**BUILDING BLOCK REPORT**

**Phalaenopsis *amabilis*****[L.] Blume 1825 *SUBGENUS Phalaenopsis SECTION Phalaenopsis Benth 1883***

***Type Species – Phalaenopsis amabilis***

**Pronounced** a-MA-bill-iss (lovely, enchanting)

Abbreviation:

**Common Name** The Lovely Phalaenopsis [it is the national Flower of Indonesia]

**Flower size: 4" [10 cm] often 15 per branch, mature 70-80**

**\*Largest flowers of the genus**

**Characteristics:**

Long, arched inflorescences, often branched, 24-36” (61-91cm)

Many flowers, shingled presentation

***It is one of two white species (amabilis & aphrodite) which are the backbone of the large standard modern white Phalaenopsis of today.***

They are broad-petaled, showy, milky-white, can be variable, and often flushed with pink on the back. Lip margins are spotted with yellow and red, fragrant, opens simultaneously

Slender, crumpled, recurved antennae about 1 in. (3 cm) long project from the apex of the lip.

The midlobe is rather cross-shaped, extends down to a pair of long, thin, thread-like tendrils, lip is tri-lobed

Two teeth on the shield-shaped callus

Leaf undersides are green (aphrodite – purple)

Description:

ORIGIN/HABITAT: ORIGIN/HABITAT: Widespread from Malaya through Sumatra, Java, and the rest of Indonesia. Distribution extends to Borneo, the Philippines, New Guinea, and Australia. In Java, plants were once common in the southern half of West and Central Java, especially near the coast, but populations are now greatly diminished. Plants have been found in East Java growing between sea level and 2000 ft. (610 m). Plants may still be found in small, isolated pockets near the West Java/Central Java border where they grow on trees overhanging the sea. In this extended range, plants may grow high in tall trees in dense forests or on tree branches sometimes so close to the ocean that the plants are washed by salt spray. In Borneo, plants are found in Sabah on Mt. Kinabalu, and in Kalimantan and Sarawak at undisclosed locations. Plants grow in lower mountain forests from near sea level to about 4900 ft. (1500 m) and seem to grow mostly in regions that experience a distinct but short dry season. in the Philippines, plants are found in the southern islands of Balabac, Bancalan, Lambugan, Palawan and Sulu and Tawitawi in the Sulu Archipelago. In this region, plants are found at elevations up to 1650 ft. (500 m).

PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: A monopodial epiphyte that is wider than it is tall and produces extensive roots that are fleshy, often branched, smooth, flexuous, and may be 92 in. (300 cm) or more long.

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PSEUDOBULB/STEM: The short stem is completely enclosed by distichous, overlapping, longitudinally folded leaf bases.

LEAVES: 4-20 in. (10-50 cm) long by 4 in. (10 cm) wide. 3-5 elliptic, egg-shaped to elliptic, obovate-oblong, or oblong-lanceolate leaves are carried on each stem. The arching to pendent leaves are and glossy dark green with purplish tones on the underside, bluntly pointed at the tip with an obliquely bilobed apex, and taper to a narrow, longitudinally folded base. Leaves are sometimes deciduous, in habitats with an extended dry season, but in cultivation, plants are healthiest when foliage is evergreen.

INFLORESCENCE: 24-36 in. (61-91 cm) long. Plants often produce 2 purple-tinged spikes, which are arching to pendent, branching, and often produce secondary branches from nodes on the peduncle. Each blossom is carried on a pedicellate ovary that is up to 2 in. (5 cm) long.

