



Zygopetalum

Orchid

Care



The Zygopetalums grow well alongside oncidiums and miltoniopsis. They are popular houseplants with their unusually coloured purple and green flowers and very strong fragrance. They can, though, be a little temperamental to grow for the beginner as they are susceptible to rotting if kept too wet. The original species originate from South America where they grow both terrestrially and epiphytically but most of the plants available today are hybrids bred from a few species over several generations.

RE-FLOWERING: The blooms come from the side of the new growth when the plant starts to grow, not a mature pseudobulb. With correct culture, the plant should re-flower quite easily but if it does not then try changing the conditions and giving more fluctuation between the day and night temperature.

TEMPERATURE: Intermediate with a minimum 12°C (55°F) in winter, daytime maximum of 25°C (80°F). Will grow best in a humid greenhouse but some will grow well in the home.

LIGHT: Zygopetalums like the shade and so should be kept out of bright light, especially in summer when they will need a bit more shade than other orchids.

WATERING: They like to be watered well when they are growing their new leaves but ensure that the compost dries out in between waterings. Never leave to stand in water. Light misting can be done in warm weather but avoid water collecting in the new growth or settling on the leaves for too long as this can cause the growth to rot or spots to form on the leaves.

Repot when the plant has outgrown its pot, after flowering when the new growth is making new roots.

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