

## Orchid of the Month –*Cycnoches*– AOS Culture Sheet

submitted by Susan Makar

<b>Temperature:</b>	Warm
<b>Light:</b>	Bright open shade with very good air movement.
<b>Water-Humidity:</b>	During the period the plants are in growth, maintain even moisture and high humidity. Once the plants have flowered, water should be reduced or stopped until new growth develops enough to produce new roots. Spider mites are the main enemy of <i>Cycnoches</i> and are brought on by hot, dry conditions which is why it is vital to maintain good moisture and good air movement while the plants are in growth.
<b>Fertilizer:</b>	Balanced or high nitrogen fertilizer while the plants are in growth. I believe it is not possible to overfertilize <i>Cycnoches</i> while they are in growth. I mix a teaspoon of Nutricote in my media when potting, top dress with black cow or well rotted animal manure plus applying a half-strength liquid fertilizer at least every-other watering. As the plants mature, I change to something like 5-50-17 or other bloom-booster. No fertilizer is given when the plants are dormant.
<b>Potting:</b>	Sphagnum moss in clay pots; medium-fine fir bark in clay or plastic pots; mounted with sphagnum at the roots. Hanging the pots or mounts is best because this presents the best air movement around the plants. Remember that mounted plants will require more frequent watering – two or more times per day in the hottest season.
<b>References:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carr 1995 <i>Cycnoches, 165 years of Confusion</i>. Privately published to be found on the Florida North Central Judging Center website <a href="http://www.orchidjudges.org">www.orchidjudges.org</a></li> <li>2. Carr 2000 <i>The Cycnoches ventricosum Complex</i>, Orchid Digest, vol. 64 (1) pp. 29-38</li> </ol>
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