



During Covid19 I visit the green houses in my environment. To hear people's story, which started with destroying a total harvest but it is gradually getting better now. And to admire their beautiful flowers. That does good to us all. You can imagine that I always buy some!

On a 5 minute walking distance from my home [Seven Orchids](#) (Warmoeziersweg 38, 2661 EH Bergschenhoek) is located. It was a surreal experience realizing that in the 22 years I have lived there I had never realized that there was a green house full of cymbidium orchids that close! And that appeared not to be entirely strange as [#JarivanWijk](#), one of the three owners, informs me: they established their green house in 2013 being it now one of the two green houses they own. Jari tells me that they are the biggest cut cymbidium orchid grower and cultivator in the world. They grow 120 different varieties in 5 main colours, white, green, yellow, pink and red as well as varieties thereof and 45% is their own cultivation. The growing of the cymbidium is a delicate one: cymbidium plants are grown in pots and once the buds are coming on the stem it takes 3 months for the flowers to mature and harvest. In the meantime lots of manual work needs to be done: the stems are straightened by a cord and pulley that need to be adjusted frequently. A stem is cut manually. Each plant can be harvested once a year. At [#SevenOrchids](#) they arranged their growing as such that there is a harvest (though different species) the year round so they can meet an ongoing demand. Their orchids are mainly bought for events (weddings i.a.), hotels and celebrations like Mothersday, All Souls and Christmas abroad. Their biggest supply is for America (45%), next are Italy and Asia and the rest for European Countries. Only 2 % remains in The Netherlands.

Covid19 is a huge disaster for them: when it started the auction allowed them to deliver only 30% of their harvest meaning that they had a surplus 8.000 stems. They tried partly to sell them at their garage as well as cooperate in charity actions. Unfortunately, part had to be destroyed. In the meantime the demand is better but different: more goes to the European Countries as America is still closed. Moreover there is less competition as most cymbidium growers have now harvest everything but [#SevenOrchids](#) can still deliver. Despite the difficulties [#JarivanWijk](#) looks very positive and all his employees have a positive vibe. [#SevenOrchids](#) became also active on social media and that led to the garage sales.

I must say I am very pleased with their orchids as they come with an extra: they are sold in beautiful vases. You can imagine that each time I have a birthday to go to I first do my 5 minute walk.

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