



ONCIDIUM



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A genus of orchids that includes a great many species attractive and intriguing to the hobbyist is *Oncidium*. The lip dominates the flower of many *Oncidium*s and, in a number of species, fancifully resembles a full, swirling lady's skirt, with the other, smaller segments being the "dancer's" arms and head. This accounts for the popular name for orchids from this group, the "Dancing Lady Orchids."

Oncidium can be grown both in the home as well as in a sheltered area in the garden.

WATERING—*Oncidium* must be kept continuously moist (but not soggy) below the surface of the potting media.

FERTILIZING—Fertilize your plant twice a month. We recommend high growth (25-9-9) for the first six months after blooming. Then you may switch to high bloom (6-25-25) for the next six months.

HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE—The majority of species will grow in the intermediate temperature (70-85°F) days, 60°F nights. *Oncidium*s enjoy moist air, requiring a minimum of 40-50% humidity. Humidity can be increased around the plant by placing the pot over a tray of water, with some gravel, pebbles, rock chips, etc., to raise the pot above the water.

LIGHT—The majority of *Oncidium*s prefer bright light as for cattleyas; roughly 1,500-2,000 foot candles.

POTTING—*Oncidium* initiate new roots, often in a large numbers. This dictates that the proper time to repot is just after new growth begins but before tender developing roots tips can be broken. *Oncidium* grow well in most standard epiphytic orchid potting media. The base of new growth should be potted about 1/2" (no deeper) into the potting media. However it is essential that drainage be perfect.