



Guidance note

Caring for *Cymbidium* orchids

- When you first receive your *Cymbidium* choose a spot for it and move it from that spot as little as possible. Once the plant gets acclimated to a certain location, they tend to stay the healthiest when left in one spot.
- After you receive the plant wait 10-12 days before watering it, and after the first watering, water it once a week. When watering is complete, ensure that all the residual water has drained from the bottom of the pot.
- It is normal for the leaves and stem of the plant to have a "bent" almost drooping look. This is natural with all *Cymbidium* and will by no means shorten the life of the plant.
- ANRD will visit at least once during the first year, to check that the plant is healthy and isn't carrying any new pests or diseases. For further information please contact ANRD on 24724.

Light

Cymbidium orchids need high light but cool temperatures. An ideal spot gives them morning and afternoon sun, with protection from the hot mid-day sun. A light green leaf with just a hint of yellow indicates the maximum amount of sun the plant can take, and a dark green leaf indicates not enough sun.

Temperature

Temperature is a critical factor for flowering. *Cymbidiums* require day temperatures of 75 to 85°F (or more) and night temperatures between 50 to 65°F. *Cymbidiums* will tolerate considerable summer heat as long as they get cool, mild night temperatures (between 50-65°F).

Water

Cymbidiums should not be allowed to go dry, or to become too wet either. Watering once every seven to ten days is about right. As with everything else, special consideration must be given for the drying effects of varying ambient air temperature and humidity. Water heavily during the growing season (spring and summer), keeping the potting material evenly moist and reduce water at the end of summer. Humidity should be kept at 40 to 60%. Keep air circulating to prevent orchid pests and diseases.

Fertilizer

High nitrogen fertilizers (eg 25-9-9 or 30-10-10) should be used in summer, while low nitrogen fertilizers (eg 6-25-25) should be used in winter. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, blossom-booster fertilizer (eg 10-30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Feed one teaspoon to a gallon of water once a month.

Repot every two to three years in the spring after flowering with a well-draining medium such as fine bark.