

Culture Sheet for Miltoniopsis in New Zealand

<p><i>The genus Miltoniopsis comes from the upper part of South America. There are 8 primary species which make up the foundation of this genus. Most growers are reluctant to grow this genus as they have a perception that heat is required. In New Zealand Miltoniopsis can stand night time temperatures as low as 6°C and prefer day time temperatures of between 15° and 25°C.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of Miltoniopsis stocks available in New Zealand are hybrids, although there are one or two species available from commercial outlets.</i></p>		
Activity	Outcome for Best Result	Month
Housing	Need to be in an environment where the conditions identified below can be met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer maintain a constant air flow • Winter maintain a night time airflow to minimise any frost condition.
Light Levels	Maintain 1200-1500 lux. Hold hand approx. 300mm above plant only a faint shadow should appear below.	All year
Growing Medium	What works for you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark: Use Grade 2 • Fern fibre substrate • Your favourite mix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repot every 2 years • Repot every 5 years • At your call
Watering	Unlike other genera this genus likes a moist not wet environment. Water control can be either by feeling the weight of the pot or by a time management system dependent on the medium used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer months at least every 3 days. • Winter months can be extended out to 14 days.
Fertilizer	Miltoniopsis like a balanced fertiliser. Pick one that is low in Nitrogen. It is suggested that an NPK of 7-12-5 works well. You can use alternatives such as seaweed but the mix to water ratio recommended must be applied. Over-fertilisation can burn the roots The use of a CF meter to test fertiliser strength is recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During autumn and winter maintain a CF of about 4. • In the spring progressively increase the CV reading to 7 until plants flower, then taper off back to a CV reading of 4.
Additional hints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During re-potting stage you can add additional elements such a gypsum and Calcium to your mix. This will aid root and stem growth. • As with most orchids Miltoniopsis like light /gentle air movement over their leaf structure. • Wrinkled leaves are a sign of lack of water. • Yellow leaves are last season's and can be removed. • Like all orchids a regular spray programme to minimise scale and other insects is required. • If you are growing this genus in an un-heated growing environment, in the summer place the Miltoniopsis on a lower shelf and in the winter place them on a higher shelf (about 1200mm above floor level). 	