

Species of the Month

May 2004



Cattleya gaskelliana

Summer Blooming

Vigorous growing *Cattleya gaskelliana* can bloom from July through September. This orchid grows well in a cool spot and requires slightly less moisture than other *Cattleya* species. A Venezuela native, this spectacular warm to intermediate growing epiphyte orchid grows very rapidly after the new leads form in the spring. *Cattleya gaskelliana a* is moderate size sympodial epiphyte with an 8 inch pseudobulb and a 9 inch single, thick, leathery leaf carried at the of each pseudobulb. The inflorescence emerge from a mature sheath with 2 to 5 fragrant flowers that are approximately 5 inches across. Flower color is variable from white to pale purple with a large patch of yellow in the throat.

LIGHT

Bright; 2500– 3500 Foot-candles. Diffused or dappled light. Brightest light occurs during the winter in the natural habitat.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; 55°F min. to 90°F max. Extreme temperatures in the growth range from 52°F to 92°F.

WATER

Water heavy from late spring through autumn during the active growing season. The medium should not be soggy. Less water in winter, but not completely dry.

HUMIDITY

70% - 80% is preferred.

POTTING

A medium orchid bark mixture is suitable; however the medium should be very open and fast draining to allow for rapid drying of the roots.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period, 1/4 to 1/2 strength applied during the active growth period. A fertilizer higher in phosphates may be applied in late summer into autumn.