

# Global Orchid Growers

is an international group of Phalaenopsis growers that regularly share knowledge and experience and meets once a year in September for a week, discussing various themes and subjects. Each trip takes place on a different continent.

The participants to this group are renowned horticultural producers who, by being part of this group, want to get inspired by experiencing something different from their daily routine at their respective companies and at the same time draw inspiration from the face to face exchanges during their annual trip. In addition, strengthened by Covid-19, the group is attaching importance to knowledge exchange and networking and want to bring these to a new level by organizing digital events.

This study group was initiated by Jungle Talks, a horticultural concept developer based in Costa Rica, but with Dutch roots and management, for more information check [www.jungletalks.com](http://www.jungletalks.com)

An short introduction to all participants can be find below:

## THE NETHERLANDS

### OK Plant

*Colourful in every season*

OK Plant started in 1990 as a rather small, family operation. Today, the business consists of seven co-operators, each with their own specialities. By working in two high-tech greenhouses the company ensures year-round availability of flowering plants. A section of one of our greenhouses contains more than 100 different Little Kolibri Orchids. In the other greenhouse, OK Plant cultivates flowering seasonal plants.

The company continually works to optimise cultivation, and product packaging processed and continues to innovate. These innovations are often inspired by their clients. Clients are the central focus of development in the nursery of OK Plant. All services and the cultivation of flowering plants are geared towards clients' satisfaction; making sure that all needs are met.

The company is proud on their plants and what they have achieved together with personnel and clients. Their dedicated staff proves that a great team spirit and passion for the plants brings the company to an even higher level every day.

More information can be found on: [www.okplant.nl/en/](http://www.okplant.nl/en/)

### Ter Laak Orchids

Ter Laak Orchids was founded in 1954 and is currently being run by the brothers Eduard and Richard ter Laak. In two nurseries in Wateringen in the Netherlands, the company annually produces around 6 million Phalaenopsis plants for garden centres, florists and retailers throughout Europe. The company is about to use their new, state-of-the-art Daylight Greenhouse, increasing production to 8 million plants per year on a total surface area of 17.5 ha.

In addition, Ter Laak has started production of Phalaenopsis in Guatemala in 2016 and together with a local partner is now supplying flowering plants and semi-finished plants to Latin American markets and North America.

At Ter Laak in the Netherlands a committed and enthusiastic team of 250 employees work all year round to provide customers with the best possible products. The company continues to invest in technological innovations and developing their products. Always in a sustainable way, because respect for people and their environment is important to the company. The sustainable innovations help to use the least amount of energy and water.

More information can be found on: [www.orchidee.nl/en](http://www.orchidee.nl/en)

## **Piko Plant**

Piko Plant has been cultivating, selecting and improving the most exclusive Phalaenopsis varieties for more than thirty years already. The company is also the creator of the so-called Bohemian Orchids. The company produces various species of pot Phalaenopsis' at their nursery in Nootdorp. Forty enthusiastic and experienced employees continually strive for the highest possible plant quality in a 44,000 m<sup>2</sup> area. Piko Plant combines the latest, modern equipment to craftsmanship and the green thumbs of their employees. Piko Plant is focused on the higher market segments and for each step in the production process the company works with the best partners, from suppliers to exporters, in order to guarantee constant quality to their customers.

More information can be found on: [www.bohemianorchids.eu](http://www.bohemianorchids.eu))

## **SLOVENIA**

### **Ocean Orchids**

Ocean Orchids is a Phalaenopsis producer with forty employees in the extreme northeast of Slovenia. The company was founded by two enthusiastic Slovenian entrepreneurs with a long time passion for orchids. The company currently produces about 2 million orchids every year. More than half of the production volume is being exported to other European markets.

Ocean Orchids is an environmental conscious company. Their geographical location gives them a strategic advantage in using geothermal energy. Ocean Orchids is located in the village of Dobrovnik, at the place where, several million years ago, was the Pannonian Ocean. Here the company constructed their greenhouse, which is extremely energy efficient. In addition, the company also has a very low level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. All this leads to the fact that Ocean Orchids' orchids are being produced with the lowest carbon footprint in Europe.

