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CYMBIDIUM CULTURE

By



228 N. MILPAS ST.—PHONE 7676
SANTA BARBARA · CALIF.

CYMBIDIUMS

hardy orchids

Until recently, the Cymbidiums were largely the hobby of collectors, but, now that their many attractions are becoming more widely known, there is an ever increasing popular demand for them. Because of their rarity and ethereal beauty, they demand instant recognition in any garden. They have their own very distinctive color range, including white and the various tints and tones of pink, lilac, yellow, amber, bronze, green, chartreuse, pearl and opalescent, and even a warm, deep wine. Due to the numerous shades inherent, in many instances, in a single flower, it is obviously impossible to make a clear cut color delineation with any degree of accuracy and classify or list them accordingly.

You can plant them in the open or in containers which may be moved into the house for decorative purposes. For cut flowers they are unique, as the blooms on the long graceful curving spikes will last six or seven weeks in water and the detached individual flower will last from ten days to two weeks which makes them ideal subjects for corsages, as they can be used repeatedly and remain fresh if kept in a cool place.

It is an interesting fact that many of our choicest plants are not only hardy but exceedingly simple

of culture; the Cymbidiums, like exquisite butterflies, but belying their fragile appearance, are an outstanding example. These flowers are born on graceful, curving spikes to three feet in height, which rise from the evergreen blades like foliage. In Southern California they can be successfully grown out of doors. and are just as easy to grow as ferns or begonias, in fact they like the same location as the above mentioned and go well together in beds.

Our collection is one of the largest on the West Coast and comprises many of the finest English hybrids; as well as some of the more common varieties which are always the best for garden effect and pleasure for cut sprays.

Culture

The two essential conditions in orchid culture are location and soil. Any situation affording filtered sunlight is adequate, such as that provided by lath or spreading trees whose branches are not too close to the ground. As to soil: a mixture of 50% coarse leaf mold, 25% good compost, 10% steer or old cow manure, 10% coarse gravel, 5% of bone meal and humisite. Perfect drainage is requisite if one is to grow Cymbidiums successfully. Keep them reasonably moist during the growing season (April-September), and thereafter reduce the amount of water in order to encourage the maximum bloom. Do not over-fertilize them; a weak liquid solution

made from dairy manure, which has been soaked in water for two or three weeks, may be applied three times a year. (May 15th, July 1st, and August 15th). Plant so that the pseudo bulbs are at surface level and keep a good mulch of plain leafmold on the bed when planted out.

Cymbidiums are not particularly sensitive to cold, withstanding a temperature of twenty-five degrees in perfect safety and even as low as twenty-four degrees in the coastal regions. Also, they are comparatively free from pests. When pests are showing spray with Destruxol Orchid Spray or Red Arrow. With a balanced selection of early, medium and late blooming varieties, their period of bloom may be extended from October through June. The blooms on the plant retain their perfection of vitality and color from eight to ten weeks; the cut blossoms will last about 10 days and are, therefore, in great demand for corsages and flower arrangements.

If the above simple instructions are followed, you will be amply rewarded with these graceful orchids which spell magic in any garden, patio or indoors.

KALLMAN'S GARDEN NURSERY

228 NORTH MILPAS STREET

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

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