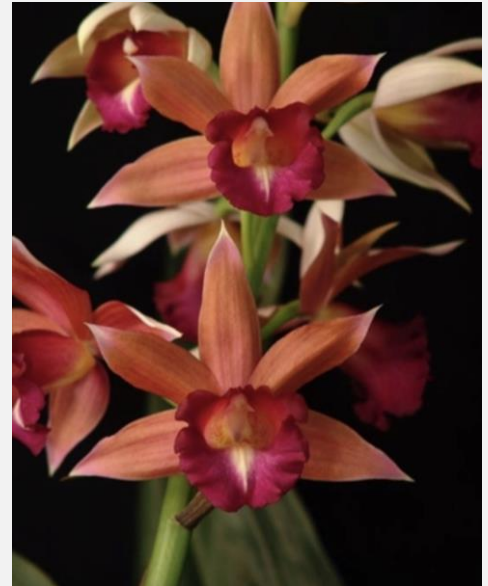


Orchid of the Month –Phaius– AOS Culture Sheet

submitted by Susan Makar

Phaius and the related *Gastrorchis* can be propagated in an unusual way. Once the flowers are spent, the flower stem can be cut above the base and just below where the first flower was attached. The remaining section is from 1 to several feet (30+ cm) long. Below each bract on the stem is a bud capable of producing a new plant. The stems are laid horizontally in a flat of moist sphagnum moss. Both ends are covered with moss to prevent drying out. The flat containing many stems is then placed under the bench and kept moist. As soon as the young plants have 2 or 3 roots, they can be snapped off the parent stem and placed in individual pots. Plantlets will require 2 to 3 years to attain flowering size.



--- CULTURE ---

Temperature:	60 degrees F (15 C) minimum
Light:	2400-3600 footcandles; moderate to bright filtered light
Water-Humidity:	40-70% humidity; ample water during periods of growth, once growth is completed, keep the plant much drier in slightly cooler conditions.
Fertilizer:	Medium 1) Monthly with a 1-1-1 ratio as recommended on the container; Medium 2) When the inflorescence appears, with a 1-1-1 ratio.
Potting:	1) A mixture of 1 part peat : 1 part soil or 2) A mixture of 1 part loam : 1 part rotted cow manure : 1 part peat
References:	Sheehan, Tom & Marion, An Illustrated Survey of Orchid Genera, Timber Press, Portland OR, 1994.
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