

# PAPHIOPEDILUMS



Pronounced *Paphiopedilum*  
(paff-i-c-PEE-di-lum)

The Paphiopedilum orchid is one of the longest lasting flowers in existence. Pfitzer proposed the name in 1886 due to the protruding slipper-shaped lip so the common name has derived and is frequently used 'Lady Slipper' or just 'Slipper' Orchid. The *Paphiopedilum* is a reasonably easy plant to grow if given its correct growing conditions and it is one of the few orchids that grows as an "Indoor plant". The Paphiopedilum genus is widely spread being found in nature from India to New Guinea and therefore they vary a little in their preference of climate.

## GROWING CONDITIONS

Most Paphs. will grow in an unheated glasshouse in South Australia. They require a heavy shade during the summer months and must have cool moist conditions. A well ventilated shady glass or fibreglass plant house is ideal, however, most Paphs can grow successfully indoors in similar conditions to African Violets. Grow on a windowsill or similar, in a light position - avoid direct sunlight. Place pots on a bed of decorative stones, pebbles or crushed marble to which water is added. Make sure the plants are not seated in the water – you will have created the necessary humid conditions that slipper Orchids require.

## POTTING MEDIUM

Small grade 10mm. Bark is used. Repotting every one to two years is necessary for Paphs. In many cases back into the same size pot.

## FERTILISER

Use of a regular fertilising programme is recommended. HI-NITROGEN throughout the year with the exception of the months of February and March when BLOSSOM BOOSTER can be used to slow growth but boost flowering. Use at full strength fortnightly or half strength weekly. Be sure to apply over the foliage as well as into the pot. PLANT STARTER may be used at monthly intervals for small plants or as a growth activator as required. Use for approximately 1 month after reporting or potting on.

## WATERING

Paphs do not like wet potting medium but they should not go completely dry, try to keep a constant damp condition. The secret of success with Paphs is in growing good healthy roots and this is done with reporting into good quality, clean, fresh bark and correct watering. Always water early in the morning, especially important during the cooler months as this gives opportunity for the leaf axis to dry out. Use good quality water (Rainwater if possible)

## ADVANTAGES OF GROWING PAPHIOPEDILUMS

Careful selection of varieties can give flowers throughout the year.