



# Tuckers Orchid Nursery

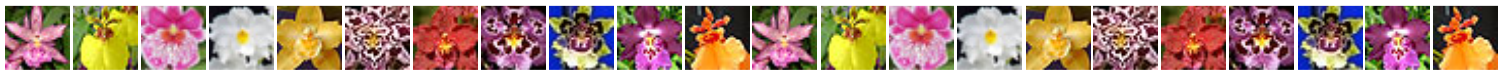
Presents...

## Orchids for Everyone



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Editor: Susan Tucker



### FROM ROSS THE BOSS

#### Welcome back –

This year is going to be remembered for the rest of our lives as the year of trouble and turmoil. Yet, on the bright side, your orchids should be looking and growing better what with all those hours of care and attention you were able to give them with no other pressures to take your time. You will be up to date with your repotting if the number of bags of bark, fern fibre and sphagnum moss we have sent out lately is any indication from our customers. If you haven't got all your necessary supplies, go online to our shop and check out the accessories category.

As spring approaches don't forget to increase your fertiliser frequency. Here in Auckland we have had almost no Orchid shows with very little opportunities for fellow Auckland orchid growers to get their orchid fix. Whilst we have been able to have a small shop front presence at Level 3, once we move to "Stage Two" we will be able to open our full showroom and have our own orchid show together with all our orchid friends.

During lockdown we have carried on growing many new varieties of orchids and can offer a great new selection of plants to tempt you filling all that extra space. Our plans include (but delayed, of course) a new website (almost able to talk to you, the customer) and to get rid of all those annoying glitches we often have, and new staff to help Susan with customer relations through social media, etc.

Over the last 12 months we have worked very hard on producing a huge range of Cymbidium seedlings as there doesn't seem to be many available. Also, lots of new Cattleyas, Odontoglossums, Dendrobiums, Sarcochilus, Zygopetalums and lots of new species as well as plenty of other orchids, Hoyas and a few house plants.

I hope to see you soon.

Some of our new releases:



Brsdm. Gilded Urchin 'Ontario'



Mps. Rubenesque 'Brockton'



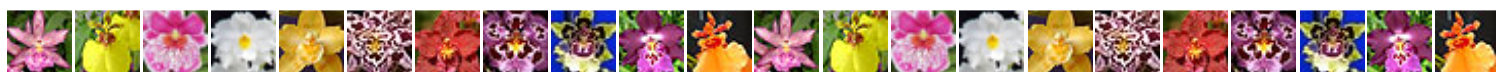
Nhc. Parquet 'Uptown Girl'

## SUSAN SAYS

Now that spring has sprung and the weather is beginning to warm up we have to consider the changing environments our plants are in – stronger light, longer daylight hours, etc. It is time to consider moving plants that have been sheltered from the cold to cooler positions allowing for the warming temperatures. Also consider moving plants that have been in brighter light over winter when the sun has not been that strong to positions where they are protected from the growing intensity of the sun's rays.

Another consideration is the plants' individual watering regimes. With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours your plants will be photosynthesising more and therefore require an increased frequency of watering. Remember, you are primarily looking after your plant's root system when watering and feeding. If you have your plant positioned in the correct light and temperature conditions, when you look after the root system's needs, the roots will look after the rest of the plant's needs.

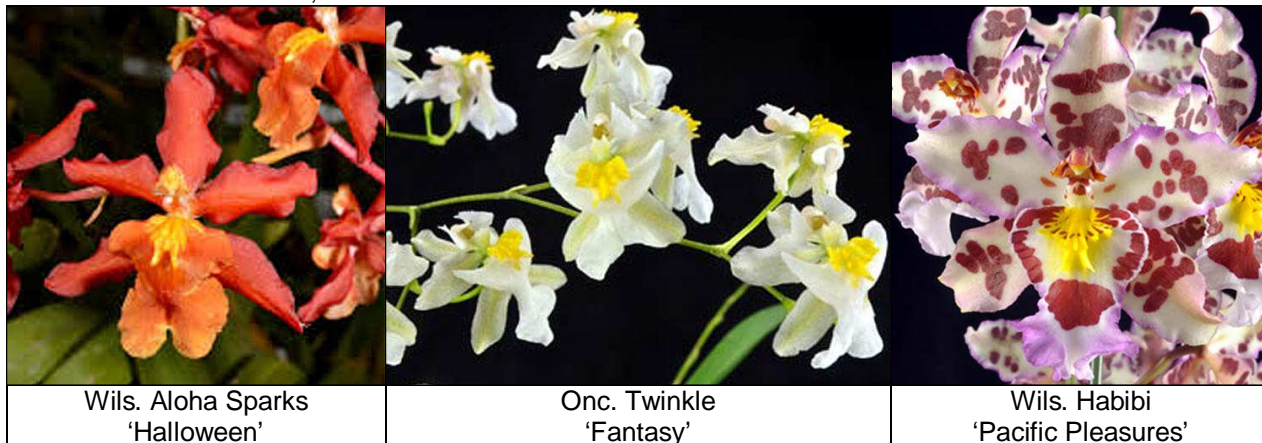
Just one last tip, observation is key. Look for signs that your plant is unhappy and is not carrying pests and diseases. Identify and treat as quickly as possible.



