

COELOGYNES

(and C. Ochracea in particular)



These orchids need to be kept in cool conditions i.e. the maximum summer temp. 80°F (27°C) and in the winter 60°F (16°C) in the day and 50° (10°C) at night. They need good light but direct sun can scorch the leaves.

Watering: Water sounds more tricky than it is in practice i.e. water about 3 times a week in warm summer weather and in autumn when the new pseudobulbs are complete i.e. the size of the older pseudobulbs, then stop watering for about 3 months (if in bark). This is because in their natural habitat in India they experience a dry bout followed by monsoon conditions. If in Rockwool/Grodan/Stone wool water to stop growing medium from drying out. All these mediums can produce healthy plants which will flower around April/May. Spray in summer only.

Feed: In spring, summer and autumn with whatever you normally feed your other orchids.

The new pseudobulbs will be formed from the part of the plant where the current year's flowers are growing, and with Coelogyne Ochracea it is extremely important to remove the flowers from the plant correctly. They must be allowed to die completely, and when dry and brown support the base of the leaf with one hand, catch hold of the flower stem with the other and gently rotate it and then pull the stem which should then slip easily out from between the leaves. These plants are not difficult to keep and grow on to specimen plants and the wonderfully pleasant and strong perfume must be one of the best and most rewarding orchids to grow.

These orchids need to have pseudobulbs which remain plump and this is much easier to do if you can give high humidity. Pseudobulbs can shrivel due to under watering and overwatering but making a note of when you watered last and the weight of the pot should make it quite clear when these orchids should be watered again. Using a seramis indicator makes life much easier! Our society website can be found here:

<http://www.cardiffandthevaleorchidsociety.co.uk/>

