



Cattleya Orchid

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About Cattleya Orchids

Cattleyas are among the most commonly grown orchids, and their culture is often used as a comparison with other types of orchids. Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes or air plants that grow in top of trees. They have water-storage organs called pseudobulbs and large, fleshy roots.

Temperature and Light

Mature plants need a 15 to 20 degree Fahrenheit difference between night and day. Temperature at night should range from 55 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit; daytime temperature should be 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Cattleyas can tolerate temperatures up to 95 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit if shading, humidity and air circulation are increased.

Adequate light is important for healthy plant growth and flower production. Cattleyas like full sun in the morning, but will require shading from about 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; less shading is essential in the late afternoon. Their leaves should be a light green color, and a darker green color indicates too little sun. Under lights, place four 40 watt fluorescent tubes and two 40 watt incandescent bulbs directly over plants. Plants should be naturally upright, without need of much staking, and of a medium olive-green color. Dark green, limp foliage indicates too little light. Keep out of cold, dry air while in bloom.

Water, Fertilizer and Humidity

Mature plants must dry out between watering (they are used to drying out between the rains in their natural habitat).

Fertilizer must be provided on a regular basis because most potting containers have little. The exact amount of fertilizer you use will depend on the mix in which your plant is growing. Use **Grow More Premium Orchid Food, 20-20-20**.

Cattleyas need 50 to 60 percent humidity. In the home, place on trays over moistened pebbles. In a greenhouse, use a humidifier if conditions are too dry.

Repotting

Potting should be done every two to three years in the spring before plant mix loses consistency (breaks down). Pot cattleyas firmly in a porous container with good aeration and ample drainage; allow enough room for two years' growth. Recommended planting media include fir bark, pumice, processed coconut fiber or mixes based on peat moss or perlite.