

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

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Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Flower of the Year 2022
Kimberley Khan "Kentlyn" Grown by Shane Moeller



Your Committee 2023

**From left Christine Robertson, Graham Fear, Elayne Saunders,
Sylvia Jackson, David Fletcher, Chee Ng, John Howard**

**Below,
From left Greg Wallace, Don Wallace, Bill Jayne**



Cymbidium News Volume 25 No. 2 March 2023

The New Cymbidium News is published monthly, February to November inclusive and is the Official Newsletter of the **Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc**

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		Wayne Baylis,
		Peter Aigner Muehler
	# indicates Deceased	

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Our club Bank Details are as follows

Bank of South Australia BSB 105 108 Account number 022900640
Our Treasurer Christine Robertson Phone 08 8536 3948 or 0438 363 940



**President
Graham Fear**

Presidents Message March 2023 **Welcome to our March 2023 issue**

At the February meeting there was only one plant presented for judging. This was Zig Zag “Kiwi”, grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. It was a nice-looking plant for so early in the season. It was our plant of the night.

Our February meeting always starts with our AGM. Thank you to the committee for all standing again this year. We will need to re convene the meeting for a minute of two at the March meeting, as I did my usual forgetfulness, and forgot to re appoint our auditor and registrars.

The AGM was followed by the announcement of Seedling of The Year, which is selected by our judges. It was won by John

Moon with Justinas Beauty “Cotton Candy” (Templestowe’s Charm x Pink Silk). Congratulations John and well done.

Flower of The Year, which was voted for by the members, saw Kimberley Khan “Kentlyn”, grown by Shane Moeller win the prize. Well done to Shane for a well grown plant.

This was followed by the announcement of the aggregate winners for 2022, who all won a \$50 voucher to GCP. Make sure you show your plants this year, because each one shown get points that goes towards your aggregate points, and there is four vouchers to be won in each division.

It is always difficult to fit much in on the first meeting of the year with everything above happening, with some corny jokes from the President, discussions on this and that, and finally getting Kevin Butler’s TV presentation to work. Before we knew it was supper time.

After much discussion your committee has agreed on a November meeting (at Burnside), as usual on the Wednesday night the 22nd November, and a dinner at the Warradale the following Thursday night the 30th November.

With family Christmas get togethers happening, Friday through to Sunday over that time of the year, we decided the safest option for the best attendance was the Thursday night. Unfortunately this won’t suit everybody, but we finally decided it was the best option that would suit the majority of members.

We still have a number of members that have not paid their membership fees for this year. Could you please see Christine at the March meeting and make yourself financial, as we really don’t want to be chasing you up personally into April.

We would also like to hear from anybody that is interested in becoming a judge. Please give your name to John Howard at the March meeting. We are looking at developing a program, so you can start your training this year.

As we seem to be having a lot of virus breakout over the last six months, at this month’s meeting, we are going to look at what is virused, and what is just

President message continued from previous page
markings on plants. We are also going to develop a booklet that you can tell what virused plants look like, in which photos from the presentation will be taken and put into the booklet, and presented to each member at a later date, once it is printed.

We will have some tables at the side of the hall so you can bring any plants in that you are worried about, and we can discuss what is wrong with them (if anything). Please leave space between your plants and any others on the table. It should be a very interesting topic for the evening.

If we do have any time left, we will then show the 2002 show presentation that was intended for the last meeting.

Don't forget to wear your club name badge and give your birthday month to John Howard if you haven't already done so. A great seedling is to be won each month. I look forward to seeing you all on the 22nd.

Kind Regards and stay safe and well. Graham Fear (President)

CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB of SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MEETING SUPPER ROSTER 2023

Each Month: Milk, Water, Juice, and eats will be purchased and provided by the Committee
(either Elayne Sanders or Graham Fear)

MEETING DATE	SET UP	SERVING	CLEAN UP
	Name and Contact	Name and Contact	Supervisor
22 Feb 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582 Joan Mason - 0417840750	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Elayne and Joan
22 March 2023	Graham Fear	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Joan, Margaret and Hilary
26 April 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Sylvia and Elayne	Elayne and Sylvia
24 May 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Elayne and Joan
28 June 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582		Elayne Sanders
26 July 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Elayne and Joan
23 August 2023	Graham Fear Sylvia Jackson 0403006057	Sylvia Jackson	Sylvia Jackson
27 September 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Elayne and Joan
25 October 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Erica	Elayne Sanders 5
22 November 2023	Elayne Sanders 0413522582	Joan Mason Margaret Curtis Hilary	Elayne and Joan

As noted in our President's report on page 4, there is an ever present plant virus threat in our collections. Virus in our plants is not a new problem and there have been major outbreaks in some collections going back many years. In spite of this, we continue to grow and flower quality plants even better, continually.