## FROM THE TEAM

We would like to specially thank you for your support during the latest lockdown. We received quite a large number of orders and we greatly appreciate them in light of the lack of sales from our shop and the orchid shows. Because we were unable to send out any orders whilst we were stuck at Level 4, (everything was considered non-essential items) we had a mammoth task ahead of us trying to get all these orders out once we moved to Level 3. Resources were pulled in from other departments so that we could get as many orders out in as quick a time as possible. We can now say that we are up to date. We thank you for your patience as we worked through this issue.

Some more of our new releases;



Wils. Aloha Sparks  
'Halloween'

Onc. Twinkle  
'Fantasy'

Wils. Habibi  
'Pacific Pleasures'

## SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

6 pack of Oncidiinae size B	\$80 incl GST
10 pack of Oncidiinae size B	\$130 incl GST
6 pack of Oncidiinae size B+	\$90 incl GST
10 pack of Oncidiinae size B+	\$145 incl GST
6 pack of Oncidiinae size C	\$110 incl GST
10 pack of Oncidiinae size C	\$175 incl GST

*When ordering a multipack please check the individual product listings for the sizes available for each product. Note, new releases are generally only available as a Size B plant and only occasionally available in larger sizes. Please list any choices/preferences in the Comments box.*

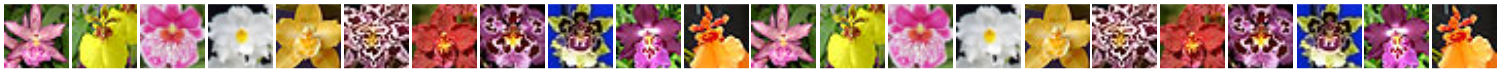
## **NOTE:**

**These specials are now available for ordering through our website. Look for them in the Online Orchid Club category. Please let us know if you do not see this category option.**

Remember, we do not list every plant we have on our website. We have quite a few limited number plants available for purchase. If you are looking for something in particular and it is not showing on our website, ask us and see if we have it.

To place an order you can email us at [info@tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz](mailto:info@tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz) or visit our website [www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz](http://www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz) to view our range. Note, you will get faster and more efficient service by ordering through the website. We are happy to send these orchids anywhere in NZ only.

**We strongly recommend that you place your orders through the website. If you place your order via email, someone could be online ordering the same limited number item before we can check the email and you may miss out.**



Some of the various repotting items we stock:



## **FEATURE OF THE MONTH – ONCIDIUMS**

Oncidiinae, traditionally were Odontoglossums, Oncidiums and intergenerics (see below) Odontoglossum means toothed tongue. (Greek) They were very much in fashion at the end of the 19th century, with intrepid explorers sent to South America to plunder as many plants as they could find for the orchid enthusiasts of the era that could not get enough of them. Sadly most did not survive the trip back to England and now they are scarce in the wild. They have recently become more popular again but who knows the amount of fine genetic material that was lost forever by the greed of a few growers. There are a 100 or so species which originate from the mountainous regions of Central America to the northern parts of South America. The plants will hybridize freely, with many crossings having been made with other related genera such as Oncidium, Miltonia, Brassia, Cochlioda and Rhynchostele. Many intergeneric hybrids have been made, which has contributed to their rising popularity, and breeding with Oncidiums has made the plants more tolerant to varying cultural conditions.

An interesting note, there's recently been lots of taxonomic changes made with the Odontoglossum/Oncidium family of orchids, for example, Odontoglossum crispum is now called *Onc alexandrae*, *Odm pescatorei* is now known as *Onc nobile* & some of the Oncidiums have moved to the Gomesa family. It does get a bit confusing for us all. Changes are still continuing to happen and we have started changing our plant labelling to reflect these changes. The RHS recognises this and will receive registration forms showing the old taxons but will register them under the new names.

