



Paphiopedilum

Orchid

Care



One of the most exotic orchid groups are the 'Slipper Orchids' These unusual flowers have a slipper-shaped lip at the front of the flower which, in nature, help the flower become pollinated. In their native countries they are terrestrial, living in the ground or maybe on rocks. They do not have bulbs like other orchids but instead produce shoots that form into a clump. The flowers come from the centre of the newest mature shoot. Paphiopedilums come from the Far East and some have attractive mottled foliage.

RE-FLOWERING: When your slipper orchid has flowered cut the stem right off and the plant will start to grow a new shoot. When this is mature it will produce the next bloom. Some have single flowers; others are multi-flowering.

TEMPERATURE: Most Slipper orchids are warm growing requiring a minimum temperature of 15°C (60°F), with a daytime maximum of 30°C (85°F). Some plain leaved paphiopedilums need a cooler minimum 10°C (50°F).

LIGHT: Keep well shaded from bright, direct summer sun as this can scorch the leaves. Give as much light as possible during the dull winter months.

WATERING: Keep the free-draining bark compost moist all the year round. When watering the plant, remove it from any cover pot or saucer, pour water through the pot and then let it drain before placing it back in a decorative planter. Never let the pot stand in water. Allow the compost to dry out slightly and the pot to become lighter before watering again. Avoid watering collecting in the crown of the plant as this can cause a rot. Add a little orchid fertiliser to the water once every 2 or 3 waterings (approx. every 10-14 days) all year round.

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