



ZYGOPETALUM CULTURE

A General Guide to Basic Culture

Zygopetalums are exotic, “easy to grow” orchids that enjoy the Sydney environment. They make excellent companion plants with Cymbidiums, enjoying similar conditions and can be grown either under cover or out in the garden, under dappled light.

LIGHT: To flower Zygopetalums successfully they should be kept in reasonably bright light – not in direct sunlight. Too much light however, may cause unsightly leaf burn, ticking or spotting.

AIR: As with most orchids, good air movement is essential. This prevents stagnation of the air and helps keeps the plant healthy and helps reduce any fungal diseases that may be about.

WATER: Generally Zygopetalums should be watered every 3 or 4 days in summer and once a week in winter. Ideally the potting mix should be kept in a moist condition, not overly wet or damp.

FERTILISER: Most commercially available fertilisers, used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, are suitable. A periodic drenching with plain water to wash away any salt accumulations from the fertiliser is recommended.

POTTING: Although Zygopetalums adapt to a variety of potting mixes, a good quality Cymbidium mix is quite satisfactory. As a general rule Zygopetalums should be repotted every two years to keep the medium fresh and viable and to prevent any root loss. If the orchid has outgrown its pot, the plant can be either repotted into a larger size or divided into several pieces, if the plant is mature. Repotting or dividing should occur in spring after flowering.

PESTS & DISEASES: Although Zygopetalums are relatively pest free scale can be a problem. A regular application of ECO Oil should help control any outbreaks.

For more information visit an orchid society such as The North Shore Orchid Society which meets at 8.00pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Forestville Memorial Hall, Starkey St, Forestville. All visitors welcome.



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