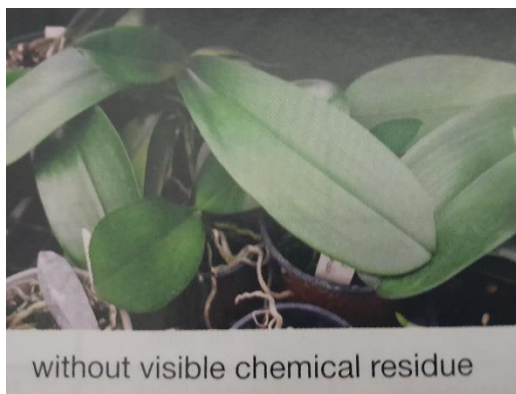
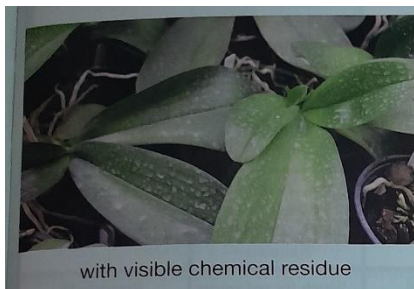


BEIN' GREEN

Trevor Heitman

How many times have you walked into a nursery or someone's bush house and seen the residue from chemicals that have been sprayed on their orchid leaves.



Most chemical have a rating, which means nothing to the average person, but at the end of the day, they are still chemicals and need to be handled with caution.

When I was farming, we had a clientele of florists who did not appreciate flower leaves covered with residue from chemicals (eg Mancozeb etc.)

Rather than not spraying for pests and diseases it was necessary to come up with a solution.

So we were not leaving a noticeable residue that could be seen, we introduced Queen Green food colouring to the spray tank to camouflage the residue and this enabled the chemical to blend in with the leaves. One small bottle will do 100 litres of spray solution, costing around \$1.20. Problem solved and you still have the protection of you plants.

How many of you use a wetting agent with your chemicals? Adding a wetting agent allows the chemical to spread evenly over you plants rather than remaining in the droplets and will penetrate better into those difficult to eradicate pest like mealy bugs.

You could purchase a commercial wetting agent. A much less expensive option, if you have a small collection or a small bush house, is to use a dish washing liquid at a few drops per litre. I use Palmolive dish washing liquid as it is bio-degradable.



Trevor Heitman

Photos by **Janice Heitman**