



MILTONIOPSIS

These beautiful 'Pansy Orchids' come in a variety of wonderful colours and are very 'eye-catching'. They are normally treated in much the same way as Odontoglossums, but where Odontoglossums can be summered out of doors when and where the weather is suitable the thin leaves of the Miltoniopsis indicates that conditions outside could be too severe or changeable for these orchids to do well. It is better to cultivate them in the house or a greenhouse.

Humidity: High humidity is essential if these orchids are to do well.

Temperature: For best conditions the temp. should not fall below 64 degrees F (12 degrees C) or rise above 80 degrees F (27 degrees C)

Light: Shade from direct sun in summer

Water: Keep plants moist but not too wet. Do not spray the leaves

Feed: Feed the orchids a weak feed all year but less in winter

These are quite difficult orchids to grow well. The difficulty comes in giving just the **right** amount of water. I had just about given up on these orchids when I tried using a mixed stone method of culture and found this to be more successful for me.

The American Orchid Society said recently on a Question and Answer page of their orchid magazine:

'To succeed (with Miltonias or Miltoniopsis), you need a shady greenhouse where high day-time humidity could be maintained and with a cooler or an air-conditioning unit that was set on a day setting of 80 F and a night setting of 62 F. You have to use good quality water and keep fertilizer levels low to reflect the shady environment. If you take these steps you should succeed with growing miltonias, but it will not be easy and you will deserve any praise you might receive.' Not all that encouraging words but:-

My opinion is that with all orchids it is well worth giving them a try. If one method does not work for you - try another. They are such beautiful orchids that it is worth the effort and so rewarding when you succeed - Good luck!

Our society website can be found here:

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