Below is the report on a very meritorious achievement by one of our newer growers, Cheryl Lordan.

Cheryl has been active, mainly within the beginner's group for probably 5 or 6 years. Read this report a few times to absorb what she has done and discovered. Her "Final Thoughts" at the end of the report are very worth considering, and I am sure your committee will discuss them at length as will other clubs, far and wide.

It is a significant achievement. Well done Cheryl, and thank you.

Virus testing an entire amateur orchid collection. Cheryl Lordan

Orchid viruses. We've heard about them, we know how they spread, we know what they do to our plants. We know they're out there, yet we all hope our collections are not infected. Sadly, I was not that lucky, some plants in my collection had virus.

Early last year I noticed one of my favourite plants looked a bit worse for wear, the leaves were getting brown and yellow patches, more leaf tip die back than previous years and the leaves weren't as vibrant green as usual. At the time I assumed these changes were from neglect, I hadn't been watering or fertilizing as well as I had in previous years, and it had been quite hot and dry that summer. I took my little plant and put him into an I.C.U area and started improving my care for it, and the other plants. After a few months of this care my little plant did not improve, if anything it was looking a little worse, even though he still flowered very well.

I started to wonder about virus infection. To confirm my concerns, I decided to virus test the plant using the Agitest Orchid virus 2-in-1 rapid test kit. The test came back positive for Odontoglossum ringspot virus (ORSV). This resulted in more questions: Are any of my other plants infected? If so, how many others? What should I do? I had purchased this plant from a nursery about 7 years prior, it was one of the first I purchased, and it had been healthy and productive, flowering every year I owned it, and this was the first time I had noticed anything on its leaves.

6

Refer pages 10 and 11 Photo Positive 2, 4 and 5

Some typical virus changes on some plants, including patient 0.

I thought back and realised I had owned this plant well before joining the Cymbidium club. This made me nervous, as prior to joining the club I knew NOTHING about orchid viruses. I was concerned that due to the age of this orchid and my previous non-existent hygiene practices there would be other infected plants. I went back through my collection, looking closely at every orchid for any leaf defects, discolouration, any changes that may indicate orchid virus infection. There were the normal, non concerning orchid leaf changes present: Leaf tip die-back, hail damage, insect damage, frayed/dry edges from previous show preparation etc. However, on some orchids there were suspicious changes, similar to what I had seen on the infected orchid.

Being a novice orchid enthusiast, I could not safely say whether these plants were infected, and if they were the only ones. I decided that I needed to test all of my orchids.

There were two options for testing procedures: batch testing or individual orchid testing. Batch testing involves adding test samples from up to 5 different plants and testing these with the same test at once. If the result comes back negative you're all clear for those plants. If it comes back positive you need to individually test all of the orchids. Individual testing is as it sounds, testing each orchid with its own test. There are some scientific calculations that can be used to judge which testing protocol is better for your situation, used in combination with the question you want answered: Which plants are infected? Or, do I have virus in my collection? I will not go into this here.

I elected to test every individual orchid, including recently deflasked seedlings, as well as non cymbidium orchids within my collection, of which were some dendrodiums, laelia, cattleya and zygotetulum. As my virus load was uncertain at this point, it would likely have ended up being more expensive, and time consuming to go with batch testing. I also wanted to know which plants were infected so as to then cull them. After ordering in enough tests to test all my orchids the testing began.

I worked out and set up a procedure protocol where I could test plants as quickly and efficiently as possible while ensuring all equipment, work areas and hands were cleaned and disinfected between each plant and test to avoid cross contamination of tests, and a new infection of plants. I worked from the least likely infected plants such as seedlings or newly purchased to the most likely infected, older plants. This meant quite a lot of time, effort and money went into testing my collection, but it was for a worthy goal.

Results

The end result of my orchid testing was devastating for me: 38 positive

results from 101 plants. This is a nearly 38% positive rate in my collection. All but 4 of these positive results were for ORSV, the remaining 4 were Cymbidium mosaic virus (CymmMV). I consider this result a high rate of viral infection, however I am unsure if professional growers/sellers would agree with this or not, there does not seem to be a consensus through Australia about viral infection rates. Interestingly no orchid was infected with more than one virus. Though in theory this could happen.

