

# Cymbidium Orchid

## **General Information:**

Cymbidiums are the easiest orchid to grow, with one of the longer-lasting flowers in the orchid world. These plants flower with a wide range of colors in various pastels and full color shades. Plants are listed in three distinct types: miniature, polymins, and standards. This nomenclature refers to the plant size.

## **Light:**

Cymbidiums will grow in a bright morning sun area. This can even be outside during the warmer times, a shaded noon area, and a sunny late day area. This may sound like an impossible location to find, but placing the plant under a small shade tree will cover all the factors necessary. Caution should be used in determining the amount of sun. If the plant's leaves are a yellow-green, then the plant is getting the proper amount of sun. If the leaves are a rich dark green, then the plant is not getting enough sun. The leaves should not get warm to the touch as this indicates excessive sun and may burn the leaves. Up to 6 hours per day is best.

## **Temperature:**

The temperatures for cymbidiums range from 45 degrees min. to 100 degrees maximum. If the temperature gets into the 100 degree range, good air movement is necessary to prevent the plant from burning. The plants need to be shocked into blooming and this is done by letting the plants experience a light frost in September before bringing the plants inside for the winter. Be sure not to freeze the spikes if they are present on the plants with chilling in September. These plants flower from September to June and if you choose your plants properly, you can have six months of flowers. Never let your plant go below 32°F.

## **Water:**

Humidity should be at a 40% minimum. Any level below this will desiccate the plant and any flowers will be weak. The proper watering is necessary with plants as with other house plants. If your plant is in an open mix, the watering will need to be more frequent than if it is in a heavy mix. When in doubt, lift the pot...if the plant is light, and the soil feels dry, then water it.

## **Fertilize:**

When the cymbidiums are in active growth, fertilize with a balanced fertilizer once a week. These plants are considered heavy feeders. Fertilizing once a week, at proper levels, will not hurt the plant. Use 1 teaspoon per gallon of water.

## **Insects:**

During the summer months, watch for insect problems, particularly mites. Isotox can be used for any mite problems.

Enjoy your cymbidium plants!