



Oncidium Booklet

2025

The Mathers Foundation

Our Team



Marguerite, Hendrelien, Gill, Jim & David

The Mathers Foundation was established as a UK charity in 2019 to conserve collections of orchid species and hybrids and to support ex-situ and in-situ conservation.

In addition to the **National Collection** of Oncidiums, we are also the holders of the National Collection of Pleiones, Stanhopeas, Masdevallias, Anguloas & Acinetas.

About Us

There are over **20,000 plants** grown at the nursery, led by our Head Nurseryman, Jim Durrant. The Foundation also operates a propagation laboratory, making both species sibling crosses and new hybrids.

A sneak peek inside



Introducing Our Catalogue

Dear Grower,

We are delighted to present our second catalogue of *Oncidiums*, *Odontoglossums* and intergeneric hybrids. The Mathers Foundation is the proud keeper of the UK's National Collection of *Oncidiums*, which comprises over **5,000 adult plants** of approaching 1,000 different hybrids and species, usually with multiple different clones of each grex.

Why are we selling plants?

One of the purposes of the Foundation is to encourage the growing of these plants. Given the decline of commercial orchid nurseries in the UK, these plants have been increasingly scarce, even though much of the original breeding was conducted in the UK over the last century. We are keen to encourage growers to form and add to their own collections.

Furthermore, all of the plants for sale are in surplus to the requirements of the National Collection. Selling these plants both raises funds to support the National Collection and releases space in the nursery – space which is much needed given the active breeding program that is underway at the Foundation.

All profits from the sale of these plants go the Foundation and support its work. Furthermore, by buying plants that have been professionally raised through artificial propagation you reduce the pressure on the remaining populations of these plants in the wild.



Jim, our expert grower

By Paul Upward Photography

The boring bits

Given the size of these plants and the level of variation in the hybrids, we prefer sales to be made in person rather than by mail order, to allow our customers to see and judge the individual hybrids themselves. However mail order is available on request.

Our Plants



Left: Our award-winning *Oncidium Prince Vultan* by Deborah Lambkin
Right: One of our awards

It can take **more than six years** from pollination to flowering size plants which explains why new hybrids can be expensive as to make the most delicate and appealing flower takes skill and time.

Selecting clones with distinct characteristics by name ensures unique plants are recognised. Plants awarded an Award of Merit by the RHS Expert Group have benefited from years of dedication and expert care and deserve the accolade of being simply the **'best of the best'** in the world.

Fancy a visit?

We welcome visitors to our **Guided Tours** to see the collection and we normally display our plants at the RHS Orchid Show in March.

Visits can be booked via our website and include a full tour of the nursery and growing advice.



Guided tours by Jim (by Paul Upward Photography)

Pricing

All of the plants in catalogue are divided into **different pricing categories**. All of the plants for sale are of flowering size (and indeed will be in flower) but many are significantly larger.

Some hybrids are priced in bands as there can be **variation in flower size and colour**.

The photographs are an example of each hybrid for sale but the actual plants may vary.



By Paul Upward Photography

# Adult Bulbs (flowering size)	1	2+
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Symbols



Limited availability

URG

Unregistered grex - not yet named and registered with RHS

A

£25

£30

B

£35

£50

C

£50

£80

D

£75

£100

E

£100

£125

F

£125

£175

Oncidium Species and Hybrids

C-E



Onc. Amberely
(*Joanna Whitney* x *Desirable*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

A very desirable classic alexandrae/crispum hybrid. Joanna Whitney is a Bob Hamilton's cross between an Eric Young hybrid, Saint Clement, and a McBean's hybrid, Durham City), while Desirable is descended again from Durham City crossed with Aviewood, another Bob Hamilton cross, this time from two Mansell parents.

C-D



Onc. Amberley Sunrise
(*Onc. Durham City* x *Onc. McBean's Ann*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

A stunning new Jim Durrant cross between two classic Odontoglossum hybrids. Colours range from apricot/red through to deeper reds and pinks.

