



Cultural Interest Plant of the Month May 2017

Plant Name:

**Fredclarkera. Alexa's
Raspberries**

(*Mo. Painted Desert* x *Ctism. Expansum*)

Exhibitor:

Christine Martin

Owners Comments:

Housing: My plant is in a shade house with 70% shade cloth plus solar weave and 50% on the sides. It gets high light all day. It is hanging about 1/2 way up about 2.5m from the roof. In winter I stop watering by the end of May until the new growth is about 10cm in spring.

Feeding: I feed 1/4 strength every watering with GF9 a high potassium fertilizer and in spring when I repot into fresh sphagnum moss I put a few pellets of Plantacote 6month slow release fertilizer (N10 : P3.9 : K15.7). Every 4 weeks I flush my green house, I use a 20 litre Sprayer.

Watering: I use tank water and hand water when needed which could be daily in summer to 2 weekly in winter. All my Vandaceous orchids are bare rooted so they get the most water.

Potting Medium: I repot every spring into fresh NZ sphagnum moss, firm on the bottom of the pot but not so dense on top.

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Any Other Cultural Notes: I use a disinfectant every 4 weeks (ZYDOX) and use a systemic fungicide every 3-4 months, I have no need for pesticide but treat the green houses for garlic snails once a year in spring. This was the plant's first flowering.