



Lady's Slipper or Showy Orchid

that the cold air of winter is warmed before it reaches the plants.

Third: A method of watering must be followed which is not too far removed from Nature's method of supplying water to these plants.

As one writer says, "common sense" is necessary for success in growing orchids. And what common sense does is to recognize that orchids are wonderful and "to be desired" plants, which can be grown quite easily if we provide for them a few simple conditions. In other words as Mr. Ellis says, we must appreciate the fact that the habitat from which they come is quite different to what it is in the case of most flowers.

TREAT ORCHIDS REASONABLY

Orchids come from damp, swampy places, where the air is humid, the temperature never cold, and the soil a particular type. They grow on dead trees and the like,—in many cases at least, and their roots never feed in ordinary soil. In practice we find that peat will answer as the best material in which they will thrive. With regard to water, they like it with the chill off, in fact they must have it so, they can't stand the cold bath. And then, if a nice warm balmy atmosphere is supplied they will blossom as if they felt all the better for the change. In fact they like to be tamed if they are not poorly treated, or "herded with the common herd of plants." They soon forget their native haunts, especially those varieties which have been reared under strange conditions. Many of the children of the older races, the hybrids, are most beautiful, in fact so beautiful that one feels like acknowledging that perhaps they are the very angels and goddesses of the flower world.

POINTS IN ORCHID CULTURE

Orchids need very little attention.

Orchids are generally free from insects. Orchids need re-potting only about once in three years.

Orchids do not need to be trimmed up, or fussed over like other plants.

Orchids have healthy and fairly attractive leaves when not in bloom.

"Orchids," says Mr. Ellis, "are easier to grow than fuchsias, begonias or geraniums."

ESSENTIALS TO SUCCESS

A correct temperature; from fifty-five to seventy degrees in summer, and from forty-five to seventy-five degrees in winter.

Shade from the strong rays of the summer sun.

Abundant moisture, especially in summer, in winter, watering with tepid water twice or three times a week is sufficient.

Abundant fresh air secured by a good ventilation system.

When these four conditions are provided for orchids, a general condition approximating that which exists in their native haunts is secured. Success is then practically certain.

Never take a chance during cold snaps in winter. Watch the temperature. Any temperature below forty-five degrees is fatal, even for one night.

For watering, Mr. Ellis has an attachment to the kitchen heater, similar to those used in bathrooms. He warms the water by the turn of a tap. This is an ideal plan.

The floor, or part of the floor, of the greenhouse should be earth. This will keep the air humid.

Pots, cribs, or baskets may be used in which to grow orchids. If pots are used they must be well drained.

Soil is seldom used; in its stead, peat, moss, or fern-fibre are used.

Excessive heat and drought are both to be carefully avoided.

The night temperature for orchids should be about ten degrees lower than the day temperature.

VARIETIES FOR THE BEGINNER

In the matter of varieties, Mr. Ellis grows only those which will bloom in winter. Of these he has tried about fifty different varieties. The following are recommended by him:

First best six—*Cattleya Trianae* or *Labiata*, *Cattleya Schroderae*, *Oncidium varicosum*, *Rogersii*, *Odontoglossum grande*, *Laelia anceps*, *Cypripedium insignis*.

Second best six—*Cypripedium nitens*, *Laelia autumnale*, *Oncidium Forbesii*, *Vanda coerulea*, *Lycaste Skinneri*, *Laelia praestans*.

To enrich the lawn and cause a more luxuriant growth, there is nothing better than raw bone meal evenly strewn over the surface at the rate of ten pounds to three hundred square feet. Or one of the many patent lawn enrichers may be used in the same manner. A brisk going over with a sharp steel rake should follow application of enricher or bone.

Planting Roses and the Time

Jas M. Bryson, Toronto, Ont.

The planting of roses should always be deferred until the soil is in a proper condition to receive the plants. There is no greater mistake than planting roses in wet soil. The soil to be in proper condition for planting should be dry and free. The best time to plant roses which have been raised or grown in Canada, is the last week in October, and for imported roses the second week in April. With good culture roses may be planted safely up till the middle of June. Care must be taken not to plant too deeply. By placing the union or callus three inches below ground you will be about right. For dwarf roses see that the roots do not cross or coil around. This is most important. Be particular also to see that no manure comes in contact with the roots directly, and always firm the soil by treading it down with the feet, but leave a rough surface.

The best soil is a strong holding argillaceous loam, so tenacious as to admit of no crusting forms. Not a few soils that are called clay when wet, turn into strong loam when dry. Though such loams are on the whole most favorable for the perfect cultivation of roses it must not be asserted that they cannot be grown in others. I have seen prize roses grown on soil so light that it could be driven and drifted like sand during a protracted drought, and also on sheer peat. The natural quality of rose soils is often of less vital importance than might at first sight appear, inasmuch as in many cases the soil is the mere dish, shell or basin to hold the materials which are freely given to roses to feed upon. While saying this much, so that nobody may despair of growing fair roses with soils such as they have, or can make with the materials within reach, it should be added that no loam can be too good or too rich for roses. In selecting a site for a rose border or rose garden, the cultivator should endeavor to marry the three S's, namely, sun, shade and shelter to advantage.

Making Garden Paths

John Gall, Inglewood

With the necessary materials at hand, it is a simple matter to make a firm, sound pathway anywhere. The first thing to be done is to peg out the site at the width desired, and the next to dig out a V-shaped trench along the whole length. Then, if the soil is of a light and porous description, it is only necessary to place a quantity of rubble, composed of broken bricks and large clinkers in the bottom, then a thickness of coarse gravel, and finally enough fine binding gravel to bring the surface up to the required height when well rolled.