

Cattleya Culture Sheet and Allied Genera

The Cattleyas are among the most beautiful orchids due to the size of their flowers and the variety of colors.

These are sympodial orchids with elongated pseudobulbs, terminated by a spathe, a kind of leaf used as a case for the inflorescence which consists of 3 to 6 fairly durable flowers.

Magnificent plants, majestically installed in trees located in the illuminated parts of the tropical forests of America, from Brazil to Mexico, at an altitude of 600 to 1800 meters, we know about fifty species. We basically divided the Cattleyas into two groups:

The first is that of the Cattleyas, whose pseudobulbe wears only one leaf, it will be the group of the type Labiata.

In the other group the pseudobulbe carries two sheets, it will be the group of leaflets.

Plants of the type "Labiata" usually have only 2 or 3 very large flowers, with remarkably wide petals, and they most often bloom in summer or autumn.

In bifoliate, the smaller, narrower flowers with narrower petals are more numerous. The colors are brighter and the texture better. The inflorescence most often, is protected by a sheath, and always occurs at the top of the pseudobulbe, at the junction point with the leaf or leaves.

FERTILIZER :

2 times no month from April to September

LIGHT :

the plants appreciate a strong light exposure (20,000 to 30,000 Lux) but without direct light.

TEMPERATURE :

Daytime temperature from 18 to 24°C and above and night temperature from 16 to 18°C. Plants can withstand a higher temperature (38-40°C) with good aeration and high humidity.

WATERING :

The substrate must dry well between two waterings or else the roots will rot, the drying of these roots will make it possible to judge the need to water.

HUMIDITY :

40 to 60% in the winter it can go up to 70% in the summer but always in a well-ventilated place.

FERTILIZER :

Cultivated in bark, plants require fertilizer every 15 days, this fertilizer must not form crystals by accumulation this being fatal for the roots

SUBSTRATE :

Pine bark (Ideal medium to avoid excess moisture) these can be supplemented with water-retention compounds (pear lite, sphagnum, etc.) depending on your cultivation habits.