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Paphiopedilum
orchid care card

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DESCRIPTION

The Paphiopedilum (paff-ee-oh-PED-ih-lum) is an extraordinary orchid. This easily recognizable orchid is nicknamed the Slipper orchid, after its large lip that resembles a lady's slipper. You will find these orchids are rewarding and easy to grow.



WATER

The Paphiopedilum is a sympodial orchid and does not have water storage in pseudobulbs. Accordingly, their potting mix should be kept slightly damp. Take care to keep water from accumulating between leaves when watering to prevent rot.



TEMPERATURE

Warm temperatures, 70^o-85^o F/21^o-29^o C for those with dappled leaves and intermediate temperatures, 55^o-60^o F/ 13^o-15.6^o C, for those with green leaves.



FERTILIZATION

As Paphs are light feeders, apply a weak solution of (9-3-6) fertilizer if potted in bark, or a balanced fertilizer (7-7-7) if potted in other mediums, every other week when in active growth.



LIGHT

The Slipper orchid is a low light orchid (1000-2000 fc), making it an ideal orchid for those with low light conditions.



POTTING & MEDIA

As these orchids are considered semi-terrestrial, the most popular potting media is a fine-grade fir bark. Plastic pots are ideal for retaining moisture as well as for checking the moisture of the media. Paphiopedilum can be potted any time - even when in flower.



HUMIDITY

This orchid thrives in humidity levels of 50%,

TIPS

Every year a new leaf fan, or in spreading varieties, several leaf fans, grow and from each fan emerges a new flower.

Mature, large Paphs are easily divided. When not in bloom carefully sever the rhizome, keeping in clumps of 3-5 leaf fans.