un événement marquant, organisé en collaboration avec le **SSR Botanic Garden Trust Fund**, le 26 mars dernier, dans le cadre des célébrations de la fête nationale, au prestigieux Château de Mon Plaisir. Dans ce cadre exceptionnel, une soixantaine d'élèves du secondaire ainsi que nos invités ont pu découvrir un univers haut en couleurs. L'exposition d'orchidées, réalisée par l'Orchid Society of Mauritius, a émerveillé tous les visiteurs, suscitant admiration et curiosité. Le moment a été enrichi par un atelier captivant sur « Les orchidées de Maurice », animé par Serge L'Ecluse. Pour beaucoup de jeunes, ce fut une toute première rencontre avec ces fleurs fascinantes — une découverte qui, sans aucun doute, a éveillé de nouvelles passions. La visite du 'Orchid & Fernery House' du Jardin botanique a prolongé cette belle immersion dans notre patrimoine naturel.

De beaux moments de partage

Le 30 avril 2026, nous avons eu le plaisir de nous retrouver nombreux — près de 50 participants — au restaurant Tekoma à Gros Cailloux, dans une ambiance chaleureuse et conviviale.

Ce fut l'occasion de voyager jusqu'à Dresde, en Allemagne, à travers les récits passionnés de John Davy sur le **World Orchid Conference and Orchid Show**.

Les images et la vidéo présentées ont émerveillé l'assemblée... un véritable moment de fascination ponctué de nombreux « Wow ! ». Cet échange inspirant a donné envie à plusieurs d'entre nous de participer à la prochaine édition, prévue dans trois ans au Japon — un projet qui fait déjà rêver !

La rencontre s'est achevée dans la bonne humeur par un échange et une vente d'orchidées, apportant joie et satisfaction à tous.



Benthamia africana

Oberonia disticha



Sortie découverte

Toujours animés par notre passion commune, plusieurs membres se sont retrouvés le samedi 27 juin pour une sortie découverte à **Le Pétrin**, à la rencontre de nos orchidées endémiques dans leur habitat naturel. Un moment privilégié de partage, de découverte et de connexion avec la nature.



Bulbophyllum nigriflorum



Un angraecum en fruit.
L'avenir est assuré pour les générations futures dans la région, espérons-le.

Nos prochaines activités



"La conservation des plantes"
, Orchid display et échange
d'orchidées – **25 Juillet 2026**



Célébration du **46ème**
anniversaire de notre
Société **Samedi 22 août**



Diner de fin d'année
Samedi 28 novembre



Nous vous invitons dès
maintenant à préparer
vos plus belles orchidées
pour faire de cet
événement un moment
inoubliable.

26 et 27 septembre
Le Plaza, Rose Hill



Projet de visite à l'île
de La Réunion **Octobre**
2026. Une belle
opportunité de découvrir
Les Florilèges ainsi que
des collections privées
d'orchidées.

Restons connectés

Votre présence et votre enthousiasme font vivre
notre Société. Nous nous réjouissons de vous
retrouver nombreux lors de nos prochaines activités,
pour continuer à partager ensemble notre passion
des orchidées.

À très bientôt,



Shashi Puddoo
Président
Orchid Society of Mauritius

BLACK ORCHIDS

The illusion of black in nature

True black pigment does not exist in the plant kingdom. Orchids that appear black are actually specimens with highly concentrated pigments of deep purple, maroon, or brown. Highly sought after by collectors, these rare and dramatic flowers are celebrated for their unusual, striking appearance and deep, velvety colors.

by Gerard Leung,
Neo Orchids

Coelogyne pandurata

widely celebrated as the Black Orchid (or *Anggrek Hitam* in Indonesia), is a large, exotic orchid species native to the primary forests of **Borneo, Sumatra, Malaysia, and the Philippines**. It is famously recognized for its striking, **apple-green to yellow-green petals** that contrast sharply against an intricate, **jet-black marked lip (labellum)**. It is also known as the "Black Orchid" of Borneo, featuring pale green sepals surrounding a striking, jet-black patterned lip. First described by botanist John Lindley in 1853, it serves as the official floral mascot of East Kalimantan, Indonesia.



Care Guide

To cultivate *Coelogyne pandurata* successfully, you must replicate its natural warm, damp, and riverine tropical habitat



- **Light:** Requires **bright, filtered light** (semi-shade). It can adapt to lower light but will **refuse to flower** unless the illumination is sufficiently strong.
- **Temperature:** Thrives in **intermediate-to-warm** conditions. Ideal daytime temperatures are around 30°C (86°F), with a cooler night drop. It does not tolerate prolonged frost.
- **Watering & Feeding:** Needs **copious amounts of water and heavy feeding** during active spring and summer growth cycles. The potting medium should remain evenly moist and must never dry out completely.
- **Humidity:** Benefits from high relative humidity levels, ideally **above 50%**, with excellent air circulation to prevent stagnant moisture.
- **Potting Preference:** Because of its long rhizomes, it resents **deep pots**. It prefers being **mounted on a large tree-fern slab, secured to a moss pole, or grown in wide, shallow baskets** so it can spread out freely.
- **Repotting:** Only disturb the plant when absolutely necessary, as it tends to pout and halt growth after repotting. Perform divisions only when new root flushes appear at the base of fresh pseudobulbs.

