



# GROWING ORCHIDS

## MILTONIAS (MILTONIOPSIS)

### MILTONIAS ORCHID CULTURE

Miltonias or "miltoniopsis" are native to South America. Most of them grow in the highland rainforests, with fragrant long lasting flowers. The modern hybrids can be grown in a home environment if careful attention is paid to the conditions, potting mix, and watering.

#### **Soil -**

Miltonias do not like for the potting mix to start decomposing. Therefore, it is best to replot them once a year during the fall months into an open mix that drains well. The roots should not be allowed to dry out, but the pot should be given good drainage so the plant never stands in water. With thin leaves and small pseudo bulbs, Miltonias do not like warm, drafty conditions that will dehydrate the plants. Try to give them a moderately moist environment if possible.

#### **Moisture -**

Water Miltonias at least once a week, more often if the potting mix appears to be drying out. Fertilize with a dilute (1teaspoon per gallon of water) solution of water soluble, balanced fertilizer about once every two months while the plants are growing.

Miltonia flowers last about six weeks on the plant, but they do not last well when cut. They are not suitable for corsages or cut flower arrangements.

#### **Light -**

Conditions for Miltonias are similar to those for Phalaenopsis or Paphiopedilums- bright but indirect light. Direct sun will burn the thin leaves.



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