Popular Intergeneric hybrids include:

Odontocidium – Odontoglossum x Oncidium (Odcdm) (now mostly Oncidium)

Odontioda – Odontoglossum x Cochlioda (Oda) (Now mostly Oncidium)  
 Wilsonara – Odontioda x Oncidium (Wils) (Now Oncidium or Oncostele)  
 Odontonia – Odontoglossum x Miltonia (Odnna) (Now Rhynchonia or Miltonidium)  
 Miltonidium – Miltonia x Oncidium (Mtdm)  
 Beallara - Oncidium x Miltonia x Brassia (Now mostly Aliceara)  
 Dancing Ladies e.g. flexuosum, Sweet Sugar (now Gomesa)  
 Now you see why it's driving us nuts with all the name changes. Sigh....

Some more of our new releases;



## CULTURE OF ONCIDIUMS:

Oncidiums are another orchid which will grow alongside your Cymbidiums. Generally, the culture of these plants is the same – small bark for small plants, and larger grades of bark for the larger plants. Water regularly every week with Tuckers Growing or Flowering Fertilizers.

Some plants, especially the *varicosum* or Dancing lady type, have the bulbs are joined together by a longish rhizome, and this can have the habit of each new bulb growing upwards. This gives the indication that these Oncidiums love to climb, either out of the pots or on slabs. Some growers are extremely successful with slab culture for Oncidiums and create magnificent displays. Our best effort has been with *Onc flexuosum*, grown on a slab for over 20 years and it flowers every year with over 20-30 stems and hundreds of flowers. It grows outdoors hanging on a plum tree and gets a little fertilizer now and again.

Keep the Twinkle types in small pots; they will flower in 7cm tubes in No 2 bark. Repot as the plant grows, but it will remain compact and flower its heart out.

Flowering times of Oncidiums are typical of other Odont alliance plants. When the growth matures, it flowers at any time of the year – sometimes several times a year.

**Light:** Oncidiums must be given plenty of light or flowering will be inhibited. Leaf colour should be light green and sometimes, may even have a pinkish tinge.

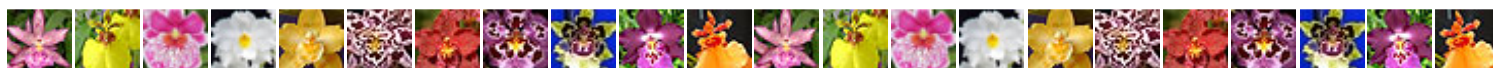
**Watering:** Oncidiums love it when there is a rapid alternation of wet and dry conditions. For this reason they often do well grown on slabs where they can be watered daily and dry rapidly. Most Oncidiums require a short rest period after flowering.

**Feeding:** They are not heavy feeders, but benefit from a weekly liquid feed of Tuckers Flowering Orchid food when they are growing rapidly. No feed is required during their rest phase.

**Ventilation and Humidity:** They like about 60% humidity and constantly moving air which quickly dries out their roots and prevents spotting of the flowers and leaves.

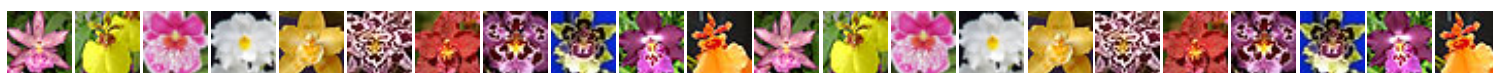
**Temperature:** Most will do very well in the intermediate greenhouse. A minimum night temperature of 12°C is average.

**Repotting:** Perforated plastic pots or clay pots are ideal as the roots can dry quickly. Bark mixes are usually satisfactory and keep the pots on the small side. Repotting can be yearly or every second year.



The above are general culture tips. The Oncidiums fall into four main cultural groups if you wish to be more specific.

