

KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Benching Guidelines – Revised February 2026

1. Points toward the annual point score are allocated on the basis of 5 for first, 3 for second, 1 for third in each class at the monthly meetings. In addition to these place points, each plant will receive a point for being benched, up to a maximum of 1 point for each exhibitor in each class.
2. To be eligible for point scoring and judging, plants must be owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months and fit for judging.
3. Growers are encouraged to bring any orchid in flower even if recently acquired. Those ineligible for judging and point scores should have “NOT FOR JUDGING” marked on the bench card.
4. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to bench plants in the correct class. If in doubt, ask for assistance and incorrectly benched plants may be moved. Plants benched incorrectly will not be judged but will still receive a benching point.
5. Class 1 Specimen Orchids, Class 2 Miniature Orchids, and Class 33 Seedling are special classes in which any qualifying orchid may be benched, regardless of any other class for which it may qualify.
6. Excepting Classes 1, 2 and 33, where Classes are nominated for specific genera or groups of orchids, orchids from that genera or group must be benched in that Class.
7. Man-made line bred species are still species (e.g. *D. kingianum* x *D. kingianum*)
8. A novice grower ceases to be eligible to exhibit in the Novice section as soon as they win the annual Novice points score, or win a Novice Champion at a show, or have been a Novice for 5 years, unless otherwise agreed by the Committee. A novice may move to the Open section at any time.
9. Judging at monthly meetings will use the Australian Orchid Council standards in all classes unless otherwise specified.
10. On the basis of: (a) FLORIFEROUSNESS (*flowering to potential*) and (b) QUALITY OF FLOWER,

Judges will choose 1 species plant and 1 hybrid plant each meeting from the open classes, and 1 species or hybrid plant from the novice classes as “Best of the Evening”

OPEN BENCHING CLASSES:

Where Classes are nominated for specific genera or groups of orchids, it is mandatory for orchids from that genera or group to be benched in that Class (Except Classes 1, 2 and 33)

1 SPECIMEN ORCHIDS

Must have a minimum of 5 racemes. Judged on culture and flowering to potential.

2 MINIATURE ORCHID (Species or Hybrid)

Any orchid with flower width of 12 mm or less and raceme not to exceed 200 mm.

**** Classes 3 to 7 - Australian Orchids: It is mandatory that Australian Native Species and Hybrids are benched in these classes.**

3 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

All Australian native species except Terrestrials and Sarcanthinae. (See ** above)

4 AUSTRALIAN SARCANTHINAE SPECIES

Includes all Australian monopodial genera such as *Sarcochilus*, *Plectrochilus*, *Parasarcochilus* etc. Note: where also found in countries other than Australia, the grower must make sure the benched plant is in fact Australian. (See ** above)

5 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS (OTHER THAN SARCANTHINAE)

Includes naturally occurring hybrids *D. x gracillimum*, *D. x delicatum* etc. All species in the parentage of any hybrid must be Australian Natives. (See ** above)

6 AUSTRALIAN SARCANTHINAE HYBRIDS

All species in the parentage of any hybrid in this class must be Australian Native Sarcanthinae Species. (See ** above)

7 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TERRESTRIALS - SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

Species and hybrids of Australian terrestrial genera such as *Pterostylis*, *Cryptostylis*, *Diuris*, *Corybas*, *Acianthus*, etc. (See ** above).

8 HYBRID LAELIINAE (CATELYA) ALLIANCE– STANDARD

For *Cattleya* alliance hybrids with flowers 120mm diameter or larger.

9 HYBRID LAELIINAE (CATELYA) ALLIANCE – INTERMEDIATE

For *Cattleya* alliance hybrids with flowers over 70mm and under 120mm diameter.

10 HYBRID LAELIINAE (CATELYA) ALLIANCE – MINIATURE

For *Cattleya* alliance hybrids with flowers 70mm or less in diameter.

11 HYBRID LAELIINAE (CATELYA) ALLIANCE – CLUSTER TYPE

For *Cattleya* multi flowering alliance hybrids. All flower sizes but with a minimum of 5 flowers per raceme.

