



Woolf Orchid Culture

'Paphiopedilum fairrieanum and it's progeny '

by John T Woolf

Paph.fairrieanum 'Florafest'

Discovered around 1857 in the foothills of the Himalayas and Assam, Paph. fairrieanum flowers in the late summer and early autumn and revels in cool temperatures. These cool temperatures produce the best blooms and bring out the red pigment although it will still grow and bloom under warmer temperatures. Paph. Fairrieanum dislikes being divided especially into less than three good growths and prefers a well draining freshly composted media potting should be done on a regular basis and plants divided only when necessary. Keep plants in as small a pot as possible this will also assist in preventing overwatering the plants are naturally a light greyish green colour and fertiliser should be given sparingly with blood & bone or hoof & horn added to the potting media possibly the best way to fertilise.

Paphiopedilum fairrieanum 'Drayton'

The first Paph. fairrieanum hybrid registered was Paph. Vexillarium (x Paph. barbatum) 1870 since then many primary and novelty hybrids have been registered all of which have produced good progeny. With the exception of some of the Brachypetalum crosses the progeny are easy to grow and bloom under a wide range of temperatures even though the Brachypetalum crosses may be a little more difficult to grow they are some of the nicest blooms of all and are certainly worth the extra effort.

Some of my favourites are :-

- Paph. Angela (x niveum) Reg. 1910
- Paph. Arthurianum (x insigne) Reg. 1873
- Paph.Black Diamond (x delenatii) Reg. 1938
- Paph.Connie (x glaucophyllum) Reg. 1911
- Paph. Golden Diamond (x armeniacum) Reg.1989
- Paph. Golden Diamond 'Florafest'
- Paph. Iona (x bellatulum) Reg. 1913
- Paph. Juno (x callosum) Reg. 1891
- Paph. Oriental Tapestry (x Virgo) Reg.1993
- Paph. Papa Rohl (x sukhakulii) Reg.1972
- Paph. Tracery (x Psyche) Reg.1912
- Paph. Unique (x rothchildianum) Reg.1924
- Paph. Vexillarium (x barbatum) Reg. 1870
- Paph. (x praestans) Reg.
- Paph. Tanya Pinkepank (x micranthum) Reg.

Another avenue opened to hybridisers with the discovery of Paph.callosum 'Jac' 'Bion' and ' Sparkling Burgundy ' and the ensuing multitude of vinicolor and flame type maudiae and novelties.

- Paph. Fairie-Maud (x Maudiae) Reg.1900
- Paph. Fairie-Maud 'Krakatoa's Flame'HCC AOC- QOS
- Paph. Friedrich Mellin (x Alma Gavaert) Reg.1964
- Paph. Fair Vintage (x Vintner's Treasure) Reg.
- Paph. Red Magic (x Gloriosum) Reg.1989

And there are also the Albino clones of Paph. Fairrieanum, other species and hybrids that give us the apple green and white blooms.



Woolf Orchid Culture

Paph. Sacred Dancer

Paph. Sibyl (x Goultenianum) Reg.1910

Paph. fairrieanum has also produced some fine novelties when combined with the standard or complex hybrids. The quantity of top award clones are a little less than in the primaries or maudiaes however most are very appealing with the nicest being those favouring the Paph. fairrieanum shape.

Paph. Mt. Kynoch (fairrieanum x Tamirose) Reg.1992

Paph. Mt. Kynoch (fairrieanum x Tamirose)

Paph Ali Taba (x Paeony) Reg.1978

Paph. Plumfairie (x Plumly) Reg.1982

Paph. Lone Hill (x Orchilla) Reg.1981

Paph. Fair Banner (x Mem. Percy Bannerman) Reg.1981

Paph. (fairrieanum x Tomahawk) 'Drayton'

Paph. (fairrieanum x Rosaline - Amanda) Reg.

Paph. Green Fairy (fairrieanum x Sheerline) Reg.1990

I hope this has given you an insight into one of nature's gems it's exquisite shape is delightful and those hybrids that follow it's shape are so very different to the multitude of other Paph shapes and certainly stand out in a crowd. Paph. fairrieanum still offers the budding hybridist many avenues still as yet untouched and the opportunity to remake old hybrids with the superior species available today through line breeding and the many hundreds of new award shaped hybrids.