

## ZYGOPETALUM ORCHIDS

There are 5 main points to be considered 'in the culture of the Zygopetalum orchid alliance. Other members of this alliance such as Zygoneria, Zygocolax and willwnara should be treated the same as Zygopetalums.



1. **TEMPERATURE / LIGHT:** Ideally the plant should be grown in a greenhouse constructed with 70% shade cloth. If no shade house is available the plant can be grown in the shade of a deciduous tree. This gives enough sun in winter and shade in summer. The Zygopetalum can be grown outside all year round 'in the Adelaide region.

2. **WATER:** Water the plant before the potting medium has a chance to dry out. In summer this may mean daily, less often 'in the cooler months The moisture level can be estimated by feeling the weight of the. Whenever watering is necessary, apply generously letting the water run freely from the pot drainage holes.  
N.B. Try to avoid leaving the plant wet overnight or 'in cold spells as this can lead to fungal growth and ugly black spotting.

3. **FERTILIZER:** during the growth period when new leads are being formed give the plant a high nitrogen fertilizer. As the plant approaches the flowering period switch to a blossom booster fertilizer. These have a higher level of phosphorus and/or potassium.

4. **PESTS:** The main problem encountered when growing Zygopetalums is fungal infestations causing black spots and lines on the leaves. This can be treated with a commercially available fungicide. Other pests to watch for include snails and slugs, scale and spider mites

5. **REPOTTING:** Medium to large size plants may need reporting yearly as they are fast growers and do not appreciate being pot bound. A good quality bark mix with 10 to 15 mm bark nuggets or a commercially available cymbidium orchid mix can be used with medium to large plants. Reduce the bark size for smaller pots.

(Generally Zygopetalums can be grown similar and with Cymbidium Orchids)