FLOWERS: Many, often 15 per branch. Mature plants can have 70-80 fragrant blossoms. Plants often produce 2 inflorescences, and the flowers on each spike open simultaneously and may last 6 months. The blossoms are 3.0-3.5 in. (8-9 cm) across, and on rare plants they may be as large as 5 in. (13 cm). They are broad-petaled, showy, milky-white, and often flushed with pink on the back. Lip margins are spotted with yellow and red. Slender, crumpled, recurved antennae about 1 in. (3 cm) long project from the apex of the lip. Flower size and color are variable. The erect, elliptic to egg-shaped dorsal sepal has a rounded to bluntly pointed tip and is 1.2-1.8 in. (3.0-4.5 cm) long by 0.6-1.1 in. (1.5-2.7 cm) wide. The somewhat oblique, egg-shaped, egg-shaped to elliptic, or egg-shaped to lanceolate lateral sepals have sharply pointed tips and are 1.2-2.0 in. (3-5 cm) long by 0.4-1.0 in. (1.0-2.5 cm) wide. The broadly egg-shaped to elliptic petals have a broadly rounded tip, contract below into a wedge-shaped base, and are 1.2-1.8 in. (3.0-4.5 cm) long by 1.0-2.0 in. by (2.5-5.0 cm) wide. The fleshy, 3-lobed lip has erect lateral lobes that are 0.4-0.5 in. (1.0-1.2 cm) long by 0.5-0.6 in. (1.3-1.5 cm) wide and are egg-shaped to oblanceolate with rounded tips. The midlobe is rather cross-shaped, extending from a wedge-shaped base expanding into a pair of triangular, laterally extended projections, and then extending into a narrow, tapering apical portion which terminates in a pair of long, thin, threadlike tendrils. The shield-shaped callus is located at the junction of the midlobe and the lateral lobes and has a lower edge that has a shallow notch in its center while the apical edge is bluntly rounded. The straight, stout column is about 0.3 in. (0.8 cm) long.

**Botanical Varieties:**

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var aphrodite* subvar gloriosa [Rchb.f] Ames 1908

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var. aurea* (auct.) Rolfe 1886

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var. cinerascens* J.J.Sm. 1917

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var fournieri* Cogn. 1898

*Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. fuscata Rchb.f. 1862

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var. gloriosa* (Rchb.f.) Brero 1937

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var gracillima* Burb. 1882

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var grandiflora* [Lindl.] Batem 1867

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var. moluccana* Schltr. 1911

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var. papuana* Schltr. 1913

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var ramosa* van Deventer 1935

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var rimestadiana* Linden 1901

*Phalaenopsis amabilis var rimestadiana alba* Hort 1906

*Phalaenopsis aphrodite var gloriosa* [Rchb.f] Veitch 1891

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora var. aurea* auct. 1864

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora var. borneensis* Corning 1881

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora var. fuscata* (Rchb.f.) Burb.1882

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora var. gracillima* Burb. 1882

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora var. ruckeri* Burb. 1876

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**Synonyms:**

*Angraecum album majus* Rumph 1750

*Cymbidium amabile* [L.]Roxb. 1832

\**Epidendrum amabile* L. 1855

*Phalaenopsis amabilis f. concolor* Baume & Christenson 2006

*Phalaenopsis amabilis f. fuscata* (Rchb.f.) O.Gruss & M.Wolff 2007

*Phalaenopsis amabilis f. marmorata* (Rchb.f.) Ames 1908

*Phalaenopsis amabilis subsp. moluccana* (Schltr.) Christenson 2001

*Phalaenopsis amabilis subvar. gloriosa* (Rchb.f.) Ames 1908

*Phalaenopsis* celebica Vlooten 1932

*Phalaenopsis gloriosa* Rchb.f 1888

*Phalaenopsis grandiflora* Lindley 1848

*Phalaenopsis rimestadiana* [Linden] Rolfe 1905

*Phalaenopsis rosenstromii* F.M. Bailey 1906

*Phalaenopsis xelisabethae* Hort. 1927

*Synadena amabilis* [L.]Raf. 1836

**AOS Awards:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Origin** | **CCE** | **CCM** | **AM** | **CHM** | **HCC** | **JC** | **AQ** | **Total** |
| **AOS** |  | **8** | **21** | **1** | **12** | **3** | **1** | **46** |

**Other Awards and when given:**

Herbert Hager Award 2016 – *amabilis* hybrid - *P*. Taisuco Snowflake ‘B96047’ (*P*. Taisuco Bridian *x P. amabilis*) CCM/AOS 84 pts.

