

PAPHIOPEDILUM

I do not claim to be a “Paphiopedilum” expert and therefore the information I provide here is basic but useful and factual.

About 70 species have been identified and the existence of large unexplored areas gives hope for the discovery of many more new species. All the species of the genus “Paphiopedilum” have been found in East Asia and surrounding countries like India, China, the Philippines, Salomon Islands, etc.

Paphiopedilum or “Slipper” orchids grow under a variety of conditions. Some species require warm weather and other species tolerate cooler conditions. If you like “slippers” and you would like to keep some plants in your place, the best way to start is by finding out which species grow best in your area, in other words, which plants other growers grow in your area have. That will save you a lot of money. Off course, you must also take your facilities into account.

“Slippers” cannot be propagated by “Tissue Culture” (mericlone) and that affects the prices of seedlings and good flowering size specimens. Paphiopedilums are also not the easiest orchids to grow from seed and some seedlings can take up to 15 years or more to flower. Fortunately Paphiopedilums can be easily propagated by division.

Other information that helps is: The origin of the plants, the conditions the plants grow in their natural habitat, etc. When or if you buy hybrids, learn a little bit about the parents and always be prepared.

Advantages: Beautiful flowers that last for many weeks.

Disadvantages: Seedlings from certain species grow very slowly and need very long time to flower. Slippers are susceptible to fungal diseases.

Fortunately, there are numerous excellent books available, and there are also numerous Orchid societies around the world, exclusively for Paphiopedilum growers.

Table 1: The genus “Paphiopedilum” has been divided into “Subgenera”. Some of the “Subgenera” have been further divided into “Sections” and some sections have “Subsections”. This table presents only the “Subgenera” and the best-known species assigned to each sub-genus.

SUBGENERA	SPECIES
Parvisepalum	<i>armeniacum</i> <i>delenatii</i> <i>emersonii</i> <i>hangianum</i> <i>malipoense</i> <i>micranthum</i> <i>vietnamense</i>
Brachypetalum	<i>bellatulum</i> <i>concolor</i> <i>godefroyae</i>

niveum
thaianum

Polyantha

adductum
dianthum
gigantifolium
glanduliferum
haynaldianum
kolopakingii
lowii
oii
parishii
philippinense
platyphyllum
praestans
randsii
rothschildianum
sanderianum
stonei
supardii
wilhelmminiae

Cochlopetalum

chamberlainianum
glaucophyllum
liemianum
primulinum
victoria-mariae
victoria-regina

Paphiopedilum

barbigerum
charlesworthii
coccineum
druryi
exul
fairrieanum
gratrixianum
helenae
henryanum
herrmannii
hirsutissimum
insign

spicerianum
tigrinum
traglienianum
villosum

Sigmatopetalum

acmodontum
appletonianum
argus
barbatum
bougainvilleanum
bullenianum
callosum
ciliolare
dayanum
fowliei
hennisianum
hookerae
javanicum
lawrenceanum
mastersianum
mohrianum
papuanum
purpuratum
sangii
schoseri
sukhakulii
superbiens
tonsum
urbanianum
venustum
violascens
wardii
wentworthianum