

Phragmipedium



Light:

These Western Hemisphere slippers need higher light than *Paphiopedilum*, mature plants closer to the light level of *Cattleya*. All the way up in an East or West facing window would be ideal. Smaller seedlings should be in lower light, closer to the *Paphiopedilum* level.

Temperature:

55-85°F

Water:

Paphiopedilum need constant moisture, but *Phragmipedium* need **LOTS OF WATER**. Many of the species grow near water falls or in meadows that flood for months at a time.

- *Phrag. caudatum*, *sargentianum*, *longifolium* & their hybrids need to be watered copiously.
- All other *Phragmipedium* species, and their hybrids, do best if actually standing in 1"-2" deep water, which should be replaced periodically so it does not go stale.

I use deep pots, and drill 3-4 holes about 2.1/2" up the side. That way the roots can reach the water, but there is still air flow through the pot.

Fertilizer:

We fertilize every 2 weeks, using Peters 20:20:20, applied at 300 PPM from March through November, and 200 PPM from December through February.

Repotting:

With the heavy watering schedule, the potting mix breaks down very quickly, so plan on repotting every year.

They can be grown in either:

- Pure sphagnum moss
- Mix of sphagnum & bark (about 3:1 ratio)
- Bark/charcoal/perlite or similar mix

When repotting, the plants should be potted at the same depth as *Paphiopedilum* (the root crown (A) should be 3/8" below the surface of the potting mix (B).

