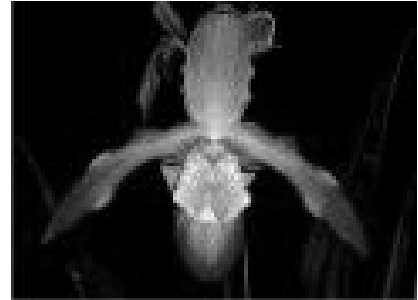




## Phragmipedium

### 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. The genus *Phragmipedium* come from South America and in their native countries they are terrestrial, living in the ground, often near to running water. 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.

**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. The phragmipediums are sequential flowering, having many flowers one after the other over several weeks.

**TEMPERATURE:** These Slipper orchids are warm growing requiring a minimum temperature of 15°C (60°F), with a daytime maximum of 30°C (85°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:** These orchids are usually potted in rockwool which means that they keep damp more easily than in bark. This is more suited to their way of growing as they like to be kept moist at all times. 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 rockwool to dry out only very slightly 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. When repotting, always damp the rockwool before use and use gloves to handle it.