



## Care of Slipper Orchids

Paphiopedilum  
(paf-ee-o-ped-i-lum)

Paphiopedilums, or lady's-slipper orchids, inspire a fanatic devotion among their adherents that is unparalleled in the orchid family. The unique, sometimes bizarre, sometimes elegant blooms are especially long-lasting, the foliage is handsome and compact, and these are among the few orchids that seem ready-made for typical home conditions.

Caring for your Slipper Orchid is not hard - they like similar conditions to African Violets, which are easy to grow!

### Position

Slippers like good bright light - but not direct sunlight. Rooms such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundries, which have good light and natural humidity, are very suitable.

You can create humidity around the plant by sitting the pot on a tray of pebbles soaked in water. Make sure the pot is above the water level.

The large flowering Hybrids are not as cold tolerant as the spotted leaf Maudiae types and should not be exposed to outdoor conditions.

### Watering / Fertilising

Plants should be kept moist at all times but it is better to be a little on the dry side than to sit in trays of water. A thorough watering in the morning is best and do not allow water to sit in the centre of the leaves. Watering twice a week should be sufficient in most heated rooms. If temperatures are kept low, once each week may be sufficient.

Fertilising should be done on a regular basis. We would recommend every two weeks with a half strength liquid fertiliser during the growing season. Feed after watering - never fertilise a plant when it is dry.

### Potting

Your Slipper has recently been repotted and should be happy in its pot for 2 - 3 years. Repotting is best done in late Spring or Summer. Use a well drained mix that retains some moisture, such as 4 parts fine to medium grade orchid bark and one part sphagnum or peat moss. Always select a pot size that fits the root system snugly. Never over pot

