

“Hang it up!!! Taking your orchids to new heights.” This was Dan Newman's topic as he addressed the DVOS May meeting.

Dan believes that growing orchids should be done in three dimensions. This means getting your plants off the bench and hanging them from the ceiling. Many of your orchids can benefit from being elevated in a pot or a mount. These elevated orchids will receive more light, higher temperatures, and greater air circulation when hung from the ceiling. These elevated orchids, however, also require more cultural attention. These plants tend to dry out faster and require more watering than their bench orchids. That means watering these orchids every other day in the summertime.

What orchids benefit from being elevated? Dan selected three different categories of orchids that would benefit from being elevated. The first are species that have a descending influence. The best example of this would be a *Dracula* or *Maxillaria* orchids. These plants put out flower spikes that grow down into the media and bloom from the bottom of the plant. Other examples are *Stanhopea intermedia*, *Gongora sanderiana*, *Aerangis biloba* and *Coelogyne usitana*.

The second group of orchids that would benefit from hanging includes those with rambling growth habits. Many of these experience windy, misty conditions in nature. Others in this group have horizontal spikes and/or horizontal growth habits. Examples of this are *Brassavola acutis*, *Prosthechea citrina*, *Maxillaria sophronitis*, and *Angraecum linearifolium*.

The third group of orchids that should be hung is a group that demands air and/or light on the roots. These orchids typically grow better mounted, but could also be potted. Many in this group like to be dried out between waterings. They prefer the high light levels from being elevated in a greenhouse. Examples of this would be *Barkeria lindleyana*, *Cattleya walkeriana*, *Laelia speciose*, and *Trisetella hoeijeri*.

Dan then showed a series of slides demonstrating the growth patterns of many of the orchids that fulfill each of these categories.

Thank you, Dan, for the wonderful slideshow and great cultural information.