More information can be found on: [www.oceanorchids.si](http://www.oceanorchids.si)

## **DENMARK**

### **Gartneriet Rønbæk A/S**

Gartneriet Rønbæk A/S started in 1978 by Ove and Erik Schwartz (father and son). The company has grown through the years and today has a greenhouse area of 20000 m<sup>2</sup> and is still a family company, by Erik and his two sons Søren and Christian. In the beginning, the company focused mainly on foliage indoor plants. In 1997 the first production of orchids was started. At the time orchids were a niche product. Since that time, Phalaenopsis has proven to be an excellent and very popular pot plant, due to its incredible durability, easy care and the wide range of colours and shades, Gartneriet Rønbæk A/S has decided to produce exclusively Phalaenopsis ever since. The company counts with 15 full time workers and produces around 900.000 Phalaenopsis plants in three size versions 6, 9 and 12 cm pots.

More information can be found on: <http://www.roenbaek.dk>

## **USA**

### **Westerlay Orchids**

Westerlay Orchids taps Dutch roots to grow the finest flowers on the Pacific Coast and the company's team has a simple mission: to grow the most stunning and highest quality orchids.

Westerlay's path to producing some of the finest orchids available stretches back generations of horticulturists to the greenhouses of Holland. Company founder Joop "Joe" Overgaag had been a greenhouse farmer in the Netherlands before immigrating to Carpinteria, California (along with his wife and four children) in 1978. Joop built his first greenhouses by hand and would soon open Westerlay Roses, named after the Westerlee vegetable auction in Holland. The sweat equity paid off and Westerlay Roses soon found a foothold in the domestic rose market. Son Toine Overgaag is now president of the company and dedicated to growing high quality Phalaenopsis orchids. Westerlay Orchids is qualified MPS A and the company works hard to minimize their impact utilizing best practices and technology. In addition, the company is strongly rooted in the local Carpinteria community and regularly contribute to local causes.

More information can be found on: [www.westerlayorchids.com](http://www.westerlayorchids.com)

## **CANADA**

### **CosMic Plants**

*Colour – Emotion - Life*

CosMic Plants Inc. is a greenhouse operation located in the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario. The company was established in 2004 and is operated by a team of valuable employees together with owners Neil and Mike van Steekelenburg. The two brothers run the company together, Neil is in charge of production, climate control and Mike is in charge of marketing and sales. CosMic Plants produce Phalaenopsis orchids in 5 inch and 3,5 inch pots all year round. Over the past years, the company has grown into a renowned supplier of flowering tropical plants, providing floral wholesalers and distributors with their high quality products.

More information can be found on: [www.cosmicplants.com](http://www.cosmicplants.com))

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **LVG Plants**

LVG Plants has gained a reputation over the past 28 years for being the leading grower of indoor pot plants in Southern Africa. This reputation has grown out of the love for plants and flowers and meticulous attention to detail by the van Geest family and their staff.

LVG Plants is a dynamic company and places a high value on innovation and closely follows international developments and trends in the horticultural sector. Innovative growing techniques and new developments are used in growing its range of indoor plants more efficiently.

Based in Oaktree, Krugersdorp, South Africa, LVG has expanded to a total of 85 000 m<sup>2</sup> of fully computerized and automated indoor greenhouses. All irrigation, fertigation, heating and cooling is centrally controlled to ensure optimum growth conditions for its wide range of indoor plants. In addition to Phalaenopsis orchids, the company also produces green plants, flowering plants like anthurium and begonia, cut flowers like gerbera and rose and even bonsai plants.

More information can be found on: [www.lvgplant.co.za](http://www.lvgplant.co.za)

## **BRASIL**

### **EcoFlora**

Ecoflora was established in 1980 is a leading orchid producer and one of the biggest producers of bromelia's in Brazil. The production area amounts to 198.000 m2, divided in four main production areas. The company's products are sold in the local market, but also exported to other South American countries. Ecoflora is located in Holambra, a community that has focused on horticultural production for over 60 years already and sells its products exclusively via the Holambra auction. The company is currently being managed by Frans van de Weijer, an entrepreneur with Dutch roots. His son Patrick is being trained to take over the business in the years to come.

More information can be found on: <http://www.ecoflora.com.br>

## **TAIWAN**

### **Royal Base Group**

The Royal Base Group was established in 2003 and has developed into a well-known agricultural enterprise, renowned for its high quality products and professional service. The core business of the group includes Phalaenopsis breeding, production, marketing and sales and its products include Phalaenopsis tissue culture, young plants, flowering plants and cut flowers. The company's headquarter is in Taipei, Taiwan and from there global sales, marketing and human resources are being managed. There are two mass production site, among others in Dalat, Vietnam, where cut Phalaenopsis and young plants are being produced. Royal Base is an environmentally and socially conscious company and the first and only corporation in Asia to receive MPS-ABC, MPS-GAP and MPS Quality certificates.

More information can be found on: [www.royalbase.com](http://www.royalbase.com)