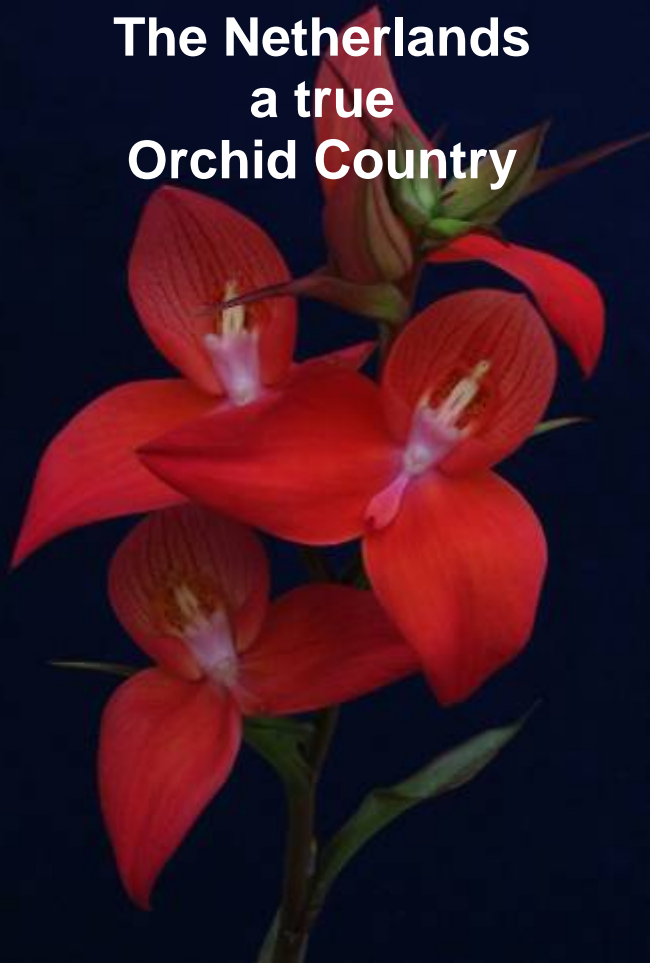


The Netherlands a true Orchid Country



Despite its small size, the Netherlands has a lot to offer to orchid enthusiasts. Dutch people love flowers - and orchids in particular. That's why already in 1931 the Netherlands Orchid Society (NOV) was established. Just as everywhere else at that time, only the wealthy could afford growing orchids, but this changed in the nineteen seventies. Now, the NOV has about 1300 members; 120 of them are from Belgium.

What has the Netherlands to offer, orchid-wise?



- Forty native orchid species, ten percent of all European orchid species, grow in the Netherlands. Many have become rare, but are now well protected. Most orchids grow along the coast, on the Wadden islands and in the very south of our country.

- Orchid hobbyists (and professional growers) from all over Europe come to visit the about eight specialised nurseries where thousands of botanical orchid species are available, many of them extremely rare in their home countries. Either legally imported or seed-grown, the quality of these plants is invariably high. Dutch nurseries are welcome guests at orchid fairs and exhibitions anywhere in Europe.



Penkimia nagalandensis, a new discovery from India, was found by an NOV member in a friend's collection. Self-pollination yielded viable seeds and there are now 50 young plants growing. A nice example of *ex situ* conservation.

- Last but certainly not least, the Netherlands is a mass producer and exporter of hybrid orchids, a position only challenged by Taiwan and Thailand. About four hundred hi-tech nurseries, united in the Association of Dutch Orchid Producers (KNOP), produce millions of plants per year. These beautiful and easy to grow hybrids brighten homes and offices all over the world.



www.nov-orchidee.nl

The Netherlands Orchid Society (NOV)



The NOV is proud to be a member of the EOC. Orchid growing, orchid trade and orchid protection are no longer just national issues but challenges on a European, if not worldwide, scale. Exchanging knowledge and best practices, not only on orchids *per se* but also on running an attractive orchid society, are added values of the EOC to which we very much like to contribute.

Many, but less than half of the 1300 NOV members grow their orchids in a heated greenhouse. Home and garden growing are becoming more and more popular in the Netherlands. Hobbyists are constantly exploring new ways of orchid growing and trying to grow unusual orchid species which are better adapted to home growing than the conventional greenhouse species.



What has the NOV to offer to its members?

- The core of the NOV consists of eighteen regional associations, spread over the country. They organise monthly or bimonthly meetings. Typically, such meetings contain a presentation on an orchid country or an orchid genus, or hands-on lessons on potting plants. Members may bring their flowering (or troublesome) plants for discussion. Often, excursions are organised to nurseries or orchid reserves.



- The NOV has two national working groups, one on slipper orchids, and the other on Pleurothallids. Close links exist with two more national working groups, one on orchid reproduction, and the other on native orchids.

- All NOV members receive 'Orchideeën', a beautiful 24 page full colour magazine, A4 format, six times a year. Moreover, the society has published several booklets on home orchid growing that are available at reduced charge for members.
- All NOV members have free access to the 'NOV Day' which is organised annually, with lots of possibilities to exchange experiences, purchase orchid books or rare plants from fellow hobbyists or commercial growers.



- The NOV has its own team of orchid judges who operate on demand throughout the country and on the 'NOV Day'.



- At Eastern, 2-5 April 2010, the NOV together with the Hortus botanicus in Leiden, will organise the 'Orchiade' - a large orchid exhibition. Located half an hour by train from Amsterdam airport, this will be a must-see for all European orchid enthusiasts!



Our website www.nov-orchidee.nl is still only in Dutch, but that will change soon.