

Cymbidium

These instructions cover Standard, pendulous & 'warmth tolerant' Cymbidium.

The Chinese species require lower light and somewhat higher temperatures. They do need constant moisture the same as the other Cymbidium.



These plants have no rest period, and grow year round. *Do not let the plants dry out.*

Spring &

Very bright light, lots of water & tons of fertilizer.

Summer:

I take my plants outside around 4/20-25 (provided no late frost in the forecast), placing them in full sun (no need for hardening this early). Ideally I take them out on the first of a 2-3 day period with overcast conditions.

If you wait till May, harden in light shade for 5-7 days.

Fall:

I leave plants out till first frost is forecast (if only a single night & 31-32°F, I cover the plants and leave them out). Some years they stay out till mid Dec.

Winter:

As bright as possible while in the house, ideally with cooler temperatures at night (ideally between 50°F & 60°F)..

Fertilizer:

March: Top dress w Nutricote, 1-2 Tbsp/pot

March/November: water with 20:20:20 (300 PPM) every 2 weeks

Dec/February: water with 20:20:20 (200 PPM) every 2 weeks

Potting mix:

Cymbidiums can grow in almost anything, including sphagnum, sphagnum/bark & bark/coconut coir, but it is difficult to keep the latter consistently moist.

I use a light terrestrial mix consisting of:

- 4 parts Cedar mulch (since chunky peat is no longer available)**
- 2 parts Potting soil**
- 2 parts Composted cow manure**
- 1 part Bark (Cattleya size)**
- 1 part Perlite (large)**
- 1 part Aliflor (LECA nuggets), in very pots only**

- The advantage to this mix is, that it breaks down into soil. When repotting, I do not need to remove the old mix, I simply add fresh mix on the outside.
- In larger pot sizes, the diameter increases, but the pot depth does not. It is usually necessary to trim 1/4-1/3 off the bottom of the root ball to fit the plant into the next larger pot size. When repotted, the bottom 3/4" of the pseudobulbs should be below the surface of the potting mix.