Group	Characteristics or names	Light	Temps	Water	Examples
1	Oncidiums with Mottled leaves	Med	Warm	No rest period	<i>O papillio</i> <i>O kramerianum</i>
2	Onc with tender pseudobulbs like odonts	Med	Varies	No rest period	<i>O sphacelatum</i> <i>O varicosum</i> <i>O ornithorhynchum</i> <i>O macranthum</i>
3	Oncidiums without pseudobulbs or with atrophied pseudobulbs	Med	Int-Warm	Restrict severely after flowering	<i>O lanceanum</i> <i>O luridum</i> <i>O cavandisheanum</i> <i>O straminaum</i>
"	Equitant Oncidiums	Med	Cool-Int	Restrict severely after flowering	<i>O triquentrum</i> <i>O pulchellum</i>
"	Oncidium with rat tail leaves	High	Int	Absolute rest for 1 month at least after flowering	<i>O jonesianum</i> <i>O splendidum</i> <i>O stipitatum</i>
4	Oncidiums with hard round pseudobulbs	High- full sun	Cool-Int	No rest period. Essential to dry out between watering	<i>O cheiroporum</i> <i>O onustum (Zel)</i> <i>O tigrinum</i> <i>O maculatum</i>



## SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES

### Oncidium [Onc.] nobile (syn. Odontoglossum pescatorei)

**ORIGIN/HABITAT:** Colombia. In Colombia, this orchid is found in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes near Bogota in the north to near the Venezuelan border in the south. Plants grow on trees in open forests in the cloudforest region at 6550-7850 ft. (2000-2400 m).

**PLANT SIZE AND TYPE:** Moderate to large, 9-14 in. (24-35 cm) sympodial epiphyte.

**PSEUDOBULB/STEM:** 2.4-3.0 in. (6.0-7.5 cm) long. The clustered, egg-shaped pseudobulbs are laterally compressed with 2 sharp edges. Longitudinal furrows develop on the flattened sides as the growth becomes older. Each pseudobulb is partially enclosed at the base by 2-3 leaf-bearing sheaths.

**LEAVES:** 7-11 in. (18-28 cm) long by 0.9-1.0 in. (2.3-2.5 cm) wide, sometimes growing as long as 18 in. (45 cm). A pair of sharply pointed, soft-textured, lanceolate leaves are carried at the apex of each pseudobulb. They are narrowed toward the base where they are folded longitudinally along the midvein to create a narrow, fairly long, petiolelike stem. The blades on the basal sheaths are similar in shape to the apical leaves but are 3-5 in. (8-12 cm) long by 0.8 in. (2 cm) wide.





**INFLORESCENCE:** Up to 24 in. (60 cm) long including the 7 in. (17 cm) long peduncle. The erect to arching flower spike emerges from the base of a recently matured pseudobulb along the axil of an upper basal sheath. Flowers usually are carried in a raceme on the upper part of the spike, but they sometimes are displayed on a few-branched panicle. Each flower is carried on a pedicellate ovary up to 0.7 in. (1.7 cm) long.

**FLOWERS:** Up to 12, rarely 25. The faintly scented blossoms are somewhat variable in color but usually have sepals and petals that are white shaded with pale rose and may sometimes be marked with rather small, widely scattered carmine-red spots. The lip is white with a golden yellow callus streaked with intense carmine-red. On some clones, the lip is also marked with scattered carmine-red spots. The column is white with carmine-red spots at the base and on the column wings and a rather reddish anther. The spreading, only slightly cup-shaped flowers are up to 2.5 in. (6.4 cm) across. Sepals and petals are rather narrow at the base but spread to very broad lanceolate to egg-shaped blades that are rather bluntly pointed at their tips and have slightly

undulate margins, especially on the petals. The erect dorsal sepal is 1.2 in. (3 cm) wide by 0.5 in. (11.2 cm) wide and arches forward slightly over the column. The oblique lateral sepals are similar in size and shape to the dorsal sepal. The horizontal spreading to slightly oblique petals are 1.2 in. (3 cm) long by 0.9 in. (2.2 cm) wide. The lip has a wedge-shaped claw at its base which is about 0.2 in. (0.4 cm) long and is attached to the column for less than half its length. Above the claw, the lip bends sharply downward and broadens into a fiddle-shaped blade with rounded lateral lobes at the base, a short, rather broad isthmus in the middle, and a heart-shaped midlobe at the apex. The margin of the lip is undulate and finely toothed, and there is a cusp in the center of the apical margin. The lip is about 0.9 in. (2.2 cm) long by 0.6 in. (1.5 cm) wide across the base, 0.5 in. (1.2 cm) wide across the isthmus, and 0.8 in. (2 cm) wide across the midlobe. The callus begins on the claw as a swelling which is 0.2 in. (0.5 cm) long and divides into a pair of divergent, sharply pointed projections which are notched or scalloped on the upper surface. The column is 0.4 in. (1.1 cm) long, has a pair of upwardly diverging fleshy flanks at the base which are attached to the base of the lip claw, and has a pair of wings at the apex which are 0.2 in. (0.5 cm) long by 0.2 in. (0.4 cm) wide and have serrate margins with a sharply pointed projection at the apex.

