



# GROWING ORCHIDS

## PAPHIOPEDILUM

### PAPHIOPEDILUM ORCHID CULTURE

Paphiopedilums are known by many names including "the slipper orchid" or "paphs". Paphiopedilums are one of the best orchids for home growing, requiring only fairly bright light and normal home temperatures to provide some of the orchid kingdom's longest-lasting blooms. Slipper orchids can last 8 - 10 weeks or more in bloom.

#### **Light -**

Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production. Provide your "paphs" with bright light but not direct sun indoors.

#### **Temperature -**

55-60°F at night  
70° to 85°F during the day

#### **Water -**

Mature plants should never dry out between waterings. Seedlings need even more constant attention and moisture.

#### **Humidity -**

Paphiopedilums need 60-70% humidity in the home. Use a humidifier or make your own DIY humidity tray for the perfect tropical environment.

#### **Fertilizer -**

Must be provided on a regular basis because most potting media have little. Although, paphiopedilums will grow and flower with less fertilizer than will most orchids. The exact orchid food you use will depend on the

mix in which your plant is growing. A good general rule is to use a balanced (10-10-10, 12-12-12, or similiar ratio) fertilizer "weakly, weekly." That is, fertilize every week at one quarter of the recommended dilution.

#### **Potting -**

This should be done every 1-2 years before the mix breaks down too far. Repotting can be done almost any time fo year, using a well-drained, but water-retentive mix.



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