



ZYGOPETALUM CULTURE NOTE

(our club emblem)

Zygopetalums are an easy orchid to grow. Native to Brazil, they are cool growing orchids suited to a cold glasshouse, veranda, patio, pergola or sunroom. They grow side by side with cymbidiums.

Zygopetalums need about 50% shade and protection from strong sunlight, frosts and cold winds. If plants receive too much light the leaves will be pale and lifeless, if leaves are dark green, not enough light. The best results are when plants are medium green and the plants are firm.

During summer, Zygopetalums need watering every second day or daily on very hot days. The compost should be damp or moist, but never soggy. As the cold months approach ease the watering to perhaps once or twice a week.

Zygopetalums are strong growers and need a regular feeding program. When reporting some slow release fertilizer will help the plant. Recommended liquid fertilizers are Aquasol, Campbells blue or fish emulsion, but all at only half strength. Please remember NEVER fertilise a dry orchid.

Repot after flowering has finished. Normal soil or potting mix should NOT be used. Instead 5-10ml orchid bark or cymbidium mix is recommended.

SPOTTY FOLIAGE

Spotty foliage on Zygopetalums is almost unavoidable. It is usually caused by water on either very hot or very cold days. Try to avoid wetting the leaves at any time. Fungicide spraying may help, but it is no guarantee of clean foliage.