



Masdevallia

Masdevallia is a genus of approximately 350 species, usually from cool misty mountains of New World Tropics or South America. They are best known for their showy flowers on wiry stems. Most species as well as hybrids are compact and small enough so that they can be enjoyed on a windowsill. With proper care and environment these little beauties flower frequently.

Water: Water is important as they have minimal water-storage tissue. Keep the medium moist if you have good drainage. Allow to go almost dry between watering, accidental drying of soil is not harmful if experiencing low night temperatures.

Temperature: Ideal temperatures are between 75-80 degrees during the day with a minimum temperature of 55-60 degrees during the nighttime. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the days.

Fertilizer: If your Masdevallia is planted in bark, feed your plant every 3rd time your plant gets watered, use ½ - ¼ strength plant food such as 30-10-10 during growing months, and if your plant is in another medium other than bark, use a plant food such as 20-20-20 once a month.

Repotting: Repot every 2 years or when the bark begins to break down. The best time to repot is in the early spring months, before the heat of summer. Use a fine grade of orchid bark.

Light: The light conditions are similar to a Phalaenopsis orchid, bright diffused light is necessary to bring your Masdevallia into bloom.