

Catasetum Culture

Per Fred Clarke, OSWP zoom speaker, 11/15/20

Notes by Janet Greenberg

Comments by Vicki Strod

Comments by Carol Panza

Active Growing Season in Summer

- Water and Fertilize a lot.
 - ✓ Summer-Water every 3 days.
- ½ Teas Fertilizer in 1 gallon of water, every time you water. **Must use a balanced fertilizer 20-20-20.**
- Daytime Temp 80-95
- Nighttime Temp 60-75
- Light should be 2,000-4,000 lumens
- Humidity should be 40% to 80%.
- Outside: 50% shade. Sun in AM, then shade. Can be bright if it is humid enough.
- Spike should be a graceful arch. Tie up, behind 1st bud.
- For more humidity, can set plastic pot over a glass jar with water. But don't let water touch bottom of pot, and be sure the fit is tight. The 'over the water in a jar' is for the dormancy. Some growers have so little humidity in winter their plants shrivel a lot, and this helps provide a little humidity to the roots without wetting them. There is a section on culture on the SVO site

Water

- Do not need special water, tap water is fine.

Late Fall & Winter

- **November 1st-Stop Fertilizing**
- **Thanksgiving**
 - ✓ Reduce water to every 10 days. (10 days is optional)
 - ✓ Some leaves will yellow in November. **WINTER IS COMING!**
- Let plant dry out between watering for 4-5 days.
- **Water should be slowly decreased 6 days, 7 days, 8 days, etc.**
- **When leaves are gone (Jan 1) STOP WATERING (last special date- WINTER IS HERE)**
- No water till 2 weeks before Christmas.
- Christmas: Withhold all water. No water for 3 months.
- Roots will start to grow, in anticipation of water.
- Wait to restart to water when roots are 3"-6" long in medium.
- If 1"-2" growth and new green tips, still no water.
- Once roots are 3"-6" long, then frequent watering.

General

- If the catasetum doesn't flower, it needs more light.
- The bulbs should grow to 2" diameter.
- Put plant outside for 5 months.
- If inside, under lights, the leaves should be 2 inches from bulb.
- Male plants have more spectacular flowers. Usually all young plants are male.
- Once plant is big and strong, the 1st blooming will have female blooms, then the 2nd bloom is male.
- May have green leaves left in January.
- Male plants bloom for 7 days.
- Female plants bloom for 7-10 weeks.

- Catasetinae Subtribe:
 - ✓ Catasetums
 - ✓ Clowesia
 - ✓ Cycnoches
 - ✓ Mormodes

Repotting

- Grow in sphagnum moss in 3" pot. Old roots just perish.
- Add more moss when more growth appears and slip into 4" pot.
- 2 years later, move to 5" pot, wrapping roots in moss.
- When plants get too large, divide and keep the front part of plant, if you are going to sell the remainder.

Growing under lights

- Lights should be 2,000-4,000 lumens.
- May-Sept 15 Hours
- Oct 14 Hours

Comments by Vicki Strod

Jim Yamber's light chart, works very well. Remember Fred Clarke lives in very sunny San Diego. If more light needed, you can + at each end.

Jan (July) 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

Feb (Aug) 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Mar (Sept) 5:30 am - 6:00 pm
pm

April (Oct) 5:30 am - 6:30 pm

May (Nov) 5:00 am - 7:00 pm
pm

Jun (Dec) 5:00 am - 7:00 pm

Jul (Jan) 5:00 am - 7:00 pm

Aug (Feb) 5:30 am - 6:30 pm

Sept (Mar) 5:30 am - 6:00

Oct (Apr) 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Nov (May) 6:30 am - 6:00

Dec (Jun) 6:30 am - 5:30 pm

Final notes about repotting:

I remove as much old moss when plants go dormant. I repot yearly because all the watering the catasetums get all summer rots the moss.

I remove it so it does not harden, and also, you can see roots better. Then I repot with moss, small bark and #3 perlite. The ratio is 3-1-1.

- If pseudobulb get EXTREMELY shriveled, mist LIGHTLY. Take care not to wet media in cold temperatures.
- Dec 12 Hours
- Jan 13 Hours
- Feb 14 Hours
- Need 3 hour dip in temperature.

Comments by Carol Panza

(This regiment used for 8 years.)

- Water with 1/4 tsp. gallon MSU(13-3-15) when the growths are 5-6" tall and the roots are that length also, sparingly at first.
- After a month I start watering every time I water with 1/2 tsp. MSU per gallon. I do not let the pots dry out!
- In the height of summer as long as you have good growth, I water every time with 1 tsp. gallon. I know growers that also add Nutricote when growing outdoors. This way the rain helps with watering and fertilizing.
- I repot when the growth appears in January-February, hopefully before I see those little roots. Seriously, if you blow on those tiny tender roots, they break off.

- **The bulbs do not grow to 2" in diameter when you have a seedling in a 3" pot. It takes a few years before that happens. Some catasetums are smaller growing and do not get that big. Fredclarkeara tend to be larger growing.**