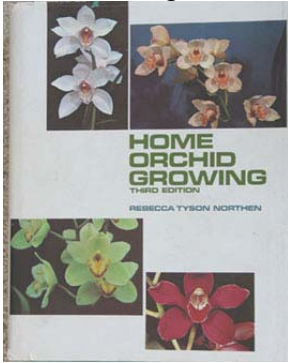


HOME GROWING ORCHIDS **BY Rebecca Tyson Northen**

HOME GROWING ORCHIDS BY Rebecca Tyson Northen is one of the books donated to the Library last month by the Andrakos. It is a delight! This book is written in conversational style to make it easy reading for all. It covers all aspects of orchid culture from seedlings to mature plants, potting, dividing and general care.



The section on propagation explains the need for seed germination in sterile solutions and problems that can be encountered. It explains tissue culture (meristeming) of quality mature plants making lots of them available to ordinary people at moderate prices.

The chapter on developing hybrids has a really good explanation of genetics and how desirable characteristics of the parent plants are passed on to their progeny. It also explains ploidy – both natural and induced. This reviewer found this chapter to be fascinating.

Orchids themselves are presented in related groups or tribes and genera – both familiar and less well known but all are fascinating. There are chapters on the major genera. Each chapter has a good descriptive paragraph on the main species in those genera.

There are obligatory sections on conservation and pests and diseases but the AOS bulletin *ORCHIDS AND DISEASES* is better. There is a copy of this bulletin in the library.

The appendix on orchid tribes and genera is very good. The appendices on orchid literature and pesticides are dated as the book was published in 1970. The history of orchids is given only light coverage but that's OK since it is well covered in Gloria Jean Sessler's *ORCHIDS and How to GROW THEM* also in the library.

There are many photographs, both black and white as well as color. There are also line drawings on how-to-do-it techniques of orchid culture.

This is a splendid book. If one could have only one orchid book this should be it. It's an excellent reference, a good how-to book as well as a book just to list down and browse.

Librarian