

Botanical Name: Cattleya species

Common Name: Cattleya orchid

Type of Plant: monocot: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape epiphytic plants with creeping, rhizomatous stems and long  
adventitious roots; large, oblong, leathery leaves and beautiful, fragrant  
flowers

Height to 24" Spread to 24" Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure indoor bright light and high humidity are required

Soil very coarse, chunky bark or peat chunks

Hardiness tender to cold; best in greenhouse

Morphology:

Leaves thick, leathery, alternate, oblong to 8" long, 2" across  
should be light green if light is sufficient

Flowers large fragrant flowers in purple, white lavender, orange  
or red

Fruit elongated capsule

Propagation: division, seed, tissue culture

Usage: primarily used as a greenhouse specimen plant for flowers;  
flowers are used as cut flowers, in arrangements or in corsages - most widely  
grown orchid

Landscape Care:

Watering once per week is usually sufficient; don't over water

Fertilizing balanced fertilizer when not in bloom; feed 2x monthly

Pruning remove spent flowers, divide if plants outgrow pots

Pests/Diseases ants, mealybug, scale

Special Conditions use gravel trays underneath to evaporate water for humidity

Origin: Tropical America Family: Orchidaceae