The positive results were usually very distinct and easy to read, the band was very dark, and usually became noticeable within minutes of the test being started. Initially I noticed a number of 'partial positive' results on the CymmMV line. This seemed to happen when too much sample was used, resulting in a heavy green discolouration of the buffer liquid from chlorophyll contamination. Each one of these plants was retested and found to be negative. I adjusted my sample size to avoid this, once I realised what was happening

Refer page 12 Test result

Here are two negative test results either side of a positive. You can see how distinct the positive line is.

Refer page 12 Test 2 There are three false positive results here, From the left they are numbers 1, 3 and 4. If you look closely you can see the grey lines at both the CymmMV and ORSV test lines. Repeat tests on these plants were clearly negative.

During testing I made the assumption that if a plant had been split previously, all splits of that plant were considered to be 1 plant. This means I tested one of the plant splits and if it was positive all the splits were considered positive. If the first split was negative all the other splits were tested to ensure nothing snuck past. This could mean I have a falsely elevated infection rate, but due to the cost of individual tests, time involved and my amateur grower status with no real expensive plants, just favourites, it was a better option for me to make.

Looking deeper into the results I noted that a large proportion of the positive results were plants I obtained prior to joining the orchid club. These plants would have likely been infected when I did not know about viruses or proper hygiene practices, I didn't sterilise equipment between plants, I reused old pots for different plants, sat them in communal saucers on hot days etc. Since joining the club my knowledge and hygiene practices have significantly improved and they seem effective.

Interestingly there were a number of positive results from plants I had owned for less than 3 months, some that I had only had for 1 week prior to

starting the testing. These plants could not have been infected by my practices, nor from my plants and thus must have been purchased infected. The 4 plants with CymMV all came from the same grower/seller. These plants were obviously infected prior to purchase as no other plant in my collection could have spread it to them. My neighbours are not gardeners, so travelling insects spreading the virus would be highly unlikely. No seedlings purchased through the club, or online nurseries were infected.

A large number of the positive plants showed no sign of infection, even after inspecting closely upon finding a positive result. This shows these viruses can silently sit within the plant for a long time.

Refer Page 11, Positive 1 and Page 13 Negative 1

One of the plants that tested positive that I struggle to see any sign of infections in (Right), next to a plant that tested negative (Left). Perhaps it is my beginners eyesight that is failing me?

Very few plants with any marks on the leaves, other than leaf tip die back, came back negative. There were some marks that I would have happily said are just sun damage, or other non-concerning spots. These came back positive. This was surprising as they certainly didn't look like the virus infected plants in the text books, nor what has been shown through the club beginners' group.

Refer Page 10 Positive 3

A Virus infected plant showing small marks on the leaves. There were 1-2 other leaves on the plant similar, others pristine. Would you think this was virus infected?

Final thoughts

Virus is everywhere, even plants we think are safe could be infected, and these plants could spread the infection further through a collection if not careful. Avoiding virus infection in a collection is hard, we need to be wary of where we purchase our orchids from. We also need to ensure we follow good hygiene practices, insect control and close monitoring of our collection, this may save your collection!

There are some questions all this testing has brought to my mind, perhaps questions that need further thought and discussion from the club, things that maybe we need to agree upon, being that we are a close community of growers, exhibitors and sellers whom take pride in their work:

Should we be testing our collections more often?

Should we automatically test any and all plant that joins our collection?

Should plants be tested prior to showing/sales through the club?

What do we do if we find a recently purchased plant has virus? Be it obviously infected or only tested positive.

What do we do if we find a grower/seller has virus in their collection?

Do we just learn to live with it, like we have with COVID? Throw out all obviously infected plants, hoping they haven't had a chance to spread, provided we have good hygiene practices?

***A little more from the Editor (Graham Morris)**

We need to be careful that we do not go over the top, and worry too much about virus in our cymbidiums. The report from Cheryl, while a bit disturbing, is actually rather reassuring. In Cheryl's collection, she had more than 60 percent of her plants free of CMV and ORSV, after realising that she had not practiced safe hygiene practices in early days.

She could not check for Fleck Virus, as the test kits she had available does not check for Fleck Virus. To check for fleck virus, a piece of the plant can be sent to the test facility of the University of Tasmania. The cost is relatively expensive, in the order of \$28 per test. The cost per plant could possibly be reduced somewhat, by using batch plant testing, as described in Cheryl's report.

