

As a judge, you are assumed to be a “font of all knowledge”. How would you respond to the following:

1. Thrip infestation,

First to all I would ask question on why they think they got a thrip infection to get an approach of the diagnostic. I would rather will not recommend the use of chemical, however depending the size of the collection may necessary the use of it. If it is a small group of infected plants, isolated them is the first action to take. Washing infected vegetative parts like foliage with water and hand soap may work. For flowers and buds cutting them can avoid spreading of them. If there are a large collection, neem oil although expensive can be effective to get rid of the bugs.

2. Their plant appears unestablished, weak, the possible cause of it maybe rot root and although the plant looked healthy externally, gradually it is dying. I would recommend gently pull of the plant and leaving without media inside 1-gallon Ziploc bag for observation. If infection is bacterial, mutilation of the suspicious infected part can stop spreading the infection and if there are some sign of growth on the rhizome can be repotted in a fresh substrate.

3. Their plant is in inappropriate medium to grow well, repotting with fresh medium. In order to choose the right substrate, we made take in consideration, the orchid genus and the type of roots. For example, for Cattleyas, medium and large bark chips can be suitable for the size of the roots. Another good media for Cattleya is long fiber New Zealand sphagnum moss. It must be wrapping tightly in small pots; however, this repotting technic can require some training.

4. The plant or blooms are clearly stressed by some other condition – bugs, temperature, pesticide, poor culture, water problems, other infectious agents, etc.

A set of several questions can be asking to the owner of the plants and since there are several causes not good answer can be given without having sufficient information of the situation. I think rather than give solutions I would prefer share guideline that may address toward the solution of the issues.

5. Caught at the sales tables, you are requested to pick a “good one out for me”. Similar with the previous answers in order to know what picking is best we need to know the grower and interest. What level of orchids growing he or she got? But simply I would say the best Orchid to pick up is the one that will bring joy and blooming is the best reward. For beginners, off course some Phalaenopsis in

bloom is the best choice, for someone already growing orchids, knowing preference will guide us to find a good pick.

6. Presented with an average bloom, you are asked if it is award worthy.

I think as individual we are not in the position to give an answer for such request.