

ORCHID - ONCIDIUM

LIGHT: Should be fairly bright, especially during the winter months, when a southern exposure would be ideal. Shading of our bright Colorado sun will be required throughout most of the year for all orchids. A sheer curtain or opaque window would be ideal.

TEMPERATURE: The majority of oncidiums will grow well with intermediate temperatures ranging from around 60 degrees Fahrenheit at night and 70-85 degrees during the day. As with all plants, lower night temperatures are always beneficial.

WATER: Depends upon the plant's growth. When in full growth or flowering, water should be applied as soon as the plant begins to dry out. This is easily determined by the plants weight. Some oncidiums rest for a time after flowering and should be watered sparingly until new growth appears. Watch your plant for signs of its needs. If the bulbs begin to shrivel, apply more water.

HUMIDITY: Around 50%- 60% relative humidity is ideal. Group plants together or place them on a tray filled with gravel and partially filled with water to increase humidity levels. If humidity in your home is below 50%, you will benefit from raising the level as well as your plants.

AIR MOVEMENT: It is helpful for all plants, but never use hot, dry air. A small fan in the same room with your plants may prove to be beneficial.

FERTILIZER: Should be withheld during periods of slow growth, usually during the winter months. Oncidiums are not heavy feeders and foliar feeding has given excellent results. Use a balanced 20-20-20 solution during the spring and summer months of active growth.

POTTING: Is usually best done in the early spring as new growth begins to emerge. Use as small a pot as will hold the plant. Repot at least every two years. Insure that your pot and media have excellent drainage, as oncidium roots do not like to stay wet.