

Paphiopedilum Orchid Culture

(information assembled by Sue Bottom)

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Section (from Harold Koopowitz's <i>Tropical Slipper Orchids</i>)	Species (from Harold Koopowitz's <i>Tropical Slipper Orchids</i>)	Natural Habitat (from Philip F. Wight, Orchid House, http://retirees.uwaterloo.ca/~jerry/orchids/cnotes/paph2.html)	General Culture
Single Flowered Paphs			
Barbatum Section (maudiae-type, mottled leaves, flowers borne singly or in pairs, flowers usually bloom once a year and flowers can last several months)	appletonianum, barbatum, callosum, lawrenceanum, mastersianum, sukhakulii, superbiens, venustum, viniferum & wolterianum	This group is terrestrial (violascens occasionally epiphytic and barbatum occasionally epilithic) usually rooted in leaf litter or humus in shaded forest habitats. These are mostly warm growing species in various parts of the monsoon belt. They have tessellated leaves with one, or at most two, flowers. This species prefers less light and monsoon conditions.	Shady conditions (500 to 1500 ft-candles), generally available, fast growers, more tolerant of warm conditions than green strap leaf paphs.
Insigne Section (green, strap-shaped leaves, rounded flowers of heavy waxy substance, usually flowers once a year in the winter)	barbigerum, boxalii, charlesworthii, coccineum, druryi, exul, fairrieianum, gratixianum, helenae, henryanum, hermannii, hirsutissimum, insigne, spicerianum & trigrinum	This group is more difficult to grow. They are terrestrial, epiphytic or epilithic. Although from the monsoon belt, most are cool growing, occurring at high elevations where winter temperatures drop to near freezing. They bear usually one (sometimes two) flowers and must be kept bright and cool.	Somewhat difficult to grow, needs cool autumn nights to initiate buds, Keep bright and cool.
Parvisepalum Section (tessellated thin leaves, large, brilliantly colored, scented flowers on tall stems, enlarged and inflated pouches, from China and Vietnam)	armeniacum, delenatii, emersonii, hangianum, jackii, malipoense, micranthum & vietnamense	These plants are herbaceous terrestrial or epilithic - growing only in lime-rich loam or sand, or in humus-filled crevices in limestone rocks in sheltered lees mostly shaded from direct sunlight. Their habitat is north of the equator into China. They want monsoon conditions. A cool, dry winter is essential for blooming the following summer. Can be grown outside in temperate climates. The leaves are tessellated (except P.emersonii). The plants produce one to two flowers.	Prefers buoyant and constant air movement, drop in evening temperatures, add calcium supplements, prefers cool dryish winter for blooming the following summer.

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<p><i>Brachypetalum</i> Section (tessellated and succulent leaves whose underside usually has dark purple markings, flowers have wide petals and a broad dorsal sepal, short stem bears 1 to 4 oval flowers)</p>	<p>bellatulum, concolor, godefroyae, xgreyi, niveum & thaianum</p>	<p>These plants are herbaceous terrestrial or epilithic - growing only in lime-rich loam or sand, or in humus-filled crevices in limestone rocks in sheltered lees mostly shaded from direct sunlight. Their habitat is north of the equator into China. They want monsoon conditions. A cool, dry winter is essential for blooming the following summer. Can be grown outside in temperate climates. The leaves are tessellated. The plants produce one to two flowers.</p>	<p>Prefers buoyant and constant air movement, drop in evening temperatures, add calcium supplements, prefers cool dryish winter for blooming the following summer.</p>
<p>Multifloral Paphs</p>			
<p><i>Cochlopetalum</i> Section (flowers sequentially from the same inflorescence stem producing flowers in succession, small dorsal sepal is oval and relatively flat)</p>	<p>glaucophyllum, liemianum, moquetteanum, primulinum, victoria-mariae & victoria-regina (syn. chamberlainianum)</p>	<p>These plants come from Sumatra and Java, in the monsoon belt. They are epilithic or rooted in humus in rock crannies or among exposed tree roots on forested limestone hills. These are also multifloral species but the flowers open in succession.</p>	
<p><i>Coryopedilum</i> Section (flowers have dark longitudinal stripes against lighter background, 2 to 14 flowers open simultaneously with ribbonlike petals, plants can be enormous with strap leaves)</p>	<p>adductum, gigantifolium, intaniae, kolopakingii (syn. topperi), ooi, philippinense (syn. roebbelenii), platyphyllum, praestans (syn. glanduliferum), randsii, rothschildianum (syn. elliottianum), sanderianum, stonei & supardii</p>	<p>These are the large multifloral species. Members of this group range from terrestrial through epiphytic and lithophytic. Most grow in only partially shaded situations and are tolerant of higher light intensities than are the mottled leaved species. The majority occupy habitats which are exposed to wind currents and, if these habitats are elevated, to considerable drops in night time temperatures, especially during the cool season. They can tolerate an intermediate temperature, higher light and drier conditions. They prefer a cool winter.</p>	<p>Bright light (2000-3000 ft-candles), Intermediate to warm growers but prefers significant nighttime temperature drop, requires buoyant air movement, requires 6 to 8 weeks cool period (50 to 60F) to initiate flower spikes, benefits from calcium supplements.</p>
<p><i>Pardalopetalum</i> Section (Flowers can be more colorful than <i>Coryopedilums</i> but dorsal sepal not obviously striped)</p>	<p>dianthum, haynaldianum, lowii, lynniae, parishii & richardianum</p>		