

## Orchids in Thailand

### C. Itthisak

Thai Florex Garden Ltd., 114, Mu, 4 T.Pongtuk A.Thamaka Kanchanaburi, 71120, Thailand

“A country of smiles” is the frequently used catch-phrase in guide books and pamphlets introducing Thailand.

In Thailand, the average temperature is 28C, there is abundant sunshine every day, and a plentiful supply of tropical fruits.

Because the Thai economy is increasing by 8% every year, Bangkok (Krung Thep), its capital, is a hive of construction of large skyscrapers and condominiums. Along with a rapid increase in population has come a number of environmental problems including world famous traffic congestion which produces dust and exhaust fumes that destroy the sweet tropical atmosphere.

Even in such a busy dusty city in the rainy season, they have heavy squalls in the afternoons, the city becomes calm. The time passes slowly like the Menam river (Chao Phraya) and people wait patiently until the rain stops. Thai people are patient by nature and visitors to Thailand should relax and appreciate the spirit of the Thai people.

At present, Thailand is facing a dangerous ecological imbalance because of the rapid changes to the environment. The serious flood of last year might have been caused, to some extent, by a severe reduction of the natural forest cover. The *Government of Thailand, realizing the importance of natural forests, has instigated a conservation plan.*

Our company, which is engaged in the production and export of Thai orchids, has been directed to cultivate wild and rare species under the control of the Thai government.