



Odontoglossum Culture Notes

The *Odontoglossum* is native to the Andean region of South America and is commonly found at relatively high altitudes in a cool, moist and airy position. *Odontoglossums* are therefore eminently suited to cultivation in Melbourne. Plants are best grown in fine cymbidium potting mix in pots. They should be kept between 8 deg C and 30 deg C in a well lit position, but never in direct sunlight. Bronzing of the leaves indicates too much light. Bright fernery conditions are ideal and *Masdevallia* and maiden hair ferns provide ideal accompanying plants. The compost must be kept moist at all times and feed once a week with Atlantis Orchids Super Brew at full strength.

If they are kept inside the house for a period of time they are best placed on rocks above a saucer of water, never in it, so that humidity can be maintained around the plant. They can flower any month of the year, often flowering at nine months intervals and flowers should last 6-8 weeks. If pseudobulbs show signs of shrivelling, remove the flowers and check the roots. If they are healthy repot in fresh mix; if not then a spell in *Sphagnum* moss until new roots regenerate may be required. They are relatively disease free; aphids and snails and slugs can be a problem and should be treated appropriately.

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids, *Odontioda*, *Odontonia*, *Wilsonara*, *Vuylstekeara* etc., provide a greater myriad of pattern and colour than any other orchid group and whilst a little harder to grow than some others they provide real rewards when success is achieved.