Cymbidium Kiwi Midnight (most notably the 'Geyserland' cultivar) is a rare, highly sought-after orchid famous for its intensely dark, velvety burgundy-black petals and blush-cream lip. This striking "black orchid" is a medium-sized hybrid that typically blooms in winter or early spring. It is also known for its glass-like, deep purple-black petals contrasted against a pale column.

Care Guide

- **Light:** Requires bright, indirect light (at least 50% sun) to thrive and produce blooms. Protect it from intense midday sun to avoid scorching.
- **Temperature:** This is crucial for flowering. They require warm days (18–25 °C) and a significant drop at night (10–13 °C) during autumn to initiate bud development.
- **Water & Humidity:** Keep the soil moderately moist during the spring and summer growing season, and reduce watering in the winter. They prefer 50% to 75% humidity with good air circulation
- **Substrate:** Plant in a well-draining, highly aerated mix (such as coarse bark and perlite) using a relatively small pot to keep the roots snug and aerated

Cymbidium Kiwi Midnight

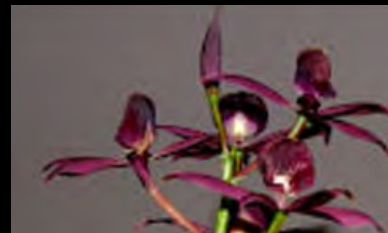


Other types of black orchids

Cymbidium Little Black Sambo



Fredclarkeara After Dark



Guarechea Miva
Etoile Noire

Monnierara Millennium
Magic 'Witchcraft'



Propagation of Orchids TISSUE CULTURE

by Sahil Ramnauth

Tissue culture has been successfully used on crops, endemic and indigenous species, medicinal plants, forest trees in both temperate and tropical regions. (Carlos et al. 2013).

Tissue culture can be used as an alternative means to propagate orchids. This method uses different pathways, which can lead to an establishment of a plant; meristem culture, leaf culture, nodal culture, seed culture and root tip culture. The advantages of tissue culture are: it requires a small space, and we can regenerate a large number of plants from a single cell, tissue or an organ. It also provides a sterile, virus-free environment for the plant and stock plant can be prepared for genetic engineering work. Orchid propagation is very difficult in nature and thus tissue culture can be used to efficiently micropropagate them. From one explant various plantlets can be produced, for instance a single leaf can form into a callus and then form adventitious shoots under sterile conditions, which can lead to a large number of plantlets. With the advent of tissue culture, we can rescue endemic orchids and can also perform minimum inhibitory concentration MIC tests to determine the antimicrobial properties of the orchid and to view any medicinal aspect. Mass production of orchids can also be done for commercialization purposes.

REPOTTING YOUR ORCHID?

Here's What You Need to Know

by Jérôme Nieva

Repotting an orchid is a crucial step in ensuring the health and longevity of the plant. Here are several factors to consider when repotting your orchid.