When I travelled to Santa Barbara for a big orchid show, some years back, I observed growers there testing each plant coming into their collection, using home test kit available quite cheaply in the USA at the time. Perhaps we need to consider similar purchasing practices.

In year 2012 our club sponsored a research project by a very clever student at the University of Tasmania, to research virus in orchids, hoping to develop a simple test to indicate the presence of Fleck Virus in cymbidiums. The student, Ray Ali, was supervised by Associate Professor Calum Wilson, a world renowned leader in plant virus. Ray did develop a test to detect for Fleck Virus, but it is a complex process, and not further developed yet. Calum Wilson will be coming to Adelaide in a few months to speak at one of our monthly meetings. He will undoubtedly have a lot more to teach us about virus in orchids. It will definitely be a meeting not to miss.

Your committee have already discussed the current problem in some collections, and are being pro active to try to further educate all members about virus, and offer a service for less experienced or anxious growers to help identify signs of virus. Read about one of the first steps in the President's report.

A little hint. Treat virus in orchids in a similar way to what we teach our children, Safe Sex. Unless you know a plant is free of virus, treat it as though it could have virus.

Fleck virus is transmitted differently to CMV and ORSV, so different prevention methods are required. Stay tuned.



Above Photo (Positive 1)
Below Photo (Positive 2)

Refer page 9
Refer page 10





Above Photo (Positive 3)
Below Photo (Positive 4)

Refer page 10
Refer page 11





Above Photo (Positive 5)
Below Photo (Negative 1)

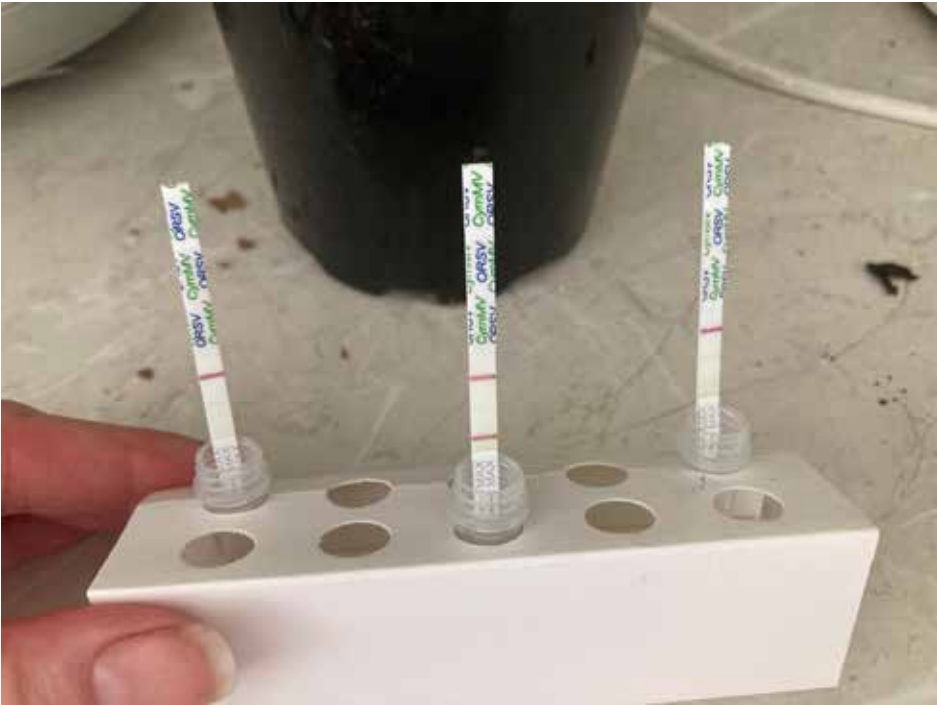
Refer page 11
Refer page 9





Above Photo (Test 2)
Below Photo (Test results)

Refer page 8
Refer page 8



The Port Adelaide Plaza

Cymbidium Club Winter Show

Your committee is delighted to announce that our winter show will now be held at the Port Adelaide Plaza, from Wednesday 2nd August to Sunday 6th August. We have negotiated a great support package for the club, and as it has been an outstanding success over the last three years, and now that the centre has finished it's redevelopment, it was a logical decision to make.

The support from the management at Port Adelaide has been outstanding, and they continue to offer us anything we need to hold a show, and you will notice we have now extended it for an extra day, now including the Sunday, as it has become one of their best trading days.