**Outstanding Clones:**

*P. amabilis* ‘Cheng-Fan’, 2 CCM, 252 and 217 flowers

*P. amabilis var. formosana* ‘Hwang’, CCM, 332 flowers

*P. amabilis* ‘Creole’s White Cloud’, AM 85 pts., 70 flowers, NS 9.8 cm

**Hybrids: Total of 32,529 registered, to the 12th generation**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Before** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **After** |
| **1940** | **1940-49** | **1950-59** | **1960-69** | **1970-79** | **1980-89** | **1990-99** | **1999** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **41** | **87** | **340** | **1,241** | **3,177** | **5,750** | **8,838** | **13,096** |

**Hybrids:**

*P*. Doris (*P*. Elisabethae x *P*. Kathleen Siegwart) 50% *amabilis*, 29 awards: 14 AM, 1 CCM, 2 FCC, 12 HCC – no awards after 1967, hybridized 262 times, has 31,392 total progeny, is an old cross and is in the background of many of hybrids, notable and familiar is *P*. Leopard Prince. Modern day white and pink hybrids owe their origins to P. Doris, registered in 1940.

*P.* Doris ‘Mae Emma’ AM/AOS 82 pts., 1962

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*P*. Grace Palm (*P*. Doris x *P.* Winged Victory) 38% *amabilis,* used 138 times in hybridizing, has 25,732 total progeny, 27 awards: 9 AM, 2 CCM, 16 HCC, instrumental in white hybridizing, registered in 1950.

*P. Grace Palm ‘Lucinda’ CCM//AOS 83 pts. 1965*



*P.* Joseph Hampton (*P*. Monarch Gem *x P*. Doris) 48% *amabilis,* used 178 times in hybridizing, has 1867 total progeny but only 9 awards: 5 AM, 3 HCC, JC, no awards after 1981, another instrumental in hybridizing the white color form, registered 1966

*P. Joseph Hampton ‘Diane’ AM/AOS 84 pts.*

*P.* Leopard Prince (*P*. Sun Prince x *P*. Ho’s French Fantasia) 28% *amabilis*, 12 awards: 4 AM, CCM, FCC, 6 HCC, hybridized 237 times, has 753 total progeny. Registered 1997.

*P*. Sogo Yukiden (*P*. Yukimai x *P*. Taisuco Kochdian) 40% *amabilis*, 12 awards: 4 AM, 6 CCE, CCM, HCC, hybridized 161 times, 468 total progeny, registered 1998. Most successful progeny is P. Yu Pin Easter Island, with 78 offspring and 9 awards: 5 AM, 3 HCC, JC.

*P*. Orchid World (*P*. Malibu Imp x *P*. Deventeriana) 25% *amabilis*, 103 awards: 54 AM, 3 CCN, 1 FCC, 44 HCC, one of the most highly awarded of the offspring, used 22 times in hybridizing, 24 total progeny, only 1 is awarded P. Green Earth, AM 81 pt. Registered in 1984.

*P*. Alice Gloria *(P.* Ramona x *P*. Grace Palm) 47% *amabilis*, 19 awards, 9 AM, AQ, 9 HCC, hybridized 156 times, has 3,467 total progeny, registered 1961.

*P.* Brother Lawrence (*P.* Taipei Gold x *P*. Deventeriana) 34% *amabilis,* 27 awards: 10 AM, AQ, CCM, 14 HCC, JC, hybridized 108 times, has 850 total progeny, registered 1995.

*P*. Deventeriana (*P. amabilis x P. amboinensis*) 50% used 230 times in hybridizing, but only 3 awards: AM, 2 HCC, has 2,056 total progeny, registered in 1927.

*P.* Sweet Memory (*P.* Deventeriana *x P. violacea*) 25% amabilis, used 38 times in hybridizing, has 52 total progeny, 40 awards: 18AM, 4 CCM, 17 HCC, JC, registered in 1982.

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**Desirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:**

Vigorous growth

Amounts of red and yellow pigment on the lip

Presence and density of red spots on the lateral lobes of the lip

Overall flower shape – round and full

Light fragrance

Good substance

**Undesirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:**

Large plant size

Long leaves

Light substance

**Other Information**

**References:**

OrchidPro

OrchidWiz Database X5.3

Orchidspecies.com

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Christenson, Eric. 2001. *Phalaenopsis: A Monograph*, Pp. 186-193

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