



LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

## Orchid Care CYMBIDIUM

**Taxonomic Name:** *Cymbidium*  
**Orchid Family**  
**Herbaceous Plants**

Cymbidiums are one of the loveliest of all orchids that can be grown at home or in the office. When they burst into bloom with many two- to four-inch flowers arrayed along a single spike, they are simply magnificent. Cymbidium species are native to the Far East and Australia. Many are terrestrial rather than epiphytic--in other words, they grow not on tree branches but in the soil at ground level. In addition, many cymbidiums come from cool mountain climates; these plants must be given a period of cool nighttime temperatures to induce flowering.

### ***How to Care for Your Plant:***

**LIGHT:** One of the key ingredients in getting a cymbidium to remain healthy and flower again is to provide it with very bright sunlight. Keep your plant in an unobstructed southern window indoors (a bright western window may also suffice). If you put your cymbidium outdoors in the summer, place it in dappled shade or where it will get direct sunlight in the morning only.

**WATERING:** When your cymbidium is actively growing or flowering, keep its potting medium evenly moist but not sopping. When the plant is dormant after its flowering cycle is completed, taper off just a little; wait an extra two or three days between waterings.

**FEEDING:** Do not feed the plant when it is dormant. Feed only when the plant is actively growing or producing flowers. If your orchid is potted in bark, use a high-nitrogen (high first number) orchid fertilizer. If potted in any other medium, use a high-phosphorous (high middle number) orchid fertilizer. In both cases, apply the food with every other watering at the concentration listed in the product directions.

**TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY:** Temperature is a crucial factor. From late summer to fall, your plant must have a nighttime temperature of 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit (a requirement that favors plants summered outdoors). In winter, cymbidiums like even cooler nighttime conditions--45 to 55 degrees. Also, avoid subjecting your plant to temperatures over 85. Make sure you provide at least 50% humidity--use a room humidifier nearby or a set pebble tray partially filled with water under the plant.