

Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation, by Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris

It is difficult to think of a more exotic plant in the orchid, or one that is more distinctive. The fantastic forms of its waxy petals have excited plant collectors and breeders ever since the plants were first introduced from the tropics in the 17th century. Owning an orchid house became a major ambition of every aspiring Victorian plant enthusiast. The obsession with collecting orchids achieved such a proportion that many species are now endangered. *Orchids* provides a fascinating insight into the rise in popularity of the orchid, as well as singling out some of the most popular genera and species from the huge range of available. With over 100 color illustrations, *Orchids* covers both tropical air plants that need hothouse conditions and hardy native forms that can be grown in the garden.

Although reputedly difficult to grow, many orchids will thrive happily indoors as houseplants. A chapter on cultivation offers useful tips for raising orchids successfully.

Dr. Cribb is a botanist specializing in orchids. He is the curator of the orchid herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He has written several books on orchids, including *Hardy Orchids* with Christopher Bailes. Philip Cribb is a Member of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. Christopher Bailes is the curator of the Royal Horticultural Society's Rosemoore Gardens at Torrington, Devon, and is the editor of *Orchid Review*.

