

'Cymbidium Chatter'

Edition 2c March 2020



Cym Hazel's Tower 'Cinnabar'

Hybridiser: W Caughlan

Weegie is one of the top growers in the USA.

Staying in touch!

As we face the challenges of a different lifestyle it is important that we stay in touch. I will do my best through 'Cymbidium Chatter', to keep you informed of what is happening on the Cymbidium scene. From today, 23 March, I will endeavour to produce one magazine per week until such time as we can safely enjoy each other's company again. While I have access to a reasonably large quantity of photographs, mostly from overseas growers at this time of year, you can assist me in the production of a magazine more relevant to our needs by providing photographs of flowering plants, problem plants, short articles etc. Please remember that the flowering plants don't have to be show winners— it would just be great to see what is in flower at this very early stage of our flowering season!

'Cymbidium Chatter' will, for the immediate future, be your point of contact with COSV. The committee will be constantly reviewing the situation, but must, as I'm sure you will understand, take into consideration all medical advice and government directives. No doubt, we will all miss our monthly gatherings, the committee is thinking of you all and hope that you stay safe and well during these very challenging times. Take care!

I hope the following post from Facebook gives you a laugh, as an ex-teacher it certainly made me chuckle!

**Home schooling is going well.
Two students suspended for
fighting and one teacher fired
for drinking on the job!**

Laramie Eagle

Valley Splash x Khanebono



Laramie Eagle 'Jacinta'

Laramie Eagle 'Snow White'



Laramie Eagle 'TeePee'

The Laramie Eagle grex is producing some wonderful cultivars. Created by George Serhan, NSW, when he crossed Valley Splash 'Awesome' x Khanebono 'Jacinta'. We have already seen Laramie Eagle 'Pink Champagne' win the OSCOV Cymbidium of the Year, 2019, for Terry Poulton.

Featured on this page are three more cultivars, all predominantly white. George Serhan flowered the cultivar 'Jacinta' and Terry Poulton flowered 'TeePee' and 'Snow White'.

Of the three, 'Jacinta' certainly has the potential to do extremely well on the show bench. This flower has the very faint brushing that we associate with Valley Splash 'Awesome'. The flower count is extremely good and the arrangement of the shapely flowers on the spike, is everything we look for in a show bench orchid. The contrasting lip color sets the flowers off beautifully!

'Snow White' also has potential. Being a very clean white with a contrasting lip, it will always catch-the-eye, however on this flowering the flowers are spaced too far apart. White flowers are very important when building a stand/display as they tend to lift all the other colors around them, so I am sure TeePee will persevere with this one.

Valley Splash 'Awesome' is still a beautiful flower in its own right. The color of the flower varies quite significantly, depending on what conditions it flowers under. At its best it is very difficult to beat in the pastel class of any show. I personally believe it has been under utilised as a parent. Looking at the results here I'm sure it could be put to good use to produce clean white intermediate sized flowers.

Quarantine – this is something on everyone’s mind at the present time and just as we currently must take significant care, you must also apply strict practices/procedures to any plant you suspect of carrying a virus. Viruses can be spread quite easily, quarantining any plant (putting it in an area away from your other plants) is probably the best method until you can determine whether or not the plant is indeed carrying a virus. Virus test kits can be purchased from Andrew Wagstaff or else you can send a suspect leaf off to a laboratory in Tasmania— purchasing a test kit from Andrew is certainly the cheaper option.

Please don’t think you are a poor grower just because you discover a virused plant in your collection, grow Cymbidiums for long enough and you are bound to come across a diseased plant at some stage. In my own collection at the present time I have a large plant of Valley Splash ‘Awesome’ that is in quarantine. I have no doubt that the plant is carrying a virus but I am hoping that it will flower so I can see how the flower is affected. From my past experiences viruses don’t always show up in Cymbidium flowers whereas they are easily identifiable on a Cattleya flower. Look (zoom-in) at the photographs below and you will see the tell-tale signs of Cymbidium mosaic virus on the leaves of Valley Splash ‘Awesome’.



MAKE SURE YOU ZOOM-IN

On second thoughts, I won’t be waiting for this plant to flower it will be discarded immediately. I will put it into a black plastic bag, place the bag in full sun for about 10 days and then remove the plant and put it into the green waste bin. Many years ago I would have burned the plant.

Some more photographs from Peter Alonso, USA



Valley Splash 'Awesome'



Memoria Amelia Earhart



Miami Vice



Ruth Kallman x King Cass

Send any photographs or articles to: grb17@bigpond.com