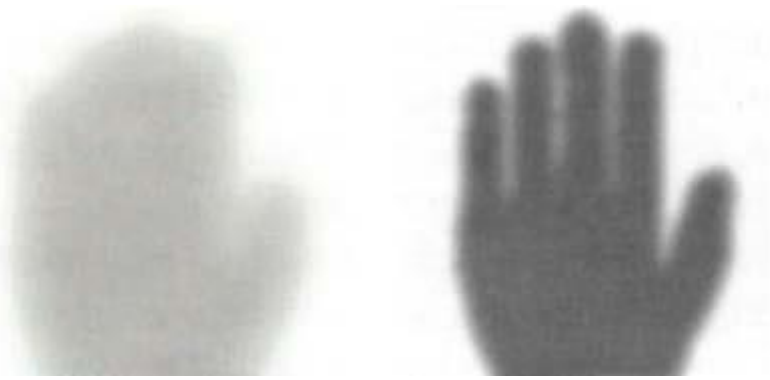


the shadow you see is sharp (below right), you most likely have sufficient light for all but the highest light-requiring orchids like cymbidiums, vandas and ascocendas.

Gauge the amount of light by the shadow
your hand casts. - © 2008 Greg Allikas -
www.orchidworks.com



Don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow a mixed collection of orchids. Hobbyists do it all the time. They just take advantage of the variation in conditions throughout their growing areas. As far as light levels are concerned, direct sunlight entering an unshaded window can be as high as 4,000 to 8,000 footcandles measured directly at the glass while it may only be as low as 500 footcandles just inside the shade off to the side of the same window. Lower light plants like Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis can be staged in these shady areas while higher light plants like oncidiums and cattleyas can be arranged closer to the center and nearer the glass. It just takes a little experimentation.

Quality versus Quantity

Plants need red and blue light and they reflect green. Light from the red end of the spectrum is critical for flowering while that from the blue end is used in growth. This is usually not a problem when plants are grown out-of-doors or in a greenhouse unless the greenhouse skin is very old and has yellowed to the point that the spectral quality is poor. However, for plants grown under lights, this can be an important factor and is the reason that many books recommend a mixture of 50:50 cool-white and warm-white fluorescent tubes in the light rack. Spectral quality can also be an issue if you are growing your plants in a sunroom glazed with bronze or other colored glass since these glazing materials may filter out much of the spectrum used by plants.

Duration

Longer is not always better. First, plants need a night just as we do. They are adapted to the daily cycle of the sun and different parts of their metabolic cycle are accomplished during light and dark periods. In addition, many orchids, especially species, are adapted to changes in day length. This is called photoperiodicity. Fall-blooming cattleyas flower as day length shortens while spring-blooming ones as day length increases. If these plants are grown under conditions of constant day length they may never flower. The old cattleya cut-flower growers used this knowledge to time flowering for important holidays and it's used today by Poinsettia growers for the Christmas market. Why is this important to the hobby grower? It's really quite simple. While a street light outside your greenhouse or living room window will produce such little light that being on all night won't matter that's not the case for lights in your growing area. If your only choice for a growing area is one that is lit late into the night, it would be best to concentrate on those plants like Phalaenopsis that flower without regard to day length.

Too Much Light

Unlike too little light whose effects are often insidious, the opposite can be true of too much light. Too much light, especially if it's a sudden change usually results in dramatic damage (sunburn) in very little time. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. Plants chronically exposed to too much light but not enough to cause sunburn will be stunted with yellow, hard foliage. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

Sunburn on orchid leaf. - © 2008 Greg Allikas - www.orchidworks.com
Too much sunlight will burn an orchid's leaves.

This is one area of orchid culture where you want to make changes SLOWLY. Orchids are easily sunburned if light levels rise too fast. When moving plants around, especially when bringing them outdoors after winter, err on the side of excess shade. Make changes when you are going to be home and can watch the plants. Feel the leaves. The palm of your hand is about 93F. If they are hot to the touch, the leaf temperature is well about 95F and serious damage can occur in very little time.



Upcoming Orchid Events

Educational Seminar at the Great Lakes Judging Center

Saturday and Sunday

June 20 - 21, 2015

Judging and the seminar will be held at

Washtenaw Community College

Morris Lawrence Building

4800 E Huron River Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

The Great Lakes Judging Center holds a training seminar every year in the Spring centering around a different group of orchids each year. The topics for 2015 revolve around the Vanda/Phalaenopsis Alliance. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Cost

For those wishing to join us for dinner on Saturday evening, the cost is \$20. There is no charge to attend the lectures, but we still ask that you register to let us know you are planning to attend.

The Meal

Our dinner will be buffet style and will include a choice of chicken or vegetarian mosticcoli with potatoes and two sides, plus a salad, rolls, beverage and dessert.

A light breakfast on Sunday will be provided. Coffee, tea and water will be available throughout the seminar.

The Speakers and Topics

The topics for 2015 center around the Vanda/Phalaenopsis Alliance. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. [A full list of speakers and topics.](#)

AOS Judging

The educational seminar is always held on the same weekend as our monthly judging. We welcome visitors and encourage people to bring orchids in for us to look at. Visitors are welcome to sit in with our teams and observe the judging process. [Read more --->](#)

Fundraising Fun

Anyone who has attended one of our seminars knows that we have fun with our fundraising auctions. We always have lots of orchids, orchid-related items and many other wonderful items available for your bidding fancy. Come prepared to bid! [Read more --->](#)

Plants for Sale

Two of our speakers will have plants for sale. Sales will take place in the same room as the lectures and are usually open during the times in between the lectures and seminar activities. [Read more --->](#)

Questions? Contact us at seminar@gljc.org

24th Ohio Valley Seminar & Auction

Saturday, July 11, 2015
Civic Garden Center
2715 Reading Road
Cincinnati, Ohio

Speakers:

Roy Tokunaga
H & R Nurseries, Hawaii

Dendrobiums with
Focus on Latouria & Formosae
Types



Bob Fuchs
RF Orchids, Homestead, FL

Vandaceous Orchids



Civic Garden Center
2715 Reading Road
Cincinnati, OH

First Lecture 10 am EDT
Plant Sales 9 am - 4 pm
Noon auction of select plants to benefit the Cincinnati Judging Center

-----Cut Here and Mail-----

Seminar Reservations _____ x \$17.50 = _____

Box Lunches from Scherpies' Deli includes 2 sides + bottled water or soft drink

Roast Beef on Croissant	_____ x \$ 8.00 = _____
Chicken Breast on Croissant	_____ x \$ 8.00 = _____
Turkey on Wheat	_____ x \$ 8.00 = _____
Vegetarian	_____ x \$ 7.00 = _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Email for confirmation: _____

Register and pay by Paypal at <http://cincinnatiorchids.org> **or mail check** payable to GCOS to 4110 Rose Hill Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229.

To ensure a box lunch, register by July 3, 2015.

Check [GCOS](#) web site for travel directions.

Questions: jyates11@earthlink.net