

Judging Primary Hybrids

While judges are not expected to know every orchid genus, they should be very familiar with more commonly grown and awarded species and primary hybrids from a wide range of genera.

Let's take *Cattleya* (formerly *Lc.*) *Love Knot* for example and question ourselves about its previous awards and the traits imparted to the hybrid by its parents *C. sincorana* and *C. walkeriana*.

- A) Reviewing previous awards to *C. Love Knot*, which parent appears to dominate petal characteristics?
- B) Same question for lip characteristics.
- C) The Orchid Registrar lists this hybrid as *C. sincorana* X *C. walkeriana*. Based upon research of previously-awarded clones of *C. Love Knot*, hypothesize which clones might have been the result of a reciprocal cross of these parents.
- D) Hypothesize the differences you might observe between crosses of *C. sincorana* X *C. walkeriana* versus *C. walkeriana* X *C. sincorana*. Include your thoughts on plant growth habit including pseudobulb spacing, flower stem habit, flower count, flower color, flower parts including width of petals and flower size, and ease of plant growth.
- E) Why would it be important for us to recognize the differences that species play in their role as pod or pollen contribution as parent?

Our judging handbook states that we are looking for an improvement in floral characteristics based on the two parents. *C. Love Knot* is now highly awarded.

- F) Within the context of current awards, write a description of a modern quality-award-worthy *C. Love Knot*. Include measurements and specific parents you would use if creating the hybrid today noting pod or pollen contribution.
- G) List two additional primary hybrids that exhibit differing traits when made as reciprocal crosses. Explain the differences.