



ENVY—a proven Anti-Transparent

By W. Murphy

I have been continually asked by growers, how to successfully de-flask orchids; most of these growers have tried de-flasking without much success and the majority lose their seedlings within the first 3-6 weeks out of the flask.

Orchids in flasks enjoy an almost 100% humidity environment – well protected from all the elements, pests and diseases, whilst feeding and growing happily on the nutrients provided in the flasking medium.

The act of de-flasking immediately exposes the plants to the elements, fungi, bacteria and pests. Care needs to be taken to protect them and to try to maintain a high relative humidity about them during the transition period (approximately 21 days) without damping off etc. During this period the stomata must learn to open and close, to control the transpiration of moisture from the plants and the plants must learn – in the simplest of

terms – to feed itself by the process of photosynthesis – instead of being "spoon-fed" from the nutrients from the flask.

During this transition period, the plant is subject to "damping-off" and defenceless against attacks of fungi and bacteria. Most growers will be well aware that the plants from the flask require a well-drained moisture retentive medium such as sphagnum moss, or a peat based or similar moisture retentive ingredient to you mix.

These problems can be greatly reduced by spraying or dipping the plants in a solution of ENVY – 1 part ENVY/ 10 parts water. Envy has been shown to effectively reduce moisture loss from plants by as much as 50%.

Let me explain a little about the product, how it works and how it can be utilised in orchid growing.

ENVY is formulated as a hydrophilic polymer and contains a ultra-violet filter. Unlike some other anti transparents, it can be used on all plants with complete safety. Translated into plain English, it is a water-based formulation which dries to a semi-permeable membrane over the plant: the membrane allows the plant to "breathe", but at the same time it effectively slows down the loss of water and water vapour from the leaf surfaces. This reduces the moisture loss and:-

1. Better ensures recovery and survival
2. Assists plants to resist low winter temperatures
3. Assists plants survival in periods of insufficient water.

4. Reduces labour requirements to maintain relative humidity and watering.

5. ENVY minimises exposure to disease infection.

6. ENVY prevents windburn and sun-scald and provides frost-protection.

After mixing, it can be sprayed on with any type of spray equipment; high pressure or hand held or can be dipped to ensure full surface coverage.

ENVY does not clog the leaf stomata, nor does it retard growth or cause phytotoxicity. Plant photosynthesis is kept at a maximum and oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange is not affected.

It dries a natural, clear, non-sticky finish in around 15 minutes – it does not add an artificial sheen to the leaves and will not cause a chemical burn or injury to the plants even if mixed at double the recommended dosage.

ENVY has excellent wetting and spreading characteristics and NO added wetting or spreading agents are required. It is non-toxic and completely safe to use as directed. Being water based and with a neutral PH, it is non-corrosive and non-inflammable. It is recommended that any spraying equipment be flushed out with clean water after use and the mixture not be left in spray equipment overnight. Mix only the required amount, do not store the mixture and by flushing and washing to clean equipment when finished.