

ONCIDIUM CULTURE

This complex family actually includes other groups such as *Miltonia*, *Odomtoglossum*, *Tolumnia*. They can be found mostly in the sub-tropical or tropical Americas, from Florida, Mexico, Brazil, all the way to Peru. These orchids have extensive root system to anchor them high up on trees. They also have pseudo-bulbs to store water for dry season. The flower feature of this orchid is the lip, flaring out like a skirt, therefore the name “dancing lady”. Each flower may be small, usually about 2”, but the flower count makes up for it.

LIGHT: these dancing ladies prefer bright light to almost direct sun. Most will thrive with at least several hours of bright light a day. In the home, east, south or west windows are ideal.

TEMPERATURES: this group generally prefers 55 to 60° F at night and 80 to 85° F during the day. Short periods of warmer day temperatures may be tolerated, especially if humidity and air movement is good and nights are cool.

WATER & FERTILIZER: *Oncidiums* need to be watered on a regular basis. Watering should be thorough; wait until plants almost dry out before watering again. One week is a good rule of thumb. If you are unsure, wait a day or two rather than over-water by watering too often. Water more in summer and less in winter.

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.

A balanced fertilizer should be applied on a regular schedule. It is best to apply fertilizer at 1/4 strength with every watering.

RE-POTTING: plants should be re-potted about every two years, or as the medium decomposes. Mixes vary tremendously; most are medium-grade fir bark, with varying additives—perlite and sphagnum moss. Moisture retention with excellent drainage is needed. Do not over-pot; an average plant should fit into a 4 to 6 inch pot.



by appointment
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