

Judging Spotted Phalaenopsis

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A review was made comparing Volumes 14-18 (1963-1987) of the American Orchid Society Awards Quarterly with the first five years (Volume 1-5, 1970-1974) to determine if there were any quantitative differences in the number of awards granted in each period. The results of this study are shown in Table 1. The total number of awards nearly doubled from 3,223 to 5,954 whereas those to Phalaenopsis nearly tripled from 377 to 1,130, those to spotted Phalaenopsis more than quadrupled from 73 to 303. There were almost as many spotted Phalaenopsis awarded during 1983 to 1987 as there were awards to all Phalaenopsis the first five years! We see that the percentage of awards to spots has more than doubled (5.1% versus 2.3% of all awards).

American Orchid Society Awards Distribution

Awards Quarterly Volumes	1-5	1418
Years Published	1970-74	1983-87
Total Number of Awards	3223	5954
Phalaenopsis Awards	377	1130
Spotted Phalaenopsis Awards	73	303
Spots As % of All Awards	2.3%	5.1%
Spots as % of Phal. Awards	19.4%	26.8%

Table 1

The number of spotted Phalaenopsis awards was determined by review of photographs and descriptions in the Awards Quarterly. Determining how heavily flowers were spotted was difficult in many cases from reading the descriptions. Written descriptions would usually indicate a nicely spotted flower; however, review of the award slides eliminated many clones.

On some frequently awarded hybrids there are distinctly different color patterns in the several awarded clones. Phalaenopsis Orchid World is usually a yellow with broad bars

and intense color in the inner half of the lateral sepals; however, there are several clones that fit into the spotted category, such as 'Orchidglade', 'Polka Dot' and 'Vern's Delight'.

What is meant by a spot? Webster's New World Dictionary defines spot as "a small area that is different, as in color or texture, from the background or main area of which it is a part." We also have blotch defined as "a large or irregular spot" and bar defined as "strip, band or broad line." Many of the *Phalaenopsis* hybrids and clones discussed have markings that include spots, blotches and bars on the same flower, although the current excitement is for true spots where each spot is nearly circular and about one millimeter in diameter. In general the classifications for spotted *Phalaenopsis* as judged at shows should require a general appearance of spotting on the sepals and petals; some breeding shows a tendency for the spots to merge, forming blotches or concentric bars toward the center of the flower. These concentric central bars are more prevalent in the modern yellow or yellowish green hybrids such as *Phal.* Golden Amboin and *Phal.* Misty Green. Blotches or irregular large spots are more prevalent in the earlier white hybrids such as *Phal.* Carnival. Today's spotted white flowers have more regularly shaped, small spots in distinct, even and heavy distribution over the sepals and petals. The spots may appear as tessellations in some "French Line" and *Phal.* *lueddemanniana* breeding.

What colors are found in these hybrids? Most spots are described in the Awards Quarterly as purple, rose, lavender or magenta over the white, whitish green, yellow or yellowish green sepals and petals. The lip colors also run the gamut of red and yellow shades over white or yellow backgrounds.

The spots may be arranged in many patterns such as lines (*Phal.* Ruth Wallbrunn 'Patricia' and *Phal.* Maria Vasquez 'Malibu'), grouped into tessellations (*Phal.* Great Hopes 'York' and *Phal.* Snow Leopard 'Colorama'). The distribution may be very even and consistent between the sepals and petals (*Phal.* Golden Amboin 'Canary' and *Phal.* Solar Flare 'Helen') or the influence of *Phal.* *violacea* or *Phal.* *stuartiana* may come through with heavier spotting on the lateral sepals (*Phal.* Orchid World 'Orchidglade' or *Phal.* Soulful 'Capitola').

The eighth edition of the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition briefly explains the criteria for judging *Phalaenopsis*. How do we apply these criteria to judging spotted *Phalaenopsis*?

Form (30 points) should be round, full and flat with the petals filling in the gaps between the sepals. In spotted flowers with a yellow background there is much more open star shape with recurved lateral sepals and cupped dorsal sepals. These yellows also tend to have a smaller lip with reduced side lobes. Spotted flowers with a white background

have a more rounded form much closer to the standard whites but also may have less fullness and petals that do not overlap.

Color (30 points) should be definite and clear with pleasing markings. Spots should not bleed into the background. The spotting pattern should be consistent from flower to flower. The color should not fade on older flowers such that it detracts from the overall effect.

Size (10 points) of yellows and intensely spotted whites is smaller than that of the standard whites and pinks.

A review of the natural spread of a few of the most frequently awarded grexes (Table II) shows the yellows are actually getting smaller (probably due to the line breeding with *Phal. amboinensis* and similar species) whereas the whites have not changed size since the early 1970s. Using the ratio of petal width to petal length as an indication of form (a larger ratio is a rounder, fuller flower) we see that form is about the same for current yellows as for the earlier grexes, whereas the whites have improved substantially.

