

Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

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June 2013



We are novices at the growing and nurturing of orchids and any other plant for that matter. We live in Moultrie Foreside an ungated subdivision east of US 1 at the end of Vaill Point Road. We have a half acre wooded (oak trees) lot.

Our first orchid was a Vanda purchased from a vendor at a farmer's market about 6 years ago. Through ignorance and not the best advice from various sources, the Vanda died a slow and hopefully not painful death. Subsequent to that Yvonne procured a few more orchids and attended her first SAOS meeting about 3 years ago. Today we are active members and learning new things at every SAOS meeting and other orchid functions. Presently we have about 140 orchids of many varieties.



We grow our orchids in our yard under a pergola, oak tree and between oak trees. We water when we think they need it depending on weather (humidity, breezes, sunshine and temperature). When it gets cold (50 degrees F) all of the orchids are moved into our glassed-in porch or garage. This past winter I think we moved them in and out 5 or 6 times.

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We started fertilizing with water soluble Better-Gro mixes 11-35-15 or 20-14-13 at 1 tsp. per gallon. When our orchid quantity went above 50 to 60 plants, we switched to time release fertilizer Floricote Top Dress 10-5-14, which we apply at ½ tbsp. and 1 tbsp. for 4 inch and 6 inch pots respectively.

During the past couple of years we have been quite successful with blooms and plant longevity having only lost fewer than 5 plants during that time mostly due to ignorance on our part. Most of our knowledge and success have been obtained from the SAOS newsletter, Keiki Club get together, meeting lectures, discussions with other orchid growers and participation in the potting clinics at Ace Hardware.



Our future plans include a small green house on our property. The size and design are pending.