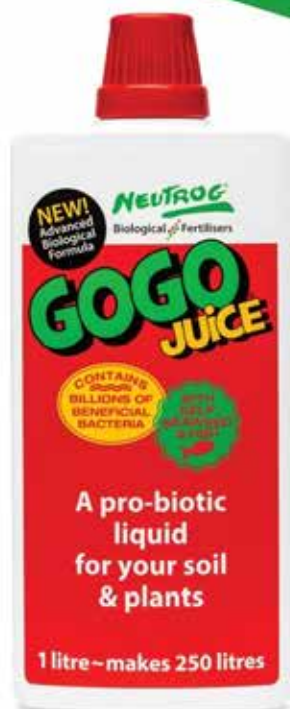
As you are all aware Munno Para, over the last five years has been getting more difficult each year to manage, with a lack of plants in all divisions, with sometimes just one or two plants in First and Second division being the major one, and a decline in support from centre management. Continuing decline of members in the northern suburbs, very few members willing to travel to operate the trading table, and very few volunteering to do so, a lack of plants for the trading table where is most cases, we have had to purchase plants so the table is operating for the three days, which was even worse than when we were there for seven days.

We thank Munno Para for our time there, but it's now time to move on to a new chapter for our club. There may be opportunities for a couple of days display and Trading Table or just a Trading Table later in September at another venue. We have already looked at a few venues.

That said, these two shows virtually return us more value than the three did, but we still need your help with everything that we do, especially helping on our Trading Table. We need your help at both Port Adelaide and West Lakes, so now there is no large distance to travel, there is no excuse for you not to give your club a helping hand. I look forward to seeing your name on the roaster to help this year at both our shows.

Port Adelaide Wednesday 2nd August to Sunday 6th August

West Lakes Saturday 26th August to Saturday 2nd September



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**The next Meetings of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**

**On Wednesday 22nd March 2023
at the Burnside Assembly Hall,
corner of Greenhill and Portrush Roads. Dulwich
The main meeting begins at 8.00pm.**

Any plants to be judged should be tabled well before the meeting please.

There will be a presentation about virus in cymbidium orchids.

A couple of members are finding more virus in their plants at the moment.

This meeting will show you photos of what to look out for, but will also discuss how to recognize it, and ways of preventing its spread.

Orchid virus has been with us for many, many years. Being educated in how to recognize it, and practicing good plant hygiene practices will help you avoid bad infections.

The beginner's group will meet on the stage at the front of the hall, starting at 7.15pm.

Newcomers are very welcome

Dates of monthly meetings through the year 2023 are below.

Always the fourth Wednesday, February to November

February meeting	22nd February
March meeting	22nd March
April meeting	26th April
May meeting	24th May
June meeting	28th June
July meeting	26th July
Winter Show	2nd August to 6th August at Port Adelaide
August meeting	23rd August
Spring Show	26th August to 2nd September at West Lakes
September meeting	27th September
October meeting	25th October
November meeting	22nd November

A lucky badge, and a lucky birthday prize will be given each meeting. You must wear your club badge to be eligible.

Please notify your birthday month to John Howard if you wish to be in the lucky birthday promotion.

TRY THESE AND OTHER PRODUCTS ON
OUR MEMBER'S EXCLUSIVE ONLINE STORE
AT SHOP.NEUTROG.COM.AU

**MAKE AN
IMPACT ON
YOUR LAWNS**



OTHER PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS



SEAMUNGUS

Seamungus is used for revitalising all plants throughout the year (including natives) and is ideal for establishing new plants, particularly bare-rooted roses.



KAHOONA

Kahoonaa is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants.



BUSH TUCKER

Bush Tucker is a complete, organic-based boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to meet the specialised needs of all Australian native plants.



POPUL8

POPUL8 is an Advanced Soil Biological formula. It is designed to occupy and populate the biological space in the soil and on plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit.



STRIKE BACK FOR ORCHIDS

Strike Back for Orchids liquid concentrate is an organic based chemically boosted fertiliser ideal for all potted flowering and fruiting plants ...not just orchids!



SUDDEN IMPACT FOR ROSES

Sudden Impact for Roses concentrate is ideal for all flowering plants except natives and bare-rooted roses.

If you require assistance please contact Jacinta on +61 8 8538 3513

NEUTROG
Biological Fertilisers

Most members should know that we have a really good, mates rates deal with Neutrog, to purchase their products at very special prices.