- 12 PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES**
- 13 PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS**
- 14 ONCIDIINAE ALLIANCE HYBRIDS (Under 35mm)**
This class is for Oncidiinae Alliance Hybrids where the flower is less than 35mm across the natural position of the petals.
- 15 ONCIDIINAE ALLIANCE HYBRIDS (35mm and under 60mm)**
This class is for Oncidiinae Alliance Hybrids where the flower is 35mm or greater, and under 60mm across the natural position of the petals.
- 16 ONCIDIINAE ALLIANCE HYBRIDS (60mm and over)**
All Hybrids within the Oncidiinae Alliance Hybrids where the flower is 60mm and over across the natural position of the petals.
- 17 ONCIDIINAE ALLIANCE SPECIES** (see benching card for list)
- 18A VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE SPECIES**
- 18B VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE HYBRIDS (50mm and under)**
- 18C VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE HYBRIDS (Over 50mm)**
- 19 DENDROBIUM SPECIES – Other than Australian Natives**
- 20 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS – Other than Australian Native or Softcanes**
- 21 SOFTCANE DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS – *Applies only in Sept, Oct, & Nov.***
Restricted to, and **mandatory** for, **hybrids** of the *Dendrobium nobile* type.
- 22 LAELIINAE SPECIES** (See benching card list)
For species in the Laeliinae tribe of the Orchidaceae.
- 23 MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES – AMERICAS**
All American species other than those qualified for Class 17 Oncidiinae, 22 Laeliinae, or Class 30 Pleurothallidinae.
- 24A MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES – SPECIES NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED**
All species other than those qualified for Classes: 3, 4 & 7 (Australian), 12 (Paphiopedilum), 17 (Oncidium), 18A (Vandaceous), 19 (Dendrobium), 22 (Laeliinae), 23 (American), 30 (Pleurothallidinae), 32 (Phalaenopsis)
- 24B NON AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TERRESTRIALS – Species and Hybrids**
- 25 MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS – AMERICAS**
All hybrids of American genera other than those which have a specific mandatory class. (eg 8 to 11 (Laeliinae), 14 to 17 (Oncidiinae), 31 (Pleurothallidinae))
- 26 MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS – HYBRIDS NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED**
All hybrids of non American genera, except those which have a specific class.

- 27 CYMBIDIUM – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS – STANDARD.**
With flower width greater than 90mm across the widest limits
- 28 CYMBIDIUM – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS –INTERMEDIATE.**
With a flower width 61 or greater and less than 90 mm.
- 29 CYMBIDIUM – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS –MINIATURE.**
With a flower width less than 61 mm.
- 30 PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES**
Mandatory for species of Pleurothallid genera. eg *Dracula*, *Dryadella*, *Masdevalia*, *Lepanthes*, *Pleurothallis*, *Restrepia*, *Stellis* etc.
- 31 PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS**
Mandatory for hybrids of Pleurothallid genera. eg *Dracula*, *Dryadella*, *Masdevalia*, *Pleurothallis*, *Restrepia*, *Stellis* etc.
- 32 PHALAENOPSIS SPECIES**
- 32A PHALAENOPSIS HYBRIDS MINI FLOWERS – (up to 50mm)**
- 32B PHALAENOPSIS HYBRIDS – (50mm or greater and less than 75mm across)**
- 32C PHALAENOPSIS HYBRIDS – Large Flowers (76mm or more across)**
- 33 SEEDLING CLASS**
Seedling means the complete plant grown from seed and flowered for the first time, including species and hybrids. Plants that have been divided prior to being exhibited on the show bench are **NOT** eligible to be shown as seedlings. For exhibition purposes, seedlings shall retain their status as seedlings throughout the flowering season in which they first flowered. *Mericlones cannot be benched in this class.*
- NOVICE BENCHING CLASSES** (See *Benching Guideline 8*)
- 34 NOVICE AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES and HYBRIDS**
Mandatory for all Australian native species and hybrids.
- 35 NOVICE LAELIINAE (CATTLEYA) ALLIANCE – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS** Mandatory for all *Cattleya* alliance species and hybrids.
- 36 NOVICE CYMBIDIUM – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS** Mandatory for all *Cymbidium* species and hybrids.
- 37 NOVICE ONCIDIINAE – Mandatory for all Oncidiinae Species and Hybrids (including intergenerics) are to be benched in this class.**
- 38 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES – Mandatory for all species other than those qualified for Classes 34, 35, 36 and 37.**
- 39 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS – Mandatory for all hybrids other than those qualified for Classes 34, 35, 36 and 37.**