D-E



Onc. Carlos Arango
(*Onc. Shelley 'Spring Dress'* x *Onc. Jim Mintsiveris*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Classic white and blotched nobile/crispum cross. Large flowers with the amount of dark burgundy blotching varying depending on the clone.



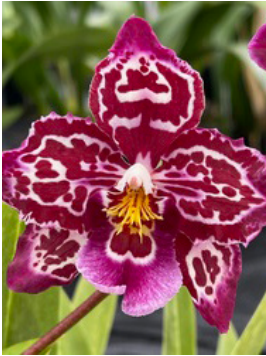
E-F



Oip. Diablo's Drum
(*Ons. Diablo Way* x *Onc Joe's Drum*)

Intense, dark red flowers with brilliantly patterned lips. One parent, made by Juan Felipe Posada, is the remarkable Diablo's Drum, this time crossed with an Oncostele, bringing in *Rhyncostele maculata* genes. The other is an *Odontoglossum* hybrid made by the famous Japanese breeder, Mukoyama.

C-E



Onc. Entranced
(*Onc. Pesky Trance* x *Onc. Joe's Drum*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Variable cross with classic Joe's Drum colouring influenced by the patterning and star shape from the *astranthum* grand parent. Depth of colour varies from burgundy through to pink.

B-C



Onc. Gay Starshooter
(*Onc. cirrhosum* x *Onc. naevium*)
(formerly *Odontoglossum*)

White star-shaped flowers with a prominent yellow lip and red spots. Much more vigorous than *cirrhosum*, benefitting from the *naevium* parent.

Oncidium Species and Hybrids

C-D



Onc. Hildesheim
(*spectatissimum* x *Panise*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

A beautiful yellow and brown Oncidium, combining a classic long-flowered yellow alexandrae hybrid back-crossed onto one of its key parents, *Onc. spectatissimum*. Highly floriferous.

C-E



Onc. Janus
(*Onc. Rolfeae* x *Onc. Cristatellum* 'Aureum')
(formerly *Odontoglossum*)

Remake of the 1910 cross with a tetraploid *Rolfeae* and an aureum form of the primary hybrid between *crisatum* and *kegeljanii*. *Rolfeae* is *nobile* x *harryanum*. Extremely vigorous hybrid with 1.5-2m spikes on first flowering, normally arriving later in the season.

D-F



Onc. Jim Mintsiveris
(*Onc. Nicky Strauss* x *Onc. Durham Pursuit*)
(formerly *Odontoglossum*)

Remake of a key hybrid in the Black Diamond breeding line. Large flowers with burgundy blotching, amount and patterning depending on the clone.



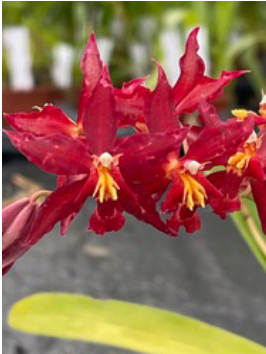
B-C



Onc. John Miller
(*Onc. Tribbles* x *Onc. Burning Bed*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Classic *Odontioda* cross with vivid burgundy and red patterning from the *Burning Bed* parent across a pink background.

A



Onc. Naevnoez
(*Onc. noezlianum* x *Onc. naevium*)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Strongly coloured red flowers with a classic *naevium* star shape and yellow *noezlianum* lip. Very vigorous and an interesting potential parent give the robustness and colour.

A



Onc. noezlianum
(formerly *Cochlioda*)

Divisions of the species responsible for the red colouring in most of our hybrids. Easy to grow, with numerous small red flowers.

