

Pronunciation of Orchid Names

Pronouncing orchid names isn't easy, some are, some aren't, some downright impossible, what I have done here is try to make it a little easier for you: with a little practice you shouldn't have any problems.

Without a doubt the worst pronunciation was Cattleyer for *Cattleya* but we seem to have gotten on top of that one, except some are still saying Cattle instead of Cat but I suppose some people are harder to teach than others. Try - cat – lee – ah. That's better.

The other is the pronunciation of 'ii' and 'iae' to pronounce these correctly one must remember these are either Latin or parts thereof. These are both pronounced the same 'ee-eye', perhaps the best thing to do here would be to quote the “Hand book on orchid Nomenclature and Registration”, I quote:- Rule 15, Example (a). Grex epithets and cultivar epithets in genitive singular derived from personal names should end in – ii (men) or – iae (women) unless the personal name ends in a vowel (including y and j in certain Slav languages) or in – er, in which case they should end in – I or – ae, thus – 'Jonesii' (male), 'Schmidtiae' (female), 'Cooperi' (ends in er), 'Roylei' (ends in a vowel), 'Roumeyii' (ends in y), 'Alexji' (ends in j), and 'Doncklaarii' (male), End of quote.

There is one thing you must remember the letters 'ae' are **NEVER pronounced as ay**, Please judges take particular note as you are the worst exponents of this mispronunciation. We as judges are expected to know all, although we know that is not possible we must try because novice growers take note of what we say. Take the genus *Laelia*, named after one of vestal virgins and pronounced - lee-lee-ah – correctly but the world over orchid growers refer to it as – lay-lee-ah – consequently it has become firmly embedded in our brains . Here are some examples of the pronunciation of 'ae', *Angraecum*. - an-gree-cum or – an- gry-cum, *Dendrobium*. *Phalaenopsis*, - fal-ee-nop-sis, *Cattleyas alexandrae* – al-ex-an-dry, *mossiae* – moss-ee-eye. How are you going – still with me?

The suffixes 'ara' & 'iana' are tacked onto a persons name, the person being usually the maker of multi generic hybrid or the discoverer of a new species, e.g *Degarmoara*. for Lloyd Degarmo & *Sanderiana* for Fredrik Sander. I don't deem it necessary to print the whys & wherefores as these names can't be stuffed up. (Or can they?)

Now we have that out of the road, we shall look at species. The word species is both singular and plural.

Species can only have varieties. Now if a species name ends in 'e', e.g. *Dendrobium nobile* the letter 'e' is pronounced as 'ee', like this – no-bill-ee. *Paphiopedilum philippinense*. - fil-i-pinen-see. Get it? Simple eh?

You will notice how I have dissected the words, do this , then gradually say them faster until the word stick; I will give you a few examples, words that I have noticed growers struggling with.

Coerulea. In saying this we pronounce 'coe' as 'see'. Which gives us , - see-roo-lee-a.
Coelogyne. We have, - see-loj-in-ee.

Cycnoches. “ch' is in most cases pronounced as 'k', which gives us. - sik-no-keez.
Also pronounced as 'k' when saying Chysis. we have, – kye-sis. Schomburgkia is one of the exceptions.

Sphacelatum. Boy does this get stuffed up, it's – sfas-el-art-um- not spatch as is often said.

Phaius. Tankervilleae. Goes like this – fay-us. Tank-ker-vil-ee-eye.

Warewiczii. Try this – var-sheh-vich-ee-eye.

Cogniauxii. These you have to learn because it's in a foreign language. - kon-yo-ee-eye.

Gireoudiana. Tongue blister-er, - jee-ree-ood-ee-ah-na.

Lueddemanniana. Easy – loo-ed-e-man-ee-ah-na.

Godefroyae. Another easy one – go-de-froy-eye.

I wish you all the best, remember practice makes perfect.

Hymn