

CYMBIDIUM ORCHID

Cymbidium hybrids that we know are derived from a few species that occur in a temperate climate with warm to hot Summers and cool to cold Winters.

Does that sound familiar? So far so good!

Here's the catch... they get rain in the Summer and dry out in the Winter when they almost stop growing (Monsoon type climate). If we water heavily from Show Day to Anzac Day (rain in the Summer). Water once a fortnight and shift them under the eaves of the house from Anzac Day to Show Day (Winter dry period). And we get pretty close to a Monsoon type climate....Well nearly.

When you purchase your flowering orchid, by all means take it inside and place it in a eye catching spot to enjoy its beauty - That's what you paid for. Perhaps a nice decorative pot to hide its humble outdoor clothes.

Drench well once a week (outside of course).

When the flowers finish you could grow the plant on in a bright, dappled sunny spot, or even plant it in raised rockery. If there is enough space around the plant in the pot for another bulb and the mix hasn't broken down, then just add a little 8-9 month slow release fertiliser (on about Show Day) then water every day through the warm months.

If the pot is full then shift into a 2 sizes larger pot. Don't disturb the roots. Leave extra

space where new growth is occurring. Bury the bulbs about 1/3 in the mix - we recommend Debco Orchid Potting Mix, not a general potting mix since this is way too damp in the winter. This can be done at any time but is best done in the Spring when new growth has started about Show Day. (There's that day again). Topdress with 8-9 month slow release fertiliser (2 tsp. for 200mm pot).

Watch out for snails (use snail pellets) when flower spikes appear shortly after Christmas.

Now that you are all enthusiastic, join an orchid club nearby.



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