

Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society

Oncidiae Intergeneric Hybrid Care

Intergeneric hybrids consist of several different genera that are can be crossed together to create new "man made" intergeneric orchids. Cochlioda, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium and Ada are some of the genera that are commonly used. The result of these hybrids leads to new genera names that can get pretty confusing. Some common intergeneric names are Vuylstekeara (Vuyl.), Colmanara (Colm.), Odontonia and Adaglossum. You will commonly see "mericlones" of intergenerics as they are very easy to clone and produce high quality/high quantity plants.

Water

Water when the mix just approaches dryness. This will mean about every 5-7 days. A way to check the mix for moisture is by sticking a wooden pencil into the mix about 3"-4". When you pull the pencil out, check the wooden end. If it has turned dark in color, the mix is still wet and you should wait a day or two. Oncidiums prefer clean water without a lot of mineral content. Therefore growing best when you use distilled, reverse osmosis or rainwater. Check out our Kent Marine page for more information on reverse osmosis systems. Do not use softened water.

Fertilizer

We highly recommend Green Jungle Orchid Food, especially formulated to work with rain, distilled, reverse osmosis water or water low in alkalinity. Fertilize with Green Jungle every time you water, all year round. This is the fertilizer that we developed and use on our own plants. The results have been excellent.

Light

As Intergeneric hybrids are composed of several different genera, they can tolerate a wide range of light. For best results, as a general rule of thumb low to medium light (1000-2000 footcandles) works best. Most Intergeneric plants will develop black spots on the leaves if they receive too much light. However, Intergenerics generally have black spots on the leaf tips. These plants also grow well under artificial lights.

Temperature

Ideal night temperatures (fall, winter, and spring months) are 60°-64° Fahrenheit. Ideal daytime temperatures are 70°-85°F. Summer temperatures are generally a few degrees warmer.

Humidity

50% or higher is ideal. Humidity is not top priority for Intergeneric orchids. However, healthier growths generally develop with higher humidity.

Flowering

Intergeneric orchids have a wide variety of shapes and colors. They often bloom twice a year. Most intergenerics can bloom twice a year, producing several flowers from a multi-branched flower spike. Flowers generally last for about 2 months.

Repotting

Intergeneric plants do well in regular orchid bark medium. They also enjoy growing in New Zealand sphagnum moss when they are in smaller pots.

(We would like to thank www.orchidweb.com for letting us use their information. They offer all kinds of products for the growing of your orchids. Check them out!)