

Sander's List of Orchids

We all have our favorite orchid hybrids. We can easily find the orchid parents of these hybrids – indeed, find the entire family tree going back to the species – by referring to *Sander's List of Orchids*. This list goes back to the first cross, *Calanthe Dominyii* (*C furcata* x *C masuca*) made in 1858 by John Dominy, the head grower for Veitch & Sons. It includes all orchid hybrids registered since then – over 130,000. It is the most complete list of hybrids on all of botany.

How did such a compendium as this come to be? Late in the nineteenth century the House of Sander began publishing *Sander's Orchid Guide* describing orchid genera, species and hybrids to complement its orchid business. Later, issues began to include more detailed information on the increasing number of hybrids being reported. With no formal registration procedure or agency to keep track of all of this confusion – nay, chaos began to develop. For instance, while only four cymbidium species parents were listed over one thousand hybrids, obviously many duplications with different names. Three hundred cattleya hybrids contained duplication such as *C Enid* and *Adonis* for the cross *C mossiae* by *C warszewiczii*. Such a situation could not continue. In 1895 Mr Fred Sander in recognition of this developed a system for registering orchid hybrids. From this system he began to list hybrids alphabetically by name followed parents and including the name of the hybridizer. These lists were included in periodic issues of *Sander's Orchid Guide*.

In the early years of hybridization when seed germination was not all that certain Sander could accomplish this in the evenings although some records were difficult to decipher. With the development of aseptic seed germination by Lewis Knudson in 1922 successful orchid hybridization increased dramatically but Sander persevered. On January 1, 1946 the first edition of *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids, 1854 – 1945* was published. A monumental effort. A life's work. All orchidists will forever be indebted to Fred K. Sander for his foresight in 1895 and for his succeeding diligence to produce this opus. The comment on the title page describes it perfectly. **CONCISE, RELIABLE AND INDISPENSIBLE.**

This list was first added in 1960 by Sander's nephew David R. Sander and since that time has been continued by the Royal Horticultural Society. The ROA has copies of these manuals. Various members of ROA have this information on CDs.

References: Royal Horticultural Society – Research web page- <http://www.rhs.uk/research/registration-orchids.asp>

Sander's Notes: SLOH Indices of Contents of Notes, 1895 through 1995