Oncidium Species and Hybrids

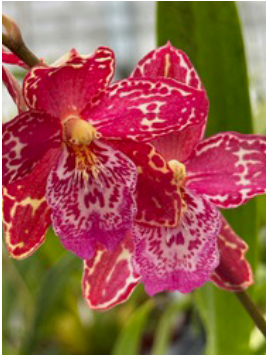
C-F



Onc. Oedipus
(Onc. Saint Joe x Onc. Joe's Drum)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

This has the famous Joe's Drum on both sides, as Saint Joe is Joe's Drum crossed onto the equally famous Saint Clement. Very strong, well shaped flowers from the alexandrae / crispin background with variable red-pink-purple petals and sepals and a stunning lip.

B-D



Onc. Prince Ahmad
(Onc. Prince Vultan x Onc. Charlesworthii)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Prince Vultan is a beautiful small flowered hybrid with pink speckling from strictum (several have been awarded). Charlesworthii is the famous 1908 hybrid between noezlianum and harryanum with strong red colours and an extravagant lip. Prince Ahmad combines the best of both.

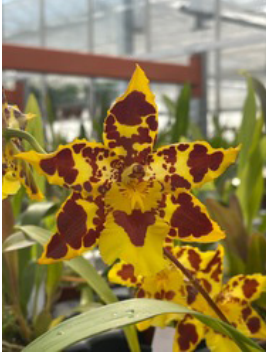
B-D



Onc. Saint Jonathan
(Onc. Saint Clement x Onc. Burning Bed)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Large red and patterned *Odontioda*-type. Flowers are well shaped and with variable colouring, ranging from fire engine red to burgundy/purple. Some clones have striped markings. Pricing depends on the clone.

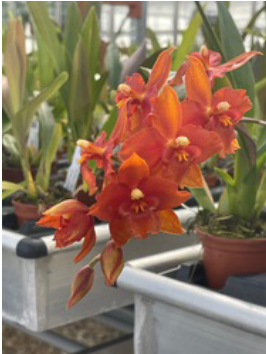
E-F



Onc. Saxony
(Onc. Tiger Hambuhren x Onc. Hildesheim)
(formerly Odontocidium)

Very well shaped and strong yellow, with great genetics primarily from spectatissimum, tigrinum and alexandrae. Markings vary between clones with differing degrees of brown and yellow but all so far have been flat and very well shaped. We have seen good colour stability in the clones that have flowered to date. Vigorous with flower count expected to increase further with bulb size.

B-C



Onc. Tangerine
(Jaffa x Harry Baldwin)
(formerly Odontioda)

An unusual hybrid with flowers that range from red-apricot-brown, depending on the clone. Jaffa is 50% velleum (closely related to the wyattianum/harryanum/helgae grouping), together with noezlianum genes. Harry Baldwin is a Keith Andrew cross that brings in more crispum/alexandrae parentage.

C-E



Onc. Tiger's Gold
(Onc. Tiger Hambuhren x Onc. Dugger's Gold)
(formerly Odontocidium)

A different hybrid from the same parent, this time crossed with Dugger's Gold, which comes from the famous Stonehurst Yellow and Moselle parents. Extremely good shape, primarily yellow flowers. Again, colours have been stable in the clones that have flowered to date.

Oncidium Species and Hybrids

C-D



Onc. Tippling
(Onc. Tipples x Onc. Florence Stirling)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

Florence Stirling is a beautiful old hybrid, registered in 1948, with large pink/white flowers, dominated by its *crispum/alexandrae* background. Tipples is 25% *aurarium* giving more heat tolerance and a star-shape. The result is a highly floriferous hybrid which also benefits from the *nobile* genes.

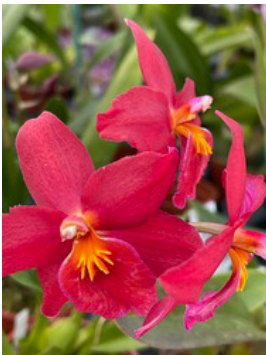
C-D



Onc. URG
(Rolfeae x Burning Bed)
(formerly *Odontioda*)

We have both a modern remake of the historic hybrid, *Rolfeae* (originally registered by Vuylsteke in 1898) between *harryanum* and *nobile*, and a number of crosses from it, often 4N. This cross brings in the red genes from the famous US cross, *Burning Bed*, a stunning dark red hybrid descended from *Petit Port*.

