

# Species of the Month

June 2004



*Phragmipedium pearcei*

**South American Compact Grower**

Vigorous growing *Phragmipedium pearcei* has deep green grassy foliage that forms clumps quickly and can bloom when young. This sequential blooming species is native to Ecuador and Peru. Five or more flowers may be produced on each spike. Considered a terrestrial bog plant, *Phrag. pearcei* enjoys constant moisture at the roots. This orchid grows well in intermediate conditions with dappled light and is an excellent choice for light culture. Flower color is variable from green to dark brown with wavy rosy colored petals and is considered to be quite dainty! Give slightly less light than for *Cattleya* culture. With proper culture this orchid can bloom ANYTIME.

**LIGHT**

Bright; Diffused or dappled light.

**TEMPERATURE**

Warm to Intermediate; 55°F min. to 85°F max.  
Provide good air movement when temperatures are high.

**WATER**

Water heavy. Provide constant moisture at the roots. Consider placing the bottom 1/2" of pot the in a bowl of water during active growing season. However, do not allow the water to become stagnant! Use water that is low in dissolved solids. RO or DI is ideal.

**HUMIDITY**

70% - 80% is preferred.

**POTTING**

A fast draining medium orchid bark mixture is suitable. Some growers are successful with sphagnum moss. Phrags respond well to repotting.

**FERTILIZER**

Fertilizer should be provided on a regular basis, 1/4 to 1/2 strength applied weekly during the active growth period.