

Mobile Area Orchid Society

November 2015

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society since 1950.

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Meeting Location is Christ United Methodist Church 6101 Grelot Rd. Mobile room A201 at 6:30PM 12 November. See last page for link to map and directions.

Program for 12 November: Does your orchid have a virus?

Glen has chosen a great topic for tonight's program. Glen is requesting that everyone bring an orchid that you think might have a virus and it will be tested. Yes Glenn has some home testing kits to determine if your orchid has a virus.

Below was copied from the AOS website on how to determine if your orchid has a virus (<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=134>).

Symptoms

The symptoms that are caused by viruses are variable and difficult to pinpoint. Sometimes, infected plants are asymptomatic, but still experience a reduction in vigor. Common symptoms on leaves of most orchid genera are irregular chlorotic or necrotic lesions of various sizes. Yellow stripes may also occur. Circular ringspots, yellow to red lesions, with or without necrotic centers, can be observed in some hybrids. *Laelia* plants tend to exhibit purplish blotches on their leaves. Symptoms on *Cymbidium* are often mosaic with or without necrosis. Less common but observed in *Phalaenopsis* is the downward leaf curling. Flowers, mainly those of *Cattleya* and *Phalaenopsis*, often exhibit necrosis or color break (variations in the color of the petals). *Cymbidium* flowers rarely display viral symptoms.

Because of the large variability in symptoms and the possibility of infected plants' being asymptomatic, identifying orchid viruses is not an easy task. Symptoms may vary according to the plant genotype (genus, species, variety), environmental conditions (temperature, humidity), management of the plants (level of nutrition, stress, etc.), as well as virus species and isolates. In addition, some of the symptoms associated with viruses can be also caused by other factors. For instance, flower necrosis can be caused by CyMV and by fungi such as *Botrytis cinerea*. In *Cattleya* plants, flower color break can be caused by ORSV or by drastic changes in temperature, and ORSV-infected *Cymbidium* can exhibit a mild mosaic that resembles nutrient deficiency.



Don't forget to send me pictures of your orchids or favorite article for our website and newsletter.

www.Mobile-Area-Orchid-Society.org

hnstephens1950@bellsouth.net

Christ United Methodist Church map

Christ United Methodist Church Room A201 directly behind the Sanctuary. You may be able to enter the building at the end opposite the Sanctuary. This is where Beverly and I entered last time we were here in.

