

Species of the Month

February 2007



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Coelogyne asperata
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Holy Orchid

Coelogyne asperata, a native of the Philippines, Borneo, Burma and other southeast Asian areas, can be found growing in primary forests near rivers and streams at elevations of sea level to 1600 meters. In Burma this plant was once considered holy with the penalty of beheading if the plants were collected! Not often seen in cultivation, this plant has been cultivated at Orchids Limited since the 1980s. The smooth pleated leaves are born atop an ovoid large egg sized pseudobulb. *Coelogyne asperata* bloom in the spring and summer with masses of cascading 3" tawny white heavily textured fragrant flowers with an inflorescence that emerges from the apex of new growths with 15 to 40 flowers or more. These plants bloom at their best with high light, but will bloom at light levels much lower. *Coelogyne asperata* is an amazing grower, you will be sharing divisions with your friends in no time!

LIGHT

1500 to 3500 footcandles, bright indirect light.
Bright light improves blooming and flower count.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; 55°F minimum to 85°F maximum. Can go slightly cooler in winter and warmer in summer.

WATER

Water thoroughly and heavily year-round allowing plants to approach dryness but never completely dry. Good quality water will be appreciated by these plants.

HUMIDITY

50% or higher

POTTING

Repot only as the plant grows out of the pot. Allow plants to become specimen size before making divisions. Use a medium grade fir bark. Sphagnum mosses is also good.

FERTILIZER

Balanced fertilizer should be applied weekly during periods of active growth, 1/4 to 1/2 strength.