



Fair Orchids

Clivia miniata

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This Amaryllis relative is an easy companion plant to Orchid collections. It is a low light plant; in a greenhouse it can be grown under the benches. Some prefer clay pots; they tend to dry out too quickly, so I am exclusively using plastic pots now.

Clivia have a reputation for growing in any type of soil (incl. broken down orchid mix). They can, but they perform better in a fairly rich mix. Currently I use:

3 pts	ProMix,
2 pts	composted cow manure
1 pt	sand

A dash of 110 Day NutriCote in April, and liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks (Peters 20:20:20, 300 ppm from March to October, none for mature plants Nov-Mar).

Watering:

- Seedlings are watered & fertilized year round till BS (13 or more leaves)
- BS plants are moved to the **coolest possible location**** in mid November, and **watering is stopped** (max. 1 very light watering/month), until an inflorescence is visible above foliage. The plant can now be moved into normal light/temperature range, and watering resumed. If no flowers by mid April, resume watering/feeding.

** = in an unused bedroom, near a basement window, in a non-freezing garage, etc.; temperature below 50°F (10°C) is optimal, but not strictly necessary.

If you want to time blooming for a specific date:

Move to 50°F (10°C) 100 days before flowering is desired, then into 60-70°F (15-20°C) after 40 days.