



Oak Hill Gardens

November Newsletter

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Issue: # 20

November 2008

Greetings to all!

The fall colors have already been here and are almost gone in Chicagoland, and the air is cool and crisp. The trick-or-treaters will be scurrying about on Friday. We enjoy this time of year here at Oak Hill. The show schedule slows a bit and we are able to gear down and enjoy the Holiday months before show season starts up again in January.

We are still working, of course! We are able to safely ship orchids year round to all points of the country with careful packing and heat envelopes. We do watch the weather closely, and inevitably must skip a few "extreme" weeks during the winter months. But there are always windows of opportunity to get the plants to you. We guarantee safe arrival.

By the way, I'm leaving for Texas on Friday morning. If you are either part of the Texas speaking tour or are going to the Wichita Falls SWROGA show, I will be happy to bring you whatever plants you desire and save you the shipping and handling costs. Hurry though, I'll need to know by the end of day Thursday (Oct 30th).



We are offering a [Mini Catt Special](#) this month, which is



highlighted in the article below.

Appropriately, Liese has written a Tip of the Month regarding the growing of these space-saving, colorful varieties. You can also check that out below.

Photo is Hksa. Chien Ya Ocean 'Water'

Finally, don't forget to visit the home



page. Scroll down to see what is [currently in bud and spike](#). If you have a hankerin' for some color in your growing area, we can fix you up right nice and immediate -like!

Paphiopedilum spicerianum

Enjoy November!
Greg

Miniature Cattleya Special

Slc. Jewel Box
'Scheherezade' AM/AOS

We have selected four of our favorite miniature Cattleyas to put on special sale for the month



of November. As usual, if you order two or more, you save money. And, the more you order, the more you save. Always a bargain to be found at Oak Hill Gardens!



Sc. Beaufort Gold 'Susan Fender'

Click on the link to see more info.....

[Miniature Cattleya Special](#)

Growing Tip of the Month - by Liese

Growing Mini - Catts

Large and frilly, fragrant and brightly-colored Cattleyas. These varieties are responsible for originally attracting many of us to the wonderful world of orchids. However, as our collections grew, our growing space tended to be overtaken with too many of these monstrosities!



That issue can now be resolved with miniature cattleyas. The mini-catts have flower shapes similar to their larger-growing counterparts, but they bloom on much more compact plants. The color variety seems to be endless. Another positive attribute is that many of the minis will flower more than once a year, often with clusters or bunches blooms.

Most of these mini-Catts are very easy to grow and bloom in normal home growing areas. They require much less light to push them into blooming than the larger-growing varieties. Most miniatures will bloom alongside your Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums.

Bright light and intermediate temps (60-80 degree days and 55-68 degree nights) will make these minis very happy.

Similar to the larger-growing varieties, they like a coarse media which will drain easily. We use our medium orchid bark mixture. The mini-catts do have pseudobulbs; therefore they do like to dry out well between watering.

A slight drop in temperature at night (near 60-62 degrees) is always helpful in getting them to bloom. This is especially important for the larger-growing relatives, but your smaller Catts, as well as your Phals, will benefit from slightly cooler night temps. Turn down those thermostats; you'll not only save on energy costs but you will make your plants happy as well.

Good luck!
Liese

Have a great fall season!
Sincerely,



Greg, Liese and Hermann
Oak Hill Gardens

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