



Cattleya Orchid Care



The Cattleyas have been bred with many different families such as Laelia and Guarianthe to make many complex hybrids including Laeliocattleya and Cattlianthe. They tend to have large, showy flowers in bright colours with some miniature varieties too. The species are not so common and come from Brazil and other South American countries. They have upright pseudobulbs with thick, leathery leaves.

RE-FLOWERING: The blooms come from inside a sheath produced at the top of the newest mature pseudobulb, at the base of the leaf. They can be singular or several on a head. And are annual flowering usually in spring or autumn.

TEMPERATURE: Intermediate with a minimum 12°C (55°F) in winter, daytime maximum of 30°C (85°F). Will grow best in a humid greenhouse but some will grow well in the home.

LIGHT: To help with re-flowering keep all Cattleya types in good light all year round, shaded from the bright summer sun but good light in winter.

WATERING: They do not like to be too wet so are grown in an open bark compost to ensure good drainage. When in growth in the summer water regularly and spray too, especially aerial roots. In winter, rest with only occasional watering and spraying on sunny days.

Re-pot when the plant has outgrown its pot, they don't mind being a little over the side of the pot, when the new growth is young in the spring or summer.