

ZYGOPETALUM ORCHIDS

There are five main points to be considered in the culture of the Zygopetalum Orchid Alliance. Other members of this alliance such as Zygoneria, Zygonisia should be treated the same as Zygopetalums.

TEMPERATURE - LIGHT: Ideally the plant should be grown in a green house constructed with 70% shade cloth. If no shade house is available the plant can be grown in the shade of a deciduous tree. This gives enough sun in Winter and shade in Summer. Zygopetalum can be grown outside all year round in the Adelaide Region.



WATER: Water the plant before the potting medium has a chance to dry out. In Summer this may mean daily, but less often in the cooler months. The moisture level can be estimated by feeling the weight of the plant. Whenever watering is necessary, apply generously letting the water run freely from the pot drainage holes.

N.B. Try to avoid leaving the plant wet overnight or in cold spells as this can lead to fungal growth and ugly black spotting.

FERTILIZER: During the growth period when new leads are being formed, give the plant a high nitrogen fertilizer. As the plant approached the flowering period switch to a blossom booster fertilizer. These have a higher level of phosphorous and / or potassium.



PESTS: The main problem encountered when growing Zygopetalums is fungal infestation causing black spots and lines on the leaves. This can be treated with a commercially available fungicide. Other pests to watch for include snails, slugs, scale and spider mites.

REPOTTING: Medium to large size plants may need repotting yearly as they are fast growers and do not appreciate being pot bound. A good quality bark mix with 10 - 15 mm bark nuggets or a commercially available Cymbidium Orchid Mix can be used with medium to large plants. Reduce the bark size for smaller pots.

Generally Zygopetalums can be grown similar to and with Cymbidium orchids.

SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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