



## Cymbidium Orchid Culture

Congratulations!

You have just joined the fraternity that grows the most cultivated orchid on earth - the Cymbidium.

This acquisition also involves you with the second largest botanical family - approximately 25,000 species occurring throughout the world on every continent except Antarctica.

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

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), then we get pretty close to a Monsoon type climate.

When you purchase your flowering orchid, by all means take it inside and place it in an eye catching spot to enjoy its beauty - that's what you paid for! Perhaps a nice decorative pot to add the finishing touch.

Drench well once a week and wash its leaves.

When the flowers finish you could grow the plant on in a bright, dappled sunny spot, or even plant it in a raised rockery. If there is enough space around the plant in the pot for another bulb and the mix hasn't broken down, then 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 it into a 2 sizes larger pot (say a 150mm to a 200mm). DON'T DISTURB THE ROOTS. Leave extra space where new growth is occurring. Bury the bulbs about 1/3 in the mix - an open pinebark type not a general potting mix since this stay too damp in the winter. This can be done at anytime but is best done in the spring when new growth has started about show Day. (there's that day again). Top dress 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.

Enjoy your Orchids.

