

Anthurinfo

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VARIETIES

Anthura Tulcan^P



Anthura Tulcan^P

A major plus point of orchids is their versatility in terms of size, colour and flower pattern. It is up to breeders and growers to keep surprising the consumer to achieve repeat purchases.

A variety that will certainly surprise the consumer is our new Phalaenopsis variety, Anthura Tulcan^P. This abundantly flowering variety produces beautiful lilac flowers with a striking orange lip. With its 50 cm plant height and 7 cm flower size, Tulcan is a variety that represents a new segment in the Phalaenopsis range: the middle-flowered. This new segment fills the gap between the small-flowered varieties and the standard assortment. Other Anthura varieties that fit into this new segment are Anthura Palermo^P and Anthura St. Louis^P.

Anthura Tulcan offers growers a variety with a good plant structure that may well produce plants with three spikes!

Joli[®]

Anthura has bred yet another showstopper. Joli[®] is a compact Anthurium pot plant with a beautiful structure. Joli can be grown both in a 12 cm and in a 14 cm pot, yet two or three plants arranged on a dish will certainly look just as good. The young purple flowers turn hard pink as they grow older. These flowers still have an ornamental value too. The dark green leaves complete the picture.

Another strong quality of Joli is the vase life. After its purchase, consumers can enjoy the flower for a long time, because the plant keeps on growing. A repeat purchase will definitely follow.



Joli[®]

Farao[®]

This burgundy Anthurium cut flower catches the eye time after time. The colour, shape and diameter of the flower, as well as the solid stem, determine the character of something special. With this novelty it is evident that you are obtaining quality. It is easily comparable to the characteristics of the Casino[®] variety and a suitable name was found quickly.



Farao[®]

Its average vase life of 26 days and a diameter of 14 to 17 cm on average are ideal for a beautiful box of flowers. The production will fluctuate around 70 pieces, based on a one-year calculation made by Anthura.

INTERVIEW

With Nic van der Knaap

Nic van der Knaap started work as an employee in his father's company in Wateringen. At that time, the company had an area of 1 hectare and grew a wide variety of products, such as tomatoes, lettuce, endives, melons and chrysanthemums. In 1972, Nic switched to Anthurium. In 1985 he started as a breeder under the name of 'Nic van der Knaap Anthurium-selecties' along the Anthuriumweg in Bleiswijk. In the meantime, the family business has developed into a successful international company of no less than 24 hectares and is managed by another management team. Nic's sons, Mark and Iwan, constitute the current management, together with their partner Marco van Herk.



Nic van der Knaap

How do you describe a good breeder?

In my opinion a good breeder must comply with a few requirements. In the first place, he must be a man of vision, yet with his feet on the ground. Furthermore, he cannot sit still and must keep moving to keep track of what is going on in world of breeding. He must recognize improvements and innovations among the thousands of different seedlings. Another important skill is that he has to be patient, must not be afraid of making decisions yet at the same time leave some room for doubt. A large dose of perseverance and creativity are indispensable as well.

You are a breeder in heart and soul. How do we recognize this in you?

I am self-taught in the field of breeding and I have wide interests. I am creative and I always see possibilities. I am absolutely fascinated by the world of flowers and plants and I can always talk about it with a lot of enthusiasm.

Since December 2004 you have taken a step back and the new management team has taken over. How did that go?

I would not call it a step back, but rather a step aside. When you notice that the candidates who want to take on your job can run faster than you can, you have to step aside, so they can move on according to their capabilities. To keep running in front of them would slow them down.

How do you like still being able to play a 'background' part?

I really like it. I can now choose the responsibilities I want to take on in a more selective way, obviously in consultation with the others. Anthura is a large and complex company with many interesting activities.

There is always a lot to do. I am as pleased now as when I was in charge.

Which matters are you now engaged in?

During the last few years I have spent most of my time on the new greenhouse building, which was recently completed and inaugurated. I am also involved in breeding, product development and several matters where my experience can make a contribution.

What are you going to do now, now the construction of the new building is completed?