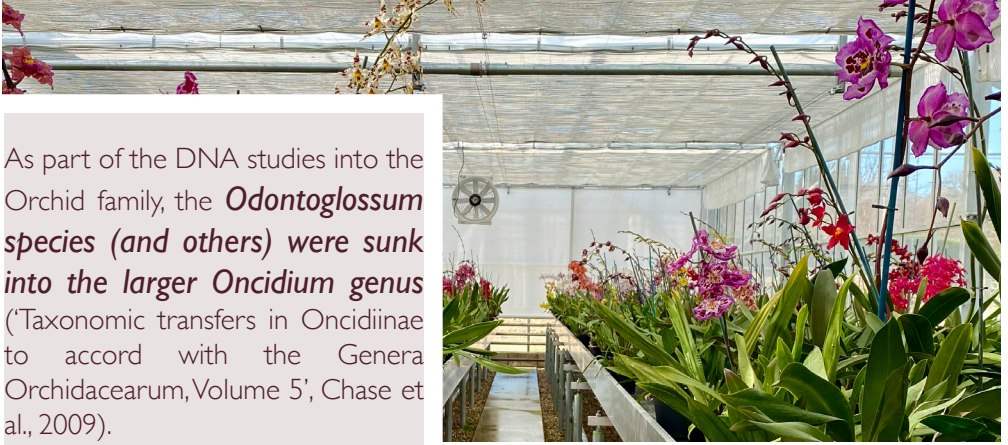
C



Oip. URG
(Cambrian Charge x Marside)
(formerly *Vuylstekeara*)

A beautiful *Vuylstekeara*, now *Oncidopsis*, hybrid descended from *Cambia* on one side, crossed with the 1908 hybrid, *Charlesworthii*, and the classic *Odontoglossum* hybrid *Marside* on the other; made from two McBean's hybrids *Ingmar* and *Wearside Pattern*.

Oncidium or Odontoglossum?



As part of the DNA studies into the Orchid family, the *Odontoglossum* species (and others) were sunk into the larger *Oncidium* genus ('Taxonomic transfers in Oncidiinae to accord with the Genera Orchidacearum, Volume 5', Chase et al., 2009).

This remains a controversial decision and has been followed by other publications, eg 'The Odontoglossum Story', Dalstrom et al., 2020, which contests this reclassification.

The oncidium house

We don't believe we are qualified to add to this debate, beyond saying that there are clearly cool-growing, high altitude plants such as *Oncidium alexandrae* (or *Odontoglossum crispum*) which are **very different** to warm growing tropical *Oncidium*s.

But there are also a number of species which sit in the middle of this spectrum, complicating the analysis.



Old & new labels

For the purpose of this catalogue, we have **included both names**, including the older intergeneric names such as *Odontocidium* (*Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*) and *Wilsonara* (*Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*), as well as the current accepted names.

Growing these species



Colombian Uplands

Our conditions

We grow these plants with a minimum temperature of around **12-13C** and **around 17-20C** during the day. They prefer maximum temperatures below 25C and definitely don't like it above 30C.

We use underbench misting (and capillary matting) to keep humidity in the **60-75% level** and added cloud misting above the plants to help reduce the Summer temperatures.

Full sun should be avoided for these plants and our shading systems will cut about 60-70% of the light when there is no cloud, whether in the Summer, Autumn, Winter or Spring. These automated systems withdraw completely when there is cloud.

Going back to the roots

Most of the hybrids in this catalogue have *Odontoglossum crispum* (or *Oncidium alexandrae*) in their genetic inheritance. Indeed, this beautiful species has been critical in this breeding for over a century.

