

Cultural Information – Maxillaria
(maks-il-LAIR-ee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun, an eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures indoors above 55°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Maintain humidity above 50% although they are tolerant lower levels in relative humidity for short durations without any harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the potting mix to almost dryness between watering and then thoroughly saturate the potting medium. This can be done by looking for a dry light colored surface on the potting media or feeling the media with your finger. When in active growth they can use more water during the winter less.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Light to moderate feeders that benefit from regular intervals of a balanced fertilizer through it active growing season every 2 week is enough. Discontinue during the winter especially when growth is at a standstill.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Plant can be divided when they get too large although they can be held in pots for many years without difficulty and become beautiful specimens.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with insects. Root rot can be an issue if drainage is poor in the pot along with over watering.
<u>Comments</u>	Maxilaria tenuifolia is an easy orchid to grow tolerating wide swings in soil moisture and flowering under partial shade to full sun lighting. It also is regular in its blooming which occurs in the spring. It's one of those orchids like Phalaenopsis that stay around for years with little difficulty.