

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXHIBITOR OF ORCHIDS AWARDED CHM, CBR OR OTHER PROVISIONAL AWARDS

1. "Provisional Awards" require taxonomic verification by a botanical authority before they can be processed by the Awards Registrar. These awards include all Certificates of Horticultural Merit (CHM), Certificates of Botanical Recognition (CBR), and the first award given to a species regardless of awards category. In addition, under some circumstances one or more judges on a judging team may request taxonomic verification of an awarded species resulting in a "provisional award." These awards given in AOS sanctioned shows and judging centers will be held in the office of the chair of the judging center in which the award was granted until the exhibitor fulfills all the conditions of the award, or for one year, whichever is less. An extension of time may be granted for reasons acceptable to the chair of the judging center, if requested. If documentation is not received, the Provisional Award will be nullified. Contact the judging chairman of the show or AOS Headquarters for the name and address of the chair of the judging center.
2. The procedure to be followed by the exhibitor is as follows:
 - a) **Promptly** send a portion of the flowering material to a taxonomic authority acceptable to the AOS (see list below).
 - b) When verification in writing is received by the exhibitor it should be forwarded promptly to the chair of the judging center, who will then transmit the necessary documentation, description, slides, etc. to the AOS Awards Registrar. The invoice for the award fee will then be sent to the exhibitor from the AOS office.

It is very important to handle both a) and b) above expeditiously to be sure fresh flowers are available for identification and to avoid administrative delays.

SHIPPING OF SPECIMENS

To facilitate identification, your specimens should be in good condition. The following recommendations will help ensure that your specimens reach the taxonomic authority in optimal condition.

1. Where possible, include flowers, leaves, stems/pseudobulbs and locality data of your plant. Include slides, drawings, or photographs and descriptions of portions of the plant that are not shipped.
2. Flowers keep best when sealed in an airtight plastic bag **without** addition of moisture. Plastic film canisters are ideal for smaller flowers (also without added moisture).
3. Use packaging material to cushion the sealed specimen; put **nothing** in the bag or canister with the specimen.
4. When preserved specimens are sent, be sure to include color descriptions or photographs.
5. A current list of AOS-approved taxonomic authorities can be found on the Society's Web site (www.aos.org). Ship your package by airmail special delivery to an authority noted on that list. **DO NOT** ship specimens to AOS headquarters in Delray Beach!