	Natural Spread	Petal Width	Petal Length	W/L
Yellow 1960s & 70s				
Golden Sands	9.5	3.8	4.6	0.83
Lynn Hausermann	8.9	4.0	4.5	0.89
Tyler Carlson	10.4	4.7	4.7	1.00
Barbara Moler	8.1	2.7	3.9	0.69
Spotted Moon	9.8	4.4	4.7	0.94
Average	9.3			0.87
Yellows 1980s				
Solar Flare	7.2	2.8	3.6	0.78
Orchid World	6.9	2.4	3.1	0.77
Flor del Valle	7.5	3.1	3.7	0.84
Golden Gift	7.4	2.8	3.4	0.82

Goldiana	8.1	3.4	3.8	0.90
Average	7.4			0.82
Whites 1960s & 70s				
Carnival	8.3	3.3	3.6	1.14
Enchantment	9.8	4.1	4.7	0.87
Freed's Luck Star	9.4	4.2	4.4	0.95
Average	9.2			0.91
Whites 1980s				
Winter Carnival	10.7	5.8	5.1	1.14
Ann Krull	8.7	4.1	4.2	0.98
Mollie's Joy	8.8	3.5	4.2	0.83
George's Seurat	9.1	5.2	4.4	1.18
Coquinette	9.2	5.5	4.4	1.25
Average	9.3			1.08

Table II

Substance of the yellows and brightly colored whites such as Phal. Virginia Tucker 'Raspberry Dazzler' is excellent and better than standard whites. Texture of these tends to be shiny or lacquered rather than crystalline as expected for large whites. Habit and arrangement should be pleasing with an erect or arching inflorescence and the spacing adequate to see each flower individually. Floriferousness for the spotted flowers generally is not as high as for the large whites or pinks due to the influence of the species.

The older yellows were bred from Phal. lueddemanniana var. orchracea, Phal. mariae and Phal. sumatrana usually onto a large standard white (Phal. Ruth Wallbrunn,

Phal. Golden Sands, Phal. Tyler Carlson). The addition of Phal. sumatrana adds substance, a clear light yellow background and a moderate amount of spotting. Adding Phal. lueddemanniana var. ochracea gives a paler background with smaller spots which may be few and scattered (Phal. Tyler Carlson 'Eureka') or heavy, giving almost a peach color flower (Phal. Tyler Carlson 'Carl Hausermann').

Most of the newer spotted yellow breeding is based on Phal. amboinensis. These flowers are fuller than earlier hybrids and have a deeper yellow. Spotting in Phal. amboinensis hybrids usually takes the form of even, intense small spots (Phal. Golden Amboin 'Canary') or some concentric circles (Phal. Misty Green 'Lime Mist'). The awarded primary hybrid Phal. Deventeriana 'Treva' (amboinensis x amabilis) shows a pale yellow flower fading to white centrally with only a few random spots in the center.

Early white background spots were of two types. We have large whites crossed with Phal. lueddemanniana giving blotches (large, irregular spots) such as Phal. Carnival 'Bonsall' and Phal. Freed's Lucky Star 'Zuma Canyon' and some "French Line" Phal. stuartiana hybrids such as Phal. Francine. The Phal. lueddemanniana breeding is being continued as a line program starting with Phal. Carnival through Phal. Carnival Queen and Phal. Winter Carnival. These do not give an even small-dot type of spotting but tend toward blotches and have some bleeding of the colors into the white background.

The "French Line" named after Vacherot & Lecoufle has continued in several directions. Staying with the French hybrids and continuing to select for spots gives us Phal. Snow Leopard, Phal. Dame de Coeur and Phal. Coquette. These all have heavier spotting on the lateral sepals influenced by the Phal. stuartiana and Phal. schilleriana in their backgrounds. In addition to these species the "French Line" also includes varying amounts of Phal. amabilis, Phal. Aphrodite, Phal. sanderiana and occasionally Phal. lueddemanniana.

The second direction of breeding using these "French" hybrids is an "American Line" being followed by Zuma Canyon, Krull-Smith and Hausermann's Orchids. Phalaenopsis Rousserole 'Krull-Smith' from two "French" hybrids shows intense, even spotting. Phalaenopsis Ann Krull 'Plantation' shows good, fairly even tessellated spots. The French Phal. Alida was crossed to Phal. Royal Satin (which is a Phal. Carnival hybrid) to give us Phal. Ann Krull. Phalaenopsis Mary Krull is Phal. Alida crossed with Phal. Red Hot Chili, another Phal. Carnival cross. Both of these hybrids have Phal. amabilis, Phal. Aphrodite, Phal. sanderiana, Phal. schilleriana, Phal. stuartiana, Phal. violacea and Phal. lueddemanniana. Phalaenopsis Ann Krull also has Phal. cornu-cervi and Phal. mariae, whereas Phal. Mary Krull has some Phal. amboinensis.

Many of the spots in Hausermann's lines come from Phal. Welcome Home (Hokuspokus x Rapture), a French spot. Phalaenopsis Hokuspokus is a cross of Phal. Liperose, a German pink, and Phal. Francine, a spotted "French." Phalaenopsis Hokuspokus

"Oakhill" has fine lavender spots that shrink and disappear toward the outside of the flower.

Hausermann's is using three clones of Phal. Welcome Home in breeding. They range from a white to a darker, improved Phal. Hokuspokus with heavier Phal. stuartiana spotting. This line includes Phal. Gene's Gypsy, Phal. Hausermann's Charity, Phal. Great Hopes, Phal. Joshua Wheeler, Phal. Virginia Tucker, Phal. Hausermann's Charm (a Phal. Carnival cross) and Phal. April Mist (Winter Carnival x Welcome Home). Hausermann's Phal. Charity involves eight species - Phal. amabilis, Phal. Aphrodite, Phal. sanderiana, Phal. schilleriana, Phal. stuartiana, Phal. equestris, Phal. fasciata, and Phal. lueddemanniana. While both Phal. Ann Krull and Phal. Virginia Tucker involve nine species, Phal. Virginia Tucker's lineage includes Phal. amboinensis and Phal. corningiana, while Phal. cornu-cervi and Phal. mariae are found in Phal. Ann Krull.

Spotted phalaenopsis are judged using the criteria for judging all phalaenopsis as given in the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition. The judge must take into account the breeding and species in the background of these hybrids. With as many as nine species in the new hybrids, we can expect to see a wide variety of colors and patterns and should expect improved size, color form, substance and texture.