



GROWING ORCHIDS

CATTLEYAS

CATTLEYA ORCHID CULTURE

Cattleyas are the Queen of orchids. When one thinks of an orchid, this is the one that comes to mind. That is because Cattleyas are large and showy and easily grown in a sunny window. Lavender and white are the traditional colors of Cattleyas, but now hybrids are available in shades of green, yellow, orange and red as well as spotted and splash petaled flowers.

Miniature Cattleyas, "Mini Catts" may be only inch tall at maturity, whereas some standards may reach three feet. Most standards are 12 to 18 inches. Flowers may be tiny little jewels or a whopping nine inches in natural spread. Many Cattleya flowers are fragrant. (Most have perfume-like floral fragrance, but some small like lemons or cloves.)

Light -

Cattleyas require about 50% shade. They require at least 2 to 4 hours of direct filtered light. In the home they do best in a west, south, or east facing window respectively. Cattleyas can be grown and flowered under 'grow lights'. When using artificial light, they are only for giving adequate light. Not to extend the length day. Extending day length may prevent blooming.

Temperature -

55° to 60°F at Night is ideal
68° to 80°F daytime

Watering -

Plants should be watered heavily and then allowed to dry out completely before watering again. Large 6" to 8" pots may need to be watered at 6-8 day intervals, whereas small pots may need to be watered twice a week. The frequency of watering depends on the amount of light available to the

plant, temperature, humidity, air movement, as well as size and type of pot or type and condition of the potting medium. New bark sheds water, while old decayed bark will hold water for a considerable length of time.

Feeding -

Orchids can be given a fertilizer diluted to half strength, at every watering or recommended dosage after every second or third watering. Once a month, just plain water should be given to flush out any salts that may accumulate in the mix.

The Cattleya tribe consists of many genera. Brassavola, Laelia, Sophroritis, Epidendrum, and Broughtonia have all been bred together to make hybrids of just about any size, shape and color imaginable. This means that there is a Cattleya just right for anyone!



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