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Regal Orchids Culture Sheet For Cambria



The Cambria orchid takes its name from *Vuylstekeara* Cambria 'Plush', the first orchid to be commercial marketed by tissue culture in the Netherlands in 1975. Cambria is the collective name for a large number of hybrid "inter-generics," by that we mean plants that have a number of different orchid varieties in their heritage. Cambria's particularly have *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* as major components in their parentage that makes them very easy to grow and flower in a range of temperatures. That is, they are highly forgiving of modern homes and make ideal first orchids.

Indoor Cultivation

LIGHT

Medium. With too much light the leaf tips will begin showing blackish spots. This is not abnormal for many inter-generic hybrids in the oncidiae group. Keep shadier in the summer and give more light in the winter to compensate.

TEMPERATURE

Winter night-time temps should range from 55 degrees to 64 degrees. Daytime temps should range from 68 to 88 degrees year-round. Household temperatures are just fine.

HUMIDITY

50% or higher is ideal. Standing plants on a gravel tray will greatly increase local humidity. Make sure that the base of the plant pot is above the water level.

WATER

Use a 50:50 mix of rain and tap water for best results. (Allow the tap water to stand open in its container preferably for 24hrs indoors to release any chlorines and to warm up the water – cold water can shock plants and roots sometimes leading to loss of foliage). Water thoroughly being sure water pours from the drain holes at the

base of the pot. Water as the compost mix approaches dryness but do not allow it to become completely dry between watering when the plant is in spike. Check by lifting the pot. If it feels particularly top heavy then watering is probably required. The pseudobulbs can be your guide. If the new pseudobulbs shrivel, this is a sign that you are not watering the plant enough.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter. Any orchid food is ideal for use at the manufacturers recommended dosage or use normal household plant fertilizer at 1/2 the recommended dosage. Remember that most orchids are weak feeders.

Ideal formula Orchid Food is readily available from Regal Orchids.

FLOWERING

This plant can flower more than once per year. Some varieties can have branching spikes and can have up to 50 or more flowers per spray.

For maximum enjoyment of its flowering period, place it in a slightly cooler environment and once the flowers have

dropped, cut the stem to within 3cm of the base.

REPOTTING

Repot this plant in the spring to early summer months after flowering if its outgrown the pot. Use a typical mix which drains quickly yet retains moisture evenly throughout. We recommend a medium grade bark mix using fir bark, charcoal, perlite, possibly with the addition of coconut husk chips. Keep dry for the first week to 10 days after repotting to stimulate the plant to send out new roots.

Regal Orchids Compost mixes are ideal for these plants and can be bought in varying weight sizes.

HINTS & TIPS

- Never stand the plant in a draught or too near to a source of heat.
- Plants will lose a leaf from time to time. This is a normal part of the aging process.
- Drying leaf tips can be a sign of over or under watering and fertilizer shock. Change the plants regime slightly and monitor its progress.