



Miltonia (mil-TOH-nee-a)

Origin

Columbia and Central America

Temperature

It is best for day temperature to be below 80° F though miltonias will tolerate short periods of 90° F if well shaded with high humidity. Night temperatures of 50-60° F are optimal though they will tolerate some variation from this.

Light

The cool growing Colombian Miltonias and their hybrids require 1000-15000 footcandles of filtered diffused light. If temperatures rise above 80° F, it is advisable to increase shading and humidity with good air movement. Miltonia leaves should be light green to slightly pink during the summer months.

Humidity

Miltonias enjoy 50-60% relative humidity, with mild air movement.

Watering

Miltonias watering demands are high and they must always be kept moist. During the warm weather they may require daily watering.

Fertilizer

Fertilizing every week is sufficient.

Repotting

Miltonias can be grown in many different composts, we prefer a mixture of 80% fine grade fir bark, and 20% coarse perlite. It is good practice to place a few pieces of crock ("packing peanuts") in the bottom of the pot to facilitate drainage and aeration of the roots. Miltonias seem to grow best when tightly packed in the pot, with barely big enough pot for the plant. Caution: Do not over pot the plant. When dividing Miltonias keep divisions to 3-4 pseudobulbs. Provide good shade for 3 weeks after repotting. Water frequently and never let the media dry out completely.