

Cultural Information – Odontonia

(oh-don-TOH-nee-uh)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.
Full to partial sun, grows 10-12" in container, minimum temperature 55°,
intermittent bloomer.

<u>Light:</u>	Full to partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure. These orchids need some direct sun to flower. Place them where they can be in direct sun for part of the day and in good light for the remainder.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 50° and if possible, give a 10° to 15° differential between day and night.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher. Grow plants on a humidity tray or a tray with pebbles.
<u>Watering:</u>	Allow potting media (sphagnum moss) to get to a state of almost dryness. When feeling into the media, there should be a little moisture left, and then thoroughly saturate it. Sphagnum moss needs to be watered several times to ensure complete saturation.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are light feeders; ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a month. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. Once roots and foliage have stopped growing, discontinue.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little or no pruning is needed. Old flower stems can be removed once flowering has finished.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with insects. Foliar disease can be a problem under high humidity and stagnant air. Over watering can cause root disease.
<u>Comments</u>	Odontonia, orchids in the Oncidium alliance, are easy to grow and flower as long as they are watered accurately and they get the proper amount of light, that is, some direct sun. They make two growths a year under good conditions and flowering occurs just as the growth is maturing. The best time to repot or divide them is when the first new roots appear at the base of the new growth.