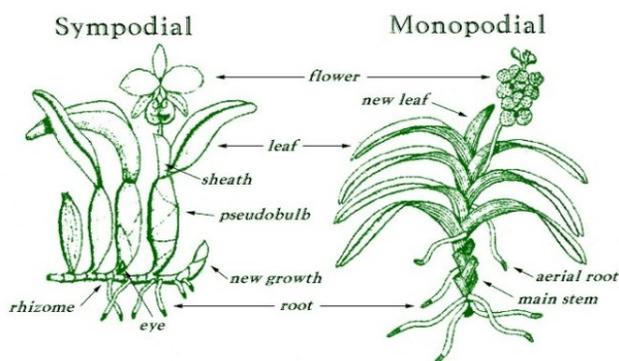


## CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

Cymbidium orchids are a genus of orchids that consist of approximately 505 species and 16 natural hybrids, many of which are cool growing plants. These orchids were primarily raised for cut flower production due to the long-lasting quality of their blooms, but now they are a popular choice for hobbyist orchid growers available across the retail market. Most cultivars originate from India and Burma, though there are also miniature cymbidiums known to appear in Japan and China. These plants are available to a wide variety of almost every color except blue. Their flowers can stay in bloom for 8 to 10 weeks, making them an excellent choice as a specimen orchid. This genus of orchid was first formally described in 1799 by Olof Swartz, who published the description in *Nova acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis*. The name is derived from the Latin word *cymba* meaning “cup” “bowl” or “boat.” Therefore, these orchids are commonly referred to as “boat orchids.” All types of cymbidium orchids are sympodial, meaning that their new growth appears from spent pseudobulbs in a horizontal as opposed to vertical fashion.



**Latin Name:** Cymbidium

**Type:** Tropical evergreen flowering houseplant

**Exposure:** Bright, direct light

**Soil:** Equal parts fine grade bark & 15% perlite

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Growth Habit:** Sympodial

**Size:** 3-4' at maturity

**Hardiness:** Not frost hardy

### Where should I plant my orchid?

Cymbidiums are perhaps one of the most versatile orchids available today. They can handle variation in temperature ideally remaining at 75-80 degrees during the day and 50-55 degrees at night. These plants can handle a few instances of frost, but temperatures 27 degrees and below will cause damage to the inflorescences. Cymbidium orchids also appreciate humidity levels of 50% or greater. This can be achieved with misting directly on the leaves or placing the plant in a tray filled with pebbles and water.

### How much water will my orchid need?

These orchids require thorough, regular watering to remain healthy and promote blooms. They are native to monsoon areas, so they require ample water during their growing season. Watering about every 5-7 depending on plant size should suffice, however it is beneficial to check your plant mid-week.

### When should I fertilize my orchid?

Cymbidium orchids are moderate feeders and require fertilization year-round, with an added boost in nitrogen during the summer to speed growth. A balanced, water soluble fertilizer every is beneficial to these plants, as they appreciate regular feeding to promote blooms. Apply fertilizer at ½ strength in two-week increments.

### Are there any pests and diseases I should be aware of?

Typically, these orchids are not visited by many pests, although bacteria may become an issue. They can however, become prone to thrips, and mites. The most common fungal infections for cymbidiums are rhizoctonia, botrytis, or anthracnose. Rhizoctonia called appear as an atrophied new leaf or browning at the base of the crown of the plant. Botrytis can appear as watery patches on flowers. And anthracnose appears as blackish or gray-brown patches on the edges of leaves. Many of these ailments can be cured with proper ventilation.