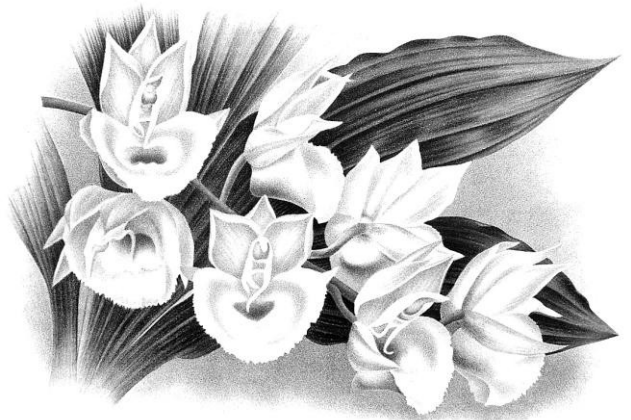


# CATASETUM Orchid

Pronounced kat-ah-SEE-tum

These unique and unusual orchids are native to Central and South America from Mexico to Bolivia and Brazil. Plants display multiple waxy blooms on pendulous inflorescences that originate at the base of the plant's pseudobulbs. Flowers have the unique trait of being either male or female and, often, the pollinia are ejected from the male flower onto the pollinator. Plants are deciduous and require a rest period after dropping its leaves.



## Healthy Catasetums start with healthy roots:

- Pot in media that will retain moisture to support the roots during the plant's growing season. The media should also allow for good drainage. Coconut husk chips, New Zealand sphagnum, tree fern or a fine bark mixed with vermiculite chips, or semi water culture setup are all examples of suitable potting media and techniques.
- Plants experience a dormancy period in the fall and winter which is signaled by the yellowing and eventual dropping of the leaves. Stop all watering when leaves drop or if it is January 1<sup>st</sup> (and the leaves are still green). Watering should only be done if the pseudobulbs show signs of withering during this time.
- Repot when the new growth is just beginning in the spring and the newly developing roots are showing. Remember that watering should not commence until the roots are well developed (10 inches in cumulative length).
- Once new roots are established, watering should be constant and sufficient to support the new growth(s). Fertilizing using a high nitrogen formulation (30-10-10) will help support the large leaves and pseudobulbs that develop rapidly.
- During the growing period, after dormancy, daytime temperatures must be raised to 27° - 32°C.
- Once the pseudobulbs have grown, adjust the fertilizer to a blossom booster such as a 10-30-20 in late summer.
- This family of orchids, unlike many, does well when repotted in divisions consisting of 2-3 pseudobulbs.

## Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- Plants will tolerate high light conditions, levels suggested for cattleyas, during the growth period but be careful not to burn tender new leaves.
- Healthy leaves are large, broad and sturdy and dark green. Spider mites are attracted to the soft leaves and will live and feed on the underside of the leaves. Watch for this and treat with a mild insecticidal soap. Humidity will reduce the risk of mites. Daily showers on the leaves helps control pests/mites.
- The dormancy phase will begin in late autumn when the leaves will yellow and drop off. Any fertilizing should stop at this time and watering done at reduced levels (half) by Canadian Thanksgiving.
- By January 1<sup>st</sup>, all watering should stop.
- Catasetums do well in humidity levels of 40-60% and strong air movement provided to reduce the risk of fungal or bacterial problems.
- During the growth period, day temperatures of 27° - 32°C are ideal, dropping to 15°-20°C at night. After the growth period, day temperatures can be reduced to as low as 21°C.

## Catasetums usually bloom annually:

- Catasetums will bloom at the end of the growing season, sending out 1-2 pendulous inflorescences from the base of the pseudobulb. But sometimes blooms are unpredictable, especially on hybrids.
- Blooms may be male or female, rarely with both on the same plant, with the male bloom being the most showy.

Space prevents more detail here. The general "Orchid Culture" sheets in this series, available from your society or on the web at <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/> provide further cultural information. For specific help with your orchids or further information join your local orchid society.



# Member Societies of the Canadian Orchid Congress

## British Columbia

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society  
Nanaimo, British Columbia  
Web site: <http://www.cvios.com/>  
[CVIOS on Facebook](#)

Fraser Valley Orchid Society  
Surrey, British Columbia  
Web Site: <http://www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.ca/>  
[FVOS on Facebook](#)

North Okanagan Orchid Society  
Vernon, British Columbia  
Website: <http://nokorchids.blogspot.com/>

Okanagan Orchid Society  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
Web Site: <http://www.okanaganorchidsociety.org/>

Richmond Orchid Club  
Richmond, British Columbia  
Web Site: <http://www.richmondorchidclub.com/>  
[ROC on Facebook](#)

South Okanagan Orchid Society  
Penticton, British Columbia  
[SOOC on Facebook](#)

Vancouver Judging Centre  
Richmond, British Columbia  
Website: <http://fraservalleyorchidsociety.com/>

Vancouver Orchid Society  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Website: <http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/>  
Victoria Orchid Society  
Victoria, British Columbia  
Web site: <http://victoriaorchidsociety.com/>  
[VicOS on Facebook](#)

## Alberta

Foothills Orchid Society  
Calgary, Alberta  
Website: <http://www.foothillsorchidsociety.com/>  
[FOS on Facebook](#)

Orchid Society of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Website: <http://www.orchidsalberta.com/>

The Orchid Species Preservation Foundation of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Website: <http://www.orchidspecies.ca/>  
[OSPF on Facebook](#)

## Saskatchewan

Regina Orchid Society  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Website: <http://www.reginaorchidsociety.com/>

Saskatchewan Orchid Society  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Website: <http://www.saskorchids.com/>  
[SOS on Facebook](#)

## Manitoba

The Manitoba Orchid Society  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Website: [http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/main\\_mos/index.php](http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/main_mos/index.php)  
[MOS on Facebook](#)

## Ontario

Central Ontario Orchid Society  
Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge Ontario  
Web Site: <http://coos.ca/>  
[COOS on Facebook](#)

Essex County Orchid Society  
Windsor, Ontario  
Web Site: <http://www.essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com/>  
[ExCOS on Facebook](#)

Kingston Orchid Society  
Kingston, Ontario  
Web Site: <http://www.kingstonorchidsociety.ca/>

London Orchid Society  
London, Ontario  
Web Site: <http://londonorchidsociety.org/>

Montreal Judging Center  
Montreal, Quebec  
Web Site: <http://orchidophilesmontreal.ca/Centre-juge-de-Mtl.php>

Niagara Region Orchid Society  
St. Catharines, Ontario  
[NROS on Facebook](#)

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens  
Burlington, Ontario  
Web Site: <http://www.osrbg.ca/>

Ottawa Orchid Society  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Website: <http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>  
[OOS on Facebook](#)

Southern Ontario Orchid Society  
Toronto, Ontario  
Web Site: <http://www.soos.ca/>  
[SOOS on Facebook](#)

Toronto Artistic Orchid Association  
Web Site: <http://www.taoo.info/>  
[Taoa on Facebook](#)

Toronto Judging Centre  
Web Site: <http://www.soos.ca/AOS/index.htm>

Windsor Orchid Society / La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor  
Windsor, Ontario  
Website: <http://www.windsororchidsociety.ca/>  
[WOS on Facebook](#)

## Québec

Eastern Canada Orchid Society  
Montréal, Québec  
Web site: <http://www.ecosorchids.ca/>  
[ECOS on Facebook](#)

Société des Orchidophiles de Québec  
Québec  
Web Site: <http://www.orchidophilesdequebec.ca/>  
[Les Orchidophiles de Québec on Facebook](#)