



# St. Augustine Orchid Society

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## My Favorite Orchid

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I don't really have one favorite orchid. If it grows and blooms, it's today's favorite. Somewhere along the line I was advised to buy at least one orchid in bloom every month of the year, and since most bloom just once a year, that takes care of having one in bloom year round.



Gga. Quinquenervis

For your information, it works. If it's a white orchid, I love it just a little more. However, to be honest, I love the Gongoras because their blooms are so weird, no one believes they're orchids. I started growing them because Mike Heinz broke up a large Gga. Quinquenervis and passed lots of them around. They're not hard to grow and though it's supposed to be winter, they are outside and getting ready to bloom again!

Sue suggested I tell you why I love the Miltonias. The first one I purchased at one of the Jacksonville shows because my Grandfather's name was Milton. Good reason to choose. Well, it was a Miltoniopsis, one that needed to have cooler weather, so it didn't last very long. It was really beautiful with its pansy like huge blooms.

Then the following year, I heard about Miltonias that like low country and high temperatures, *Miltonia moreliana* and its progeny. I managed to find one in Jacksonville and lo and behold, it really did grow. The first year it had one bloom and I really loved it, so I kept it where I had it and the following year and it rewarded me with five blooms. I'm not sure what happened the third year, but it didn't bloom at all! I was sick. Last year, it apologized and gave me



*Miltonia moreliana*

thirteen! How can you not love a plant that gives you your family's lucky number? Jack Higgins will hate it because it's lovely shades of lavender! I have mounted a picture of it in my stairwell. I've been asked to share - well, sorry folks, it ain't gonna happen! If you want one, you'll have to find one at a show.