

Growing *Zygopetalum*



Zygopetalum orchids are fragrant, winter-flowering terrestrials producing rounded pseudobulbs with long narrow leaves.

Most species produce upright flower spikes to 18-24" in height with four to eight flowers each. The heavily scented blooms last for four to five weeks during the winter months.

Light

Plants require bright diffuse light. Direct sunlight should be avoided.

Temperature & Humidity

Their native habitat is primarily Brazil, but some species are found in Argentina, Peru and Trinidad. Most are epiphytes and attach themselves to trees. Relative humidity of 40-60% is important, as well as, good air movement; otherwise the leaves soon become badly spotted. To improve humidity the pot can be set on large pebbles in a tray of water making sure the pot never stands in water.

Zygo's like a day temperature of about 64-75°F and a nighttime temperature of 55-60°F.

Watering

Apply water to the orchid bark and not the plant. Keep evenly moist during growth period. During the rest period water only when the bark has completely dried out

Fertilizer

Premium Orchid Food 20-20-20 should be used at ½ strength twice a month. Check the roots occasionally—they should show live, green growing tips.

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

Orchid bark is a good growing medium and is generally used. Bear in mind that bark decomposes over a period of 2-3 years and should be replaced to avoid medium staying too wet and to maintain a favorable acidity.

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