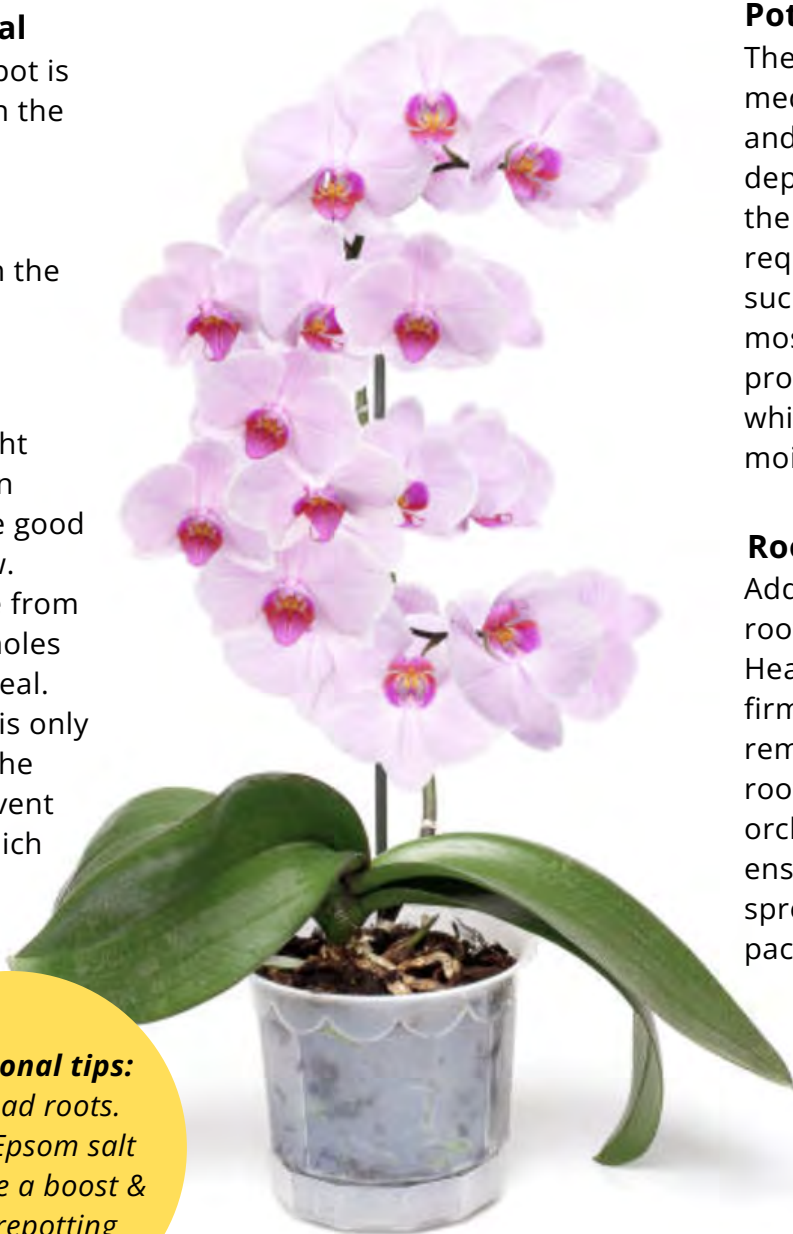
Timing is Essential

The best time to repot is after blooming when the plant is in its active growth phase. This allows the orchid to recover quickly from the stress of repotting.

The Right Pot

Next, choose the right pot. Orchids thrive in containers that have good drainage and airflow. Typically, pots made from clay or plastic with holes at the bottom are ideal. Ensure the new pot is only slightly larger than the previous one to prevent excess moisture, which can lead to root rot.

My personal tips:
*Trim dead roots.
Soak in Epsom salt
to provide a boost &
reduce repotting
stress*



Potting Medium

The choice of potting medium is also important and size of medium depends on the how big is the plant. Orchids often require a specialized mix, such as bark, sphagnum moss, or a combination, to provide adequate aeration while retaining some moisture.

Roots

Additionally, inspect the roots before repotting. Healthy roots should be firm and green or silvery; remove any dead or rotting roots. When placing the orchid in its new pot, ensure that the roots are spread out and not tightly packed.

Be Gentle

Finally, be gentle during the process to minimize stress. After repotting, place the orchid in a location with indirect sunlight and maintain proper watering practices to help it acclimate to its new environment.



The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden (SSRBG) has a long and distinguished association with orchids, dating back to the nineteenth century. Historical records reveal that orchid cultivation and conservation have been integral components of the Garden's botanical activities for over a century.

A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION

Orchids at the SSR Botanic Garden

by Dr (Mrs) Anjusha Durbarry
Director
SSR Botanic Garden Trust



Angraecum mauritianum

During the tenure of John Horne, Chief Gardener from 1869 to 1892, a fernery/orchid house was established to expand the collections of ferns and orchids, laying the foundation for one of the Garden's most valued botanical collections. These efforts were further advanced by Joseph Théophile Van Keirsbilck (1897–1903), who enhanced the Orchid House and assembled an impressive collection of indigenous orchids. Among the species conserved were ***Angraecum palmiforme***, which had become scarce in Mauritian forests, ***Angraecum aphyllum*** and ***Aeranthus macrostachya***, renowned for its exceptional beauty (Guy Rouillard, 2010).

Today, SSRBG continues this legacy through its commitment to plant conservation, education and public awareness. In collaboration with the Orchid Society of Mauritius, the Garden organised a Workshop and Mini Orchid Show on 26 March 2026 under the theme "Orchids of Mauritius". The event showcased the remarkable orchid diversity of the Mascarene Islands.



As part of this initiative, indigenous orchid species were reintroduced into the Fernery and Orchid House, namely ***Aeranthus arachnites***, ***Bulbophyllum nutans***, ***Cryptopus elatus***, ***Oberonia disticha*** and ***Platyplepis occulta***. To support the maintenance and long-term conservation of these species, the irrigation system of the Orchid House was also upgraded. A major highlight of the event was an awareness workshop attended by 30 secondary school students. Through expert presentations and discussions, students learned about the importance of orchids, the challenges facing native species, and the need for conservation. The workshop helped raise awareness and foster appreciation of Mauritius' unique botanical heritage among young people.

Orchids are among the most diverse and fascinating groups of flowering plants and are recognised as important indicators of ecosystem health. As many native species continue to face pressures from habitat loss and environmental change, botanical gardens have an increasingly important role to play in their conservation. Through its living collections, educational programmes and partnerships, the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden remains committed to preserving and promoting Mauritius' rich orchid heritage for future generations.



(Reference: Histoire du Jardin des Pamplemousses & Suggestions pour une visite documentée, Guy Rouillard, 2010)



‘Sharing the same passion
can be fun when people meet’



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Mr Serge L'Ecluse

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