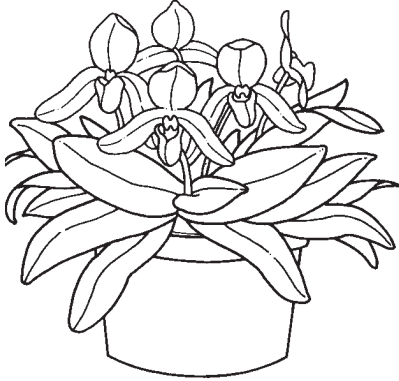


Growing Paphiopedilum



Paphiopedilum, the genus of tropical Asiatic Lady's Slippers, includes about 50 species and a large number of horticultural hybrids. Many are grown for the cut-flower trade; their large waxy flowers appear almost artificial. Paphiopedilum grows mostly as terrestrials or on rocks; it also lacks pseudobulbs, the leathery leaves may be green or mottled.

Paphiopedilums are divided into 2 cultural groups: the warm growing, mottled-leaved types and the cool growing, green-leaved types which are by far the more abundant.

Light

Paphiopedilums are low light intensity orchids, growing on the floor of the jungle, beneath the shade of low growing plants. In the home or greenhouse direct sun should be avoided. 600-800 footcandles is sufficient.

Temperature & Humidity

The green-leaved types ideally require a minimum night temperature around 50° to 55°F, while the mottled-leaved types need 60° to 65°F. Day temperatures should range from 70° to 80°F, although short periods of moderately higher or lower temperatures will not injure the plants. Humidity should be between 40% and 50% during the day.

Watering

Water thoroughly and let the medium become slightly dry. Place plants on a tray of pebbles keeping the water level in the tray just below the bottom of the pot. Never let the pot stand in water. Water in the morning whenever possible and mist daily.

Fertilizer

Feed with Premium Orchid Food 20-20-20 should be used at ½ strength twice a month. Flush with plain water, between feedings, to leach out salts buildup.

Air Movement

This is very important as the plants are used to gentle breezes in their natural habitat. If there is no movement of air, the plants will stagnate. A small whisper fan nearby is a good way to generate this gentle air movement.

Potting

A Paphiopedilum should be repotted when potting medium has decomposed, when it has outgrown the pot or when it is necessary to divide the plant. Make divisions of no fewer than 3 growths. Use a specially prepared mix for all "Lady's Slipper" orchids, if possible.

The object of this culture sheet is to give you basic information on the cultural requirements of Paphiopedilum and their allied genera. Should you need additional information please stop by the Flower Shop for personalized help.