

'Cymbidium Chatter'

Edition 9 June 15 2020



Cym mastersii x *Cym elegans*

Welcome to Cymbidium Chatter. The Winter gods are smiling upon us, even though the mornings have been frosty and bitterly cold, the sunny days make it all worthwhile! The days are about to get even better as we head off to Lakes Entrance for a few days break. The forecast is for 18 degrees on Saturday and only 12 overnight! Providing the easterly wind is not blowing, conditions should be just about perfect for a spot of fishing. Here's hoping!

Thank you to those people who are making an effort to contribute to Cymbidium Chatter. This edition has Part B from Des Betcher, as well as a few photographs from Barbara Clemson and Glenn Brown. I haven't got time for much in the way of articles, the fishing gear needs my attention. If time permits there will be a more detailed edition next week, then again, if the weather is really kind, we may just prolong our stay in East Gippsland!

A Primary Hybrid



Hi Geoff, an early season primary hybrid, out at a the moment. I bought it with a single spike a couple of years ago and this year it has given me three. It's Cym mastersii x Cym elegans. One of Collectors Corner's crosses, that you may remember from your time there.

Cheers, Barbara Clemson

This was a very popular plant and was quickly pounced upon by customers at Collectors Corner. Both parents can be seen in the flowers, most of which had a slight fragrance. There was very little variation in the seedlings, in fact they could have easily been mistaken for mericlones.

Primary Hybrids will only appeal to a small group of growers but they do make excellent pot plants. The beauty of this particular cross is that it flowers well ahead of your typical show bench style flowers. This is a small growing plant that will reward you with a fine display of flowers! **Remember** beauty is in the eye of the beholder!



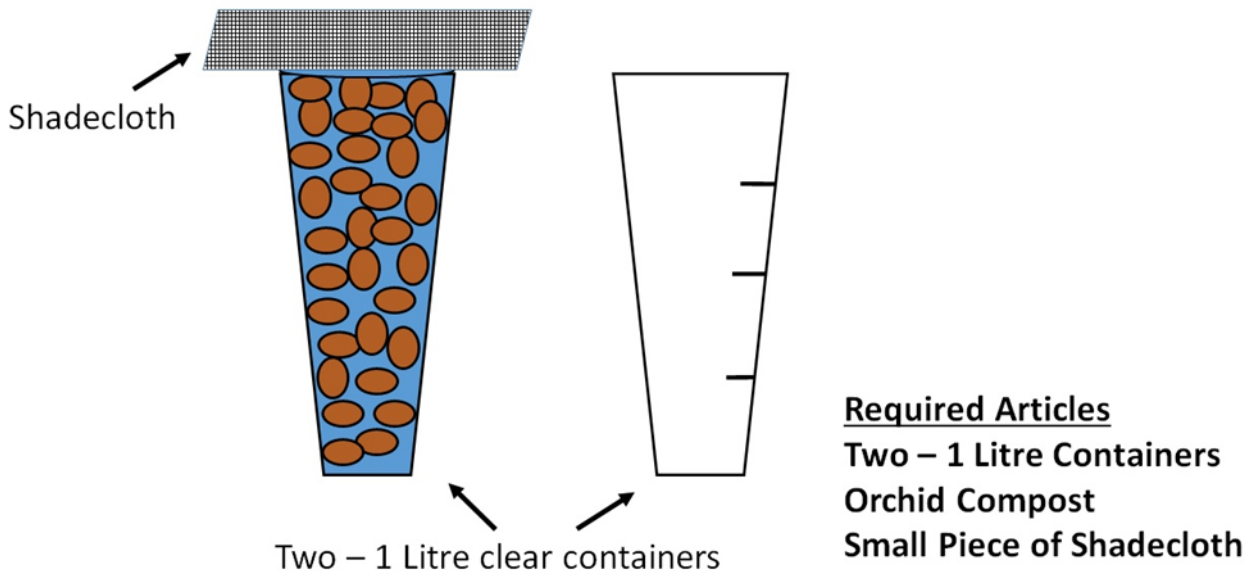
Cymbidium tracyanum 2n - there is no disputing that this flower is a true *Cym tracyanum* but where are the hairs on the lip and the side lobes? As mentioned last week **observation skills** need to be developed. The tell-tale hairs on the callus ridges are very evident.