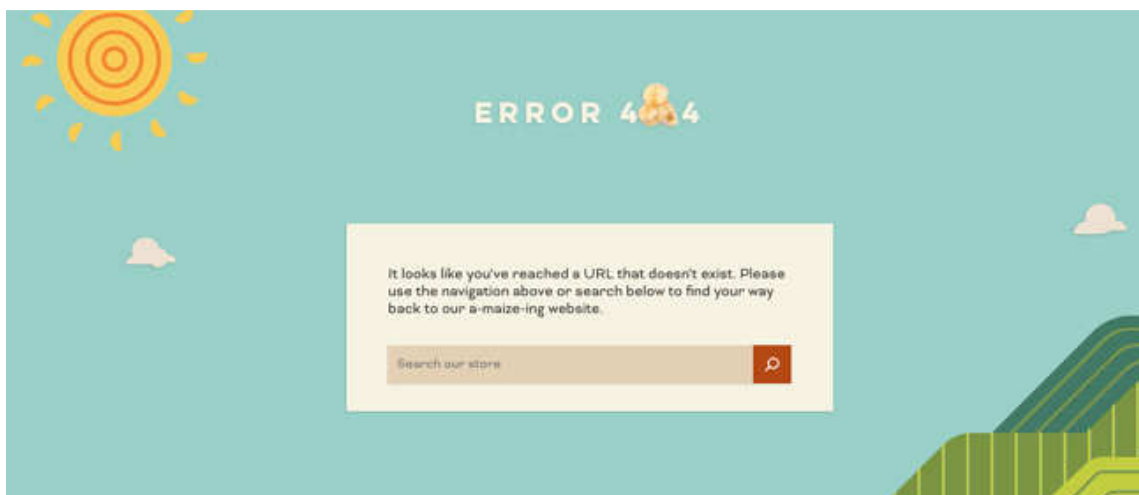
Information, thanks to OrchidWiz

Oncidium nobile and some of its progeny (Note not all of these are available as individual plants):

			
Oncidium nobile (syn. Odm. pescatorei)	Oncidium Castle Way (Onc. Gorey Castle x Onc. Salway) G3 18%	Oncostele Habibi (Onc. Nationhood x Ons. Wildcat) G5 8.9%	Oncostele Daydream (Onc. Victoria Village x Ons. Joyce Stewart) G9 6%

## WEBSITE WATSUP

Would you believe? Our website is 9 years old! It has been a fantastic website and has worked hard. But like many good things it has developed a few creaks and groans with age. We are giving it a good, well-earned retirement. We are currently working on the next generation – a smarter version more capable of keeping up to date with today’s changing ecommerce environment. We will keep you informed as to its progress and when we are likely to release it live.



## WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT

### SUBJECT TO CURRENT ALERT LEVEL STATUS AND RESTRICTIONS:

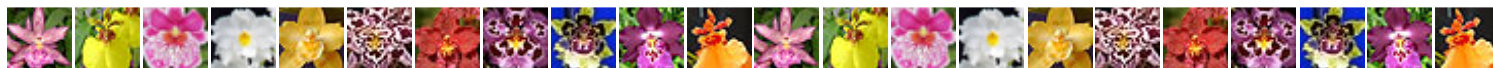
Auckland Plant Market Plant Street alternative date November TBA	Long Bay Village Market	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>
Waitakere Orchid Club One Day Sales alternative date November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Te Atatu South	October 30 <sup>th</sup>
Hamilton Plant Lovers	Puketaha Hall	November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Taranaki Summer Show	Highlands School	January 14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>

For more details and information about orchid shows in your area, please visit  
[www.orchidcouncil.org.nz/news/shows/](http://www.orchidcouncil.org.nz/news/shows/)

Next month we will be focusing on: Cymbidiums



Cymbidium Red Sox



***Please note, the photos of plants shown in our newsletter are a mixture of breeding plants, plants we have seen in our travels and plants we have for sale. Not all of the plants that are displayed in our newsletter are available as plants for sale. Please check our website for details of what plants we have for sale. We do, however, welcome requests for plants that are not listed on our website as we may be able to supply them or something very similar.***