

Ray's Growing Guide - Coelogynes

Coelogyne is a large diverse group of about 200 orchids of Asian origin. Most of the members of this showy genus of epiphytes and lithophytes have white or green flowers with contrasting labellums which display many brown markings.

Coelogynes are generally plants from mountainous regions and about 80 percent of the species are suitable for cultivating in cool to intermediate conditions. There are also species from the monsoonal, tropical lowlands which are generally very easy to grow and will rapidly build into specimen plants if the conditions are favourable. Most species are grown in pots with a bark-based mix, however those with pendulous flower spikes or rampant growers with long rhizomes are best accommodated in baskets. As a bonus, several species have pleasantly fragrant blooms. They appreciate being watered once a week during the cooler months, up to every two or three days during warm weather. Best species for beginners include *C. fimbriata*, *C. ovalis*, *C. flaccida*, *C. cristata*, *C. tomentosa* (syn *C. massangeana*) and *C. lactea*. Some of the best hybrids include *C. Jannine Banks* (*flaccida* x *mooreana*), *C. Linda Buckley* (*mooreana* x *cristata*) and *C. Unchained Melody* (*cristata* x *flaccida*).