Found at altitudes of 2000-3000m in Colombia, this plant requires **cool and humid** growing conditions.

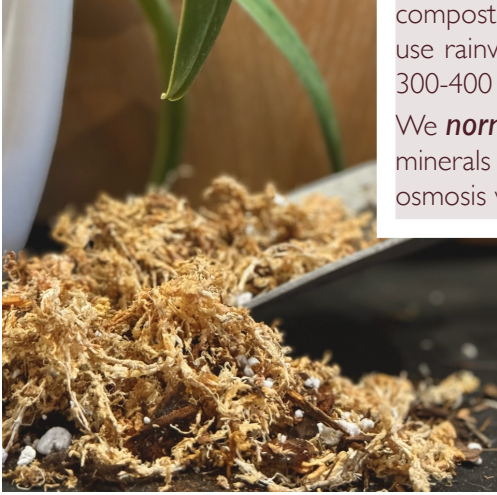
While its hybrids, particularly those including warmer growing, lower altitude species, are more tolerant, it's important to keep these conditions in mind when cultivating these plants.



Inside our greenhouse

Compost & Feed

Jim's Compost (available for purchase)



We use a mix composed of *sphagnum moss*, *bark* and *some perlite* and are very careful to allow the compost to dry to just damp before re-watering. We use rainwater, adding low dosage fertilizer at around 300-400 microsiemens, in three out of four waterings. We **normally include Cal-Mag** in our feed as these minerals are lacking in rainwater (and in reverse osmosis water although we only use this rarely).

Climate Change

While these plants have been grown in Sussex for over 100 years, **our Summers are now becoming too warm**. Even with our cloud misting systems, the plants normally go into a **semi-dormant state** during the hottest months; keep this in mind when fertilizing and watering during this period. The fastest growth is in Autumn and Spring, so repotting should be done at the start of these periods to allow the new roots to get established.

Watch Out!

These orchids, like many plants, are susceptible to viruses, which, for all practical purposes, are incurable. The most common types are **Odontoglossum Ring Spot Virus** and **Cymbidium mosaic virus**. They can be tested for using strip test kits (similar to COVID-19 tests).

At TMF, any plants that test positive are destroyed and we take a number of precautions to avoid transmission. However, it is important to **look for signs on new foliage** as older leaves often get marked by mechanical damage or non-viral infections and the plant may not be infected by a virus.



Summer at the nursery

Terms and Conditions

All plants are offered subject to stock availability and will be supplied with a UK Plant Passport. We currently do not have a European or overseas partner to sell these plants and due to strict UK export requirements we cannot therefore supply non UK customers at present.

Prices are for flowering sized plants, which have been grown in our nursery. The plants will be sold in flower but we would caution these cool-growing orchids can be challenging plants to grow indoors in a house due to the climatic requirements and are more suited to a cool greenhouse. As your growing conditions are beyond our control, we cannot assume responsibility for lack of performance but are always happy to give advice and support.

All photographs in the catalogue have been taken during the flowering season but there are substantial variations in colour and patterning in many of these hybrids. We hope that any mistaken identity will be rare but we are human so do contact us if you think we have made a mistake as we do aim for satisfied customers.

Given the size of these plants and the level of variation in the hybrids we prefer sales to be made in person rather than by mail order, to allow our customers to see and judge the individual hybrids themselves.

If you are not able to visit us at the nursery or at the RHS Show do get in contact via email and we will see if we can assist by mail order. Email for all enquiries is admin@orchid.foundation.

For mail orders we will send photographs of hybrids you are interested and prices. There will be a minimum order of £50 (excluding postage) and postage via Parcelforce will be passed on at cost as it depends on the size of plant and packaging. Mail orders will require advance payment and we will send an invoice with our banking and PayPal details and acknowledge receipt by return.

