

Care of your Bulbophyllum

The Bulbophyllum that you receive has been grown in medium light greenhouse conditions with warm days and warm to cool nights. Most Bulbophyllums need high humidity and relatively warm temperatures to thrive, but most can grow in normal home conditions provided temperatures do not stay below 55 degrees for extended periods of time. Bulbophyllums are epiphytic orchids, growing on trees in tropical forests. They typically have large pseudobulbs to store water, so they are somewhat drought tolerant. Nevertheless, they prefer to be watered regularly and not allowed to dry out for long periods of time. Most Bulbophyllums tend to ramble, so are best grown mounted on a good-sized slab or in a basket where the new growths can be trained to grow in circles around the basket. Many bulbophyllums have short roots, so only a couple of inches of medium are needed if the plant is grown in a basket. Bulbophyllums do not need a lot of fertilizer, so feeding sparingly with a weak fertilizer solution is best. Once or a month when the plant is actively growing is probably more than sufficient.

Bulbophyllums grow by producing new pseudobulbs that arise from a rhizome at the base of an old pseudobulb. Some species are compact, while others have considerable space between pseudobulbs. Under good conditions, these orchids will grow year round. Many are seasonal bloomers, but some will bloom several times a year. Bulbophyllums can be divided when there are enough growths to have at least 3 per division, or they can be grown into large specimen plants.

Enjoy your orchid! If you have any questions about caring for your Bulbophyllum, feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone.

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