Generally, a club member needs to register on line via the Neutrog Web site. You will be given an account, and can set up a password to access the site to place an order.

There are four (4) times each year when you can order product, then collect it a short time later.
We get very discounted prices on all products.

There are a small number of members who cannot order on line, through either not having access to a suitable computer, or have had difficulty in logging in and placing their order.
If you are in that position, the club is about to set up a club account which you will be able to access by contacting a nominated member (Graham Morris), who you can place your order with and make your payment. You will need to make arrangements with him, on how and when to collect the order.

Dates of the orders and delivery are below. Orders can be placed well before the closing dates to avoid missing out.

<u>Autumn</u>		
Delivery	17-18/2/2023	Date depends on collection point
(store closes 6/2/2023)		

<u>Winter</u>		
Delivery	19-20/5/2023	Date depends on collection point
(store closes 8/5/2023)		

<u>Spring</u>		
Delivery	18-19/8/2023	Date depends on collection point
(store closes 7/8/2023)		

<u>Summer</u>		
Delivery	17-18/11/2023	Date depends on collection point
Store closes 6/11/2023		

I will try to get a product list and price list for those interested in this service.
It should be available at each monthly meeting



Garden City Plastics April 2023 SPECIAL

10-12 Hakkinen Road, Wingfield, SA 5013

Phone: (08) 8168 4100, Fax: (08) 8168 4199

Email: sa@gardencityplastics.com

25% Off Perlite

Available 1st April 2023 to 30th April 2023
(There may have been a price increase since your last purchase)



Neutrog are great supporters of our Club.

Please support them wherever possible and tell others about them

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia, was actively involved in developing and testing Strike Back for Orchids and endorses it's use.



PREPARE YOUR LAWNS FOR THE **SUMMER HEAT**

Sudden Impact for Lawns now comes coated with Neutrog's highly anticipated advanced biological POPULUS!

Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPULUS is a dual-purpose product designed to both stimulate growth and simultaneously fight pathogenic disease on all types of lawns, hedges, and trees.

The balance of nutrients and microbes is the secret to the success of Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPULUS. The ratio of nitrogen and potassium is ideal for promoting growth, the levels of iron and magnesium have been boosted and the 240+ microbes in POPULUS help with the nutrient liberation, disease suppression and growth promotion.



Free call 1800 656 644
neutrog.com.au

Rats and mice are active in our gardens at the moment. First Strike Rodenticide is very effective in controlling these pests.

Available from Graham Morris 0419 823 724. Call if you need some.

Packs of 10 baits \$5.00, Packs of 25 \$10.00

Available at the Trading table at the back of the hall, on meeting nights.

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This new product is getting good reviews from growers everywhere who have been using it for some time. Rodents cause lots of damage if not controlled. Be prepared. Have some on hand.

Reminder

**Don't forget to give your birthday date
to John Howard
if you wish to participate in the Birthday prize draw
each month**

**Please write your name and BIRTHDAY MONTH on a
paper and hand it to John as early as possible**

TRADING TABLE SUPPLIES

250mm Pot			\$1.20	
200mm Pot			80c	
180mm Pot			60c	
140mm Pot			40c	
100mm Pot			30c	
Plastic Trays	\$2.20	(55cm x 35cm x 8cm holds six 180mm pots)		
Stakes Bundles 3ft (25)			\$4.50	
Stake Bundles 4ft (25)			\$6.00	
Twist Ties Bundle (100)			\$2.00	
Calcium Nitrate			\$2.50	
Yo Yo's			\$2.00	
Single Head Fogger Dropper			\$4.50	
Trisodium Phosphate (sterilizer)			\$5.00	(500g) \$10.00 (1kg)
Virus Kits			\$7.50	
Linuron Hericide (100g)			\$10.00	
Plastic Labels (25)			\$2.00	

For normal orders contact John Howard on 0419 814 981, for stock availability

For larger orders 30 pots or under per size, contact Wayne Baylis, on 0409 801 224

Any orders over 30 pots per size should be sourced by the box configuration from Garden City Plastics,
Available to all club members in bulk,
Contact Natasha on 8168 4100 to order.



Flower of the night February meeting 2023
Zig Zag 'Kiwi' Grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju





Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia
Justinas Beauty “Cotton Candy” (Templestowe’s Charm x Pink Silk)
Grown by John Moon

Seedling of the Year 2022