

Cultural Interest Plant of the Month

April 2016



Plant Name:

***C.cernua* 'Nora Lovie Siegel'
AM/AOS [McCulloch]**

Exhibitor:

Ken Haase

Owners Comment:

Housing: Orchid is grown in a covered shade house with 60% shade on roof, including solar weave and 50% on sides. Four fans run during daylight hours to circulate hotter air that gathers in the gable roof. This orchid is a cool to warm grower and requires high light at around 2000 to 3000 foot candle This orchid is mounted on cork and is hung over the benches to maximise the amount of filtered light

Feeding: Orchid is fertilised using Horticultural Solutions HSO22 and HSO12 alternating fortnightly between both 12 months of the year. Rate is 1 gram per litre. On alternate fortnight orchids are foliar fed using HSO22 and HSO12 at same rate above but also adding Amino K and Hy-san to the foliar feed.

Watering: In summer because the orchid is mounted on cork it is watered at least daily and sometimes more in excessive heat. Watering or misting is less in winter but would be misted on average every day in mid morning after it has warmed up a little. However take note of the prevailing weather conditions and alter the frequency depending on whether it is extremely hot summer days or cooler than normal conditions. The orchid house is also misted regularly especially on hot days.

Any Other Cultural Notes: This orchid grows best on a mount and is currently mounted on cork which dries quickly after watering. I have noted that another grower grows the same orchid very successfully mounted on tree fern mount.

The name of this genera has changed recently from *Sophronitis* to *Cattleya.cernua* and is one of the warmer growers of the previously named *Sophronitis*. Most prefer cooler temperatures.