

C Y M B I D I U M C U L T U R E

This orchid with grassy leaves has long history in cultivation. It can be divided into two categories: standard and miniature. Standard cymbidiums are originated from the foothills of the mighty Himalaya. The plants are huge, standing 4' high, and bear two dozens or so colorful flowers. These plants require a dry and cold period to initiate flower spikes. Miniature cymbidiums are native to East Asia, especially China. Therefore it is also called Oriental or Chinese cymbidiums. They were cited in Chinese literatures 3,000 years ago. These plants are smaller, about 1' tall; flower count varies, from one to a dozen. The flowers are small and not brightly colored, often green or coppery red. However, the fragrance is heavenly. Some plants with variegated leaves are greatly treasured, and are among the most expensive orchids.

LIGHT: this factor is very important for growing Cymbidiums. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. Leaves should be a light medium green.

TEMPERATURES: this is the most critical factor in blooming Cymbidiums. During the summer, Cymbidiums are grown in semi-shade, where days should be 80 to 85° F, but night temperatures in September to October must be around 50° F to initiate flower spikes. When in bud, temperatures must be kept as constant as possible. A bright and cool location indoors is best for winter months.

WATER & FERTILIZER: water heavily during the growing season, keeping the potting medium from drying out completely. Keep barely moist during the winter. Fertilizer will help Cymbidiums bloom. A balanced fertilizer should be applied on a regular schedule. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus (10-30-20) fertilizer to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength.

Using a watering can with the orchid in the sink works best. Pour at least one gallon through the pot to make sure the orchid is watered well. Remember, you can not over water by pouring too much water through the pot, only by watering too often.

RE-POTTING: the best time to re-pot is in the spring after blooming, once every two years. Pick a potting mix that will hold moisture well and a pot that will allow for 2 to 3 years of growth before the plant crowds the pot.



by appointment
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