I would like to stay busy with breeding and product development. An important project is the development of end products for Anthurium cut flowers. This is necessary because of consumers' changing lifestyles.

You used to work with your wife. What were the advantages of this collaboration?

Together we had a great feel for the company. Jeannette from the personnel point of view, she is a great judge of human



character, and me from the product and technical point of view. The company was always a part of us, even outside working hours. When we started our working day in the morning, we'd already talked everything through.

As a breeder you are very patient, breeding a new variety takes 7 to 8 years. Is there something you don't have any patience for?

I do not have any patience for playing cards. I sometimes suspect I lose deliberately to get out of the game quickly. In a conservative environment, my patience also runs out quickly because of the lack of dynamics. As time goes on, with all its changes, I want to be able to look ahead in an unrestrained way.

In 1995 you changed the name Nic van der Knaap Anthuriumselecties BV to Anthura BV. How did the market look in those days?

In 1995, ornamental plant cultivation was in a strong growth phase. Anthurium cultivation also expanded rapidly, especially Anthurium pot plants. That year, Anthura had orchids for the first time, mainly Phalaenopsis. In those years it was still a small, exclusive market. The extent to which this market has grown is now widely known. It is a nice example of a product that fits well in the present-day lifestyles of consumers.

How would you describe the present market?

Actually, the market is still good for Anthurium and Phalaenopsis, although overproduction puts a spoke in the wheels. Production cannot be adjusted according to needs. Exclusivity is the only remedy. Then you reduce the offer of a particular product or quality. Yet exclusivity does have its limits, in that not everything can be exclusive.

The horticultural industry is characterized by family businesses. In 1959 you started working in your father's company. Did you consciously opt for a family business?

When you chose horticulture in those days and your father had a horticultural farm, you started working with your father. My father could use this help very well. At that time there were also hard times. Learning how to handle setbacks is an important skill that I learned from my father. I've always benefitted from this. It is in a family company that this knowledge comes across more strongly and intensively. I hope that I have been able to transmit this to the present management team, so that Anthura will flourish forever.

Eveliëne Hartmanns

TRAVELLING ABROAD

India



Traffic in India

Last year I went to India to visit our agent and clients in and around Bangalore. On the pretext of 'time is money' we occidentals tend to make a quick judgement about how something is organized or should be better. It was quite a relief when we found ourselves standing outside with our suitcases only 25 minutes after landing. They seem to be familiar with the 'time is money' motto in India as well, which is nice. Next day it took me some time to get used to the traffic, to put it mildly. With driving experience in Syria, Jordan and a fistful of exotic countries, I thought I was quite prepared, but I wasn't. What a chaos! The agent's cool-headed driver managed to drive us from client to client at a high speed, without any incidents worth speaking of.

It looked a bit like the sliding puzzle, which we call 'internal logistics'.

When I asked the agent's son about the contrast between the airport and the traffic, he said that Bangalore developed over 10 years from a large city with 2 million inhabitants into a metropolis with 10 million inhabitants. This is comparable to a yearly population growth of the size of Amsterdam.

Developments of this scope need time to be steered in the right direction. Priorities must be established. It is impossible to deal with everything at the same time, because then the chaos would only be bigger. My

first thought was that we are not familiar with similar growth scenarios where we come from. But when you look at the more than strong growth of Phalaenopsis pot plants in Europe, I can see a certain resemblance... and possibly we should give the market some time.

Rick Kroon

CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES

Anthurium in winter

Winter in Holland and in many other countries is a difficult period for Anthurium from a cultivation point of view. The reduced plant activity as a result of diminishing radiation and less light causes changes in the physiological processes in the plant. This reduces plant growth considerably and quality problems can arise.

Glassiness and bluishness can occur, the condition of the roots can deteriorate, and flower bud abortion is also a possible problem in cut flower cultivation. For the pot Anthurium in particular, root reduction and reduced flower quality can play a role.

Good climate control can keep plant activity going more easily. This can be achieved with a minimum pipe of 35°C - 36°C in the daytime to encourage airflow in the plant. The use of fans can also contribute to this control. In cut flower cultivation, a sufficiently open plant position



Flower bud abortion

is important for good air circulation along the plants.

