

Building Block

***Phalaenopsis amboinensis* J.J.Sm., Bull. Dép. Agric. Indes Néerl. 45: 23 (1911).**

The Amboin Island Phalaenopsis

Synonyms

- *Polychilos amboinensis* (J.J.Sm.) Shim, Malayan Nat. J. 36: 22 (1982).
- Heterotypic Synonyms:
- *Phalaenopsis psilantha* Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 10: 193 (1911).
- *Phalaenopsis hombronii* Finet, Notul. Syst. (Paris) 2: 253 (1912).
- *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* var. *flavida* Christenson, Phalaenopsis: a monograph: 107 (2001).
- *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* f. *flavida* (Christenson) O.Gruss & M.Wolff, Orchid. Atlas: 319 (2007).

Phalaenopsis amboinensis, first described in 1911 by J.J. Smith is native to the island of Amboina (Ambon) and the islands in the Moluccas between Borneo and New Guinea.

P. amboinensis has shaped the world of *Phalaenopsis* breeding to an extraordinary degree. California breeder Irene Dobkin began working with *P. amboinensis* in the early 1970s and produced several important crosses, including *P. Gold Coin*, *P. Golden Pride* and *P. Gold Medal*. The most significant breakthrough came in 1976 with *P. Golden Amboin*, registered by Jones and Scully and according to OrchidWiz X7.3 it produces a total of 3,470 total progeny.



Phalaenopsis Golden Amboin 'Mom' AM/AOS (86 points) 1985
Phalaenopsis Golden Sands x *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*

P. amboinensis was instrumental breeding yellow Phalaenopsis, unlike *P. fasciata* and *P. mannii*, *P. amboinensis* bears flowers with flat segments and relatively wide petals. In breeding, the brown barring of the sepals and petals is largely recessive, and hybrids of *P. amboinensis* are

mostly clear yellow with, at most, fine brown spots toward the center of the flower. (Christenson 2001).

The yellow form, when bred with the standard white form, giving us larger yellows with some markings and not too many clear yellows. It takes two three or more generations of selective breeding to get clear yellows. (Livingston 2002).

P. Deventeriana (*P. amabilis* x *P. amboinensis*) transmits good form, colorfastness, and heightened flower count to its progeny. *P. Mambo* (*P. amboinensis* x *P. mannii*) proved to play an important role in fixing the color of the flowers. Breeders noticed almost immediately that the flower of *P. amboinensis* did not fade over time. (Conkin 2002).



Photographer: Judging Miami Fl

Phalaenopsis Deventeriana 'Treva' AM/AOS (80 points) 1986
Phalaenopsis amabilis x *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*

Phalaenopsis Mambo 'Ching Ruey' HCC/AOS (76 points) 2014
Phalaenopsis amboinensis x *Phalaenopsis mannii*



Photographer: Ernest Walters

The various forms and colors of *P. amboinensis* have made it one of the most frequently used species in creating novelty crosses. It has intensified the colors, spotting and stripes in progeny, and because of its heavy substance, some hybrid offspring are most resistant.

Flowers color will depend upon which color *P. amboinensis* had been used and whether it uses the Malaysia and Borneo form of *P. violacea* (the latter now called *P. bellina*). Colors can range from lettuce green to red; orange tones with redder come from the Malaysian *P. violacea*. The orange-yellow form has been used to produce some of the very nice red coloration. (Livingston 2002).

Green or yellow coloring Phalaenopsis in the past usually has been produced by crossing a white or light yellow with *P. amboinensis* or *P. lueddemanniana*. *P. fasciata* also has been used but to a lesser degree. These combinations produced light yellow or light green shading, but few plants, if any, with any appreciable intensity. Barring or marking are usually suppressed to some degree when a big white or a light yellow is used as one parent.

A primary cross of *P. mannii* and *P. amboinensis*, *P. Mambo* has produced some lovely greens with some acceptable shape.

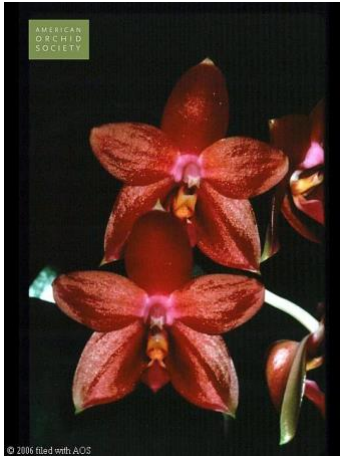
There are a number of primary hybrids that also produce green when crossed with big white, *P. Corona* (*P. cornu-cervi* x *P. amboinensis*) Ken Griffith of Lenette Greenhouses in Kannapolis, North Carolina, uses to transmits yellow color better than any other yellow parent he has used.

Phalaenopsis Corona 'Krull-Smith' AM/AOS (88 points) 2020
Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi x *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*



Photographer: Wes Newton

Most red hybrids result from a combination of various yellow hybrids breed primarily from *P. amboinensis* and *P. fasciata* combined (for the purple) with *P. bellina*, *P. mariae*, *P. pulchra*, and few other species. *P. Malibu Imp* registered by Freed in 1977 is one of the building blocks of red breeding. (Christenson 2001).



Phalaenopsis Malibu Imp 'Lisa' HCC/AOS (77 points) 1991
Phalaenopsis amboinensis x *Phalaenopsis Luedde-violacea*

According to OrchidWiz X7.3 there are 552 offspring (First Generation) and 17,671 252 total progenies, and 114 awards.

The following are some outstanding hybrids using *P. amboinensis* as one of the parents:

Names	Parents	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AQ	CCM	Total
Phalaenopsis Princess Kaiulani	P. violacea x P. amboinensis	241/3,675		10	8	2	1	5	26
Phalaenopsis Deventeriana	P. amabilis x P. amboinensis	231/2,171		1	2				3
Phalaenopsis Malibu Imp	P. amboinensis x P. luedde-violacea	121/664		6	9				15
Phalaenopsis Golden Amboin	P. Golden Sands x P. amboinensis	114/3,470		4	5				9
Phalaenopsis Mambo	P. amboinensis x P. mannii	113/477		2	9			2	13
Phalaenopsis Corona	P. cornu-cervi x P. amboinensis	30/45	1	8	2			1	12

References

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