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Development and management of the National Orchid Garden: Building on its history and reputation, and reflecting the broader work of the Singapore Botanic Gardens

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Since the Singapore Botanic Gardens was established in 1859, orchids have been one of the Gardens' major collections and focal areas of plant research. Today, both orchids and the National Orchid Garden – a ticketed 3ha feature attraction that first opened in 1995 – are tied to the history, identity and reputation of both the Singapore Botanic Gardens, as well as Singapore as a whole. Attracting over half a million visitors a year, including many foreign visitors on short itineraries, the National Orchid Garden is often the main introduction to the broad work of the Gardens, whether that be on plant conservation, landscaping and horticultural excellence, botanical research, or outreach and education. As such, it is important that the National Orchid Garden continually renews itself to ensure that it reflects the breadth and depth of the work that the Gardens undertakes. In recent years, this has translated into a focus on landscape and infrastructure enhancements to build on Singapore's City in Nature vision, as well as to improve the environmental sustainability of our work. Through this presentation, we hope to provide some insight into the thinking, approach and implementation of various programmes that go into the management and running of the National Orchid Garden, to ensure its continued relevance and success for years to come.

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