When growing with (fixed) film, the correct perforation and screen control must be examined critically. An increase of the EC towards the winter can considerably reduce bluishness and glassiness. It is also advisable to change to a winter schedule by applying potassium: calcium (K:Ca) in a proportion of about 1.5-1.0 (depending on the type of substrate). Ammonium (NH₄⁺) must be avoided as much as possible in the winter schedule and a pH of



Optimal plant diversity

about 6.0 is advisable too. All this contributes to a better calcium (Ca⁺⁺) uptake by the plant, as a result of which a solid cell structure is better guaranteed.

In order to keep the roots as healthy as possible, it is advisable to reduce irrigation considerably four months before the middle of the winter when growing in large substrate volumes (about 80 l/gross m²) and in wet substrates. In the case of smaller cultivation volumes (about 35 l/gross m²), a gradual cutback two to three months before winter can be sufficient. It is also advisable to start working with longer intervals between each watering towards the darkest period in order to prevent salinization and unequal water delivery.

The pot Anthurium plant is less active in winter, as a result of which the water administered above ground is processed less rapidly. This can lead to glazy roots. When this situation persists too long, the roots can snap and pythium appears. The



danger time is after watering the plants, because the roots do not dry quickly enough and are still wet when night falls. Furthermore, days with relatively high outside temperatures and little light are treacherous. During such days, an inactive climate may occur, because the desired temperature is achieved by means of a reduced amount of energy input. Plant activity must be kept going, as is the case with cut Anthurium.

With the current improved assortment, flower bud abortion in pot Anthurium hardly occurs. Yet the flower quality in winter can be slightly lower and the flowers may sometimes be lacking in colour or pattern. This is partly due to a lack of assimilates in the plant. Unfortunately, flower bud abortion does occur in cut Anthurium depending on the variety, being caused by an error in the assimilate balance in the plant.

In wintertime this is caused by the lack of natural light. Cleaning the greenhouse covering on the inside and the outside can lead to a significant increase in light. The timely renewal of energy screens substantially increases light and also helps to save more energy.

In cut flower cultivation, the autumn is the right time to use the young leaf removal technique for leaf regeneration when transferring sensitive varieties (plants whose flowers are aborted in winter). Furthermore, maximizing plant diversity by halving the leaf with this technique contributes greatly to better flowering.

In both pot and cut flower cultivation it is also important to lower the day temperature well before the winter period to reduce the maintenance respiration of the plant and to attune the growth rate better to the available light.

When you follow the tips mentioned above, you will be doing everything to optimize the growth and the quality of your Anthuriums in winter.

**Ing. Albert van Os & Ing. André Lont
Bureau IMAC Bleiswijk B.V.**

ANTHURVARIA

Official inauguration of 'Hortus Anthura'

On Friday 4 September, the new greenhouse complex along the Cyclamenweg in Bleiswijk was opened. More than 1,200 guests, including people involved in the building of the greenhouse, clients, representatives and collaborators of Anthura, attended the opening ceremony.



The theme of the ceremony was success factors in greenhouse cultivation. After being introduced by our hostess, Simone van Trier, the special guests made their appearance on the large stage, further enhancing the importance of the event. Then, singer Alma Nieto took to the stage to perform a song of praise about the new greenhouse. Directly after this official inauguration, all the guests were given plenty of time to visit the greenhouse. Next, the buffets were opened and after dinner a



Singer Alma Nieto



dazzling party started. It was a successful event and Anthura thanks all those present for their visit! For more pictures and information about the inauguration, please visit www.anthura.nl/uploads/opening.

Anthura's attendance at trade fairs from November 2009 to January 2010:

IFEX, trade fair in Tokyo, Japan
11/11/2009 – 13/11/2009

IPM Foshan, trade fair in Foshan City (Guangdong Province) in China
01/12/2009 – 05/12/2009

TPIE, trade fair in Fort Lauderdale, USA
14/01/2010 – 16/01/2010

IPM, trade fair in Essen, Germany
26/01/2010 – 29/01/2010

COLOFON

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