Cym (tracyanum x Pywacket 'Jaguar') x tracyanum 'Peach Perfume' - there is a lot of *tracyanum* in this hybrid. *Cym Pywacket* is (*Cym Tethys x Cym tracyanum*) and one could be excused for thinking it was the straight species, not a lot has changed. The flower form is closer to the tetraploid flowers that we have been seeing.

Both the photographs above were taken by Glenn Brown. Glenn's plants are grown in an igloo.

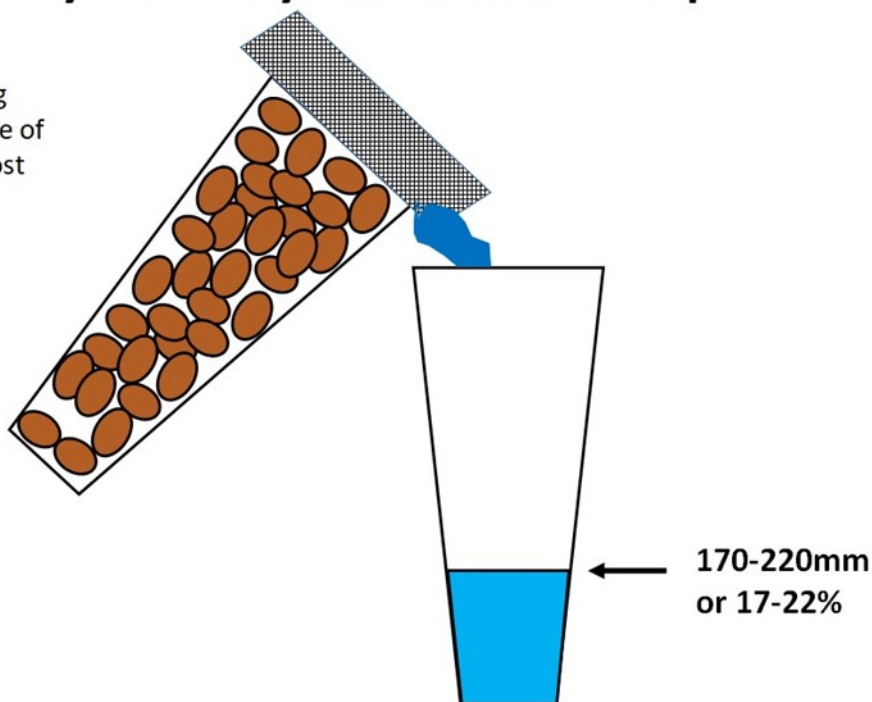
Air Porosity Test of your Orchid Compost



Air Porosity Test of your Orchid Compost

Air Porosity Ratio of a potting medium in a pot is the volume of air space between the compost particles.

AIR Porosity Ratio for **CYMBIDIUM** Orchid Potting mix is 17% - 22%



Kevin Handreck developed this method to check the Air Porosity Ratio of composts for Cymbidiums. During the 1990s Kevin worked for the CSIRO and was engaged in research on plant nutrition, potting mixes, composts, and landscaping soils.



Left: This is the plant of *Cym tracyanum* that Glenn Brown gave me several weeks ago. You can see the developing spike with the flowers still in tight bud. Glenn's own plant, which was at the same stage as this one, is now bursting into full flower. Why? My plants are grown outdoors and basically exposed to the elements. Glenn grows his plants in an igloo. The temperature would fluctuate in the igloo but I am fairly certain that with the sunny days we have been enjoying, it probably gets into the 20's for a short period of time each day. The warmer temperature would be enough to accelerate the development of the flower buds. So if you can, find the warmest possible place in your growing environment. Don't take the plant indoors to hasten the flowers development as the flower buds could all drop off. It is always wise to wait until several flowers have opened fully before taking a plant indoors.



Left: a few plants I have moved under a solid roof, part colorbond and part polycarbonate. This an el fresco area with bistro blinds at each end., so the plants are protected from strong winds and frost. This is the warmest spot I can find at the moment. The front of this area is open to the east, so it is exposed to southeasterly breezes from Westernport Bay.

The plant on the right is a Cym Arachnid (*Cym erythraeum* x *Cym Death Wish*). Last season I trained the spikes straight up. This year I decided to allow the spikes to develop naturally, I had hoped they would arch over but as you can see one has gone straight up, the other is somewhere in between arching and erect (I'm sure Ern would have had a term for this, but I'm leaving that alone!) I expect the flowers on the large spike to open over the next few days.

Contributions to grb17@bigpond.com