

**THE ORCHID-GROWER'S MANUAL:
CONTAINING A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
UPWARDS OF TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS, TOGETHER WITH
NOTICES OF THEIR TIMES
OF FLOWERING AND MOST APPROVED
MODES OF TREATMENT; PP. 4-108**

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BENJAMIN SAMUEL WILLIAMS

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Vanilla planifolia

Pl. ... 2. ... Grandis ...

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OF

UPWARDS OF TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY
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NOTICES OF THEIR TIMES OF FLOWERING AND MOST APPROVED MODES OF TREATMENT;
ALSO, PLAIN AND PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE GENERAL
CULTURE OF ORCHIDS; AND REMARKS ON THE HEAT,
MOISTURE, SOIL, AND REASONS OF GROWTH
AND REST, BEST SUITED TO THE
SEVERAL SPECIES.



BY

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TO

CHARLES BORHAM WARNER, Esq.

FELLOW OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The following Pages

ARE

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,

B. S. WILLIAMS.

Warner, and who kindly, from time to time, gave me such instruction as was necessary for a beginner. There is a notion amongst gardeners that the cultivation of these plants is attended with great difficulty; that different houses for different climates are necessary; and that the secret of good culture is only known to few; that, in fact, no one but those having a large establishment, and a gardener expressly skilled in Orchidaceous culture, should attempt to grow them. Mr. Bateman, in the preface to his great work, intimates that their cultivation is to be left to the aristocratic, whilst the more humble florist is to be confined to his Carnations, Auriculas, Dahlias, and such-like flowers. Mr. Williams' plan seemed to me very simple, and also that one house might easily be made to answer the purpose, if properly managed; at least for those who are not ambitious of possessing a very large collection, or of growing such as are most impatient of culture. Having derived much advantage from the instruction afforded to me, I recommended Mr. Williams to make notes of his mode of culture, and since these were written I have advised him to publish them. I trust that, to humble beginners like myself, I have done good service by this advice; and I cannot but think that ere long many will be induced to attempt the cultivation of this beautiful tribe of plants, who, for want of plain instructions, have hitherto been deterred from

making a beginning. A very small house is sufficient, hot-water pipes or tanks are now cheap, and a small boiler may be had for 2*l.* 10*s.*, or less; and glass (thanks to Sir Robert Peel) is also within the means of the humblest gardener; and those who refer to Mr. Rivers' account in your paper of how to make cheap lights, and build cheap houses, will find that for 40*l.*, or less, a very sufficient Orchid-house, with hot-water apparatus, may be put up.

“ Knowing the pleasure derived by many in the humblest classes from the cultivation of flowers, and how much talent, patience, and ingenuity, are often displayed by such amateurs, I feel gratified by the hope that I may possibly be the means of increasing the harmless amusement of many. It is not likely that Mr. Williams' instructions will interest or inform those cultivators — Mr. Mylam, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bassett, Messrs. Veitch, Rollisson, &c., or others at the head of the great collections of this country; it is merely for the benefit of the beginner that they are intended. As regards the fitness of Mr. Williams to instruct, the best proof I can offer of this is, that for some years he has exhibited, both at Chiswick and in the Regent's Park, and a reference to the prize lists will show that he was always successful, and, during the past years, obtained 23 gold and 12 silver medals for Orchids, and 14 silver ones for Ferns. Mr. Warner's collec-

tion not being so large as those of many others, it was only the last two years that Mr. Williams competed in the highest class of twenty plants."

Since the first appearance of these observations, I have revised them, and have added notices of several desirable, showy, and new species; and the following pages will contain short and plain, but, it is believed, accurate descriptions of more than 260 of the best Orchids now in cultivation. I cannot resist this opportunity of expressing my gratification at finding that it has come to my knowledge that the publication of these papers has already induced several persons to commence the cultivation of this interesting class of plants.

Any reader of this Manual who may be interested in the commencement and progress of the culture of Orchids in this country, will find a clear and useful summary of information on this subject in an article on Epiphytes in the "Penny Cyclopaedia."