

Orchid of the Month for December 2016

Jim Potter's Pick



Cymbidium Autumn Sun 'Fireplace' x Golden Rule Gyserland



As an absolute novice to the world of growing and blooming orchids, just about any orchid that blooms for me immediately becomes my favorite. However, having said that, this Cymbidium is right up there on the top of my list. It blooms during the Holiday Season, sometimes before Thanksgiving, but this year it didn't bloom until just before Christmas. It has a nice soft fragrance and as its name implies, it is wonderful sitting on the fireplace during the Holiday Season.



One of the nice features of the plant is that the spikes are very strong and so they stand upright displaying the flowers to a good advantage.

It is a warm grower that is very hearty requires little care. As I don't have a greenhouse, I grow it outside under some trees where it gets strong sun in the early to mid-morning and then light shade the rest of the day. I water it about once a week, or more often in the summer if it is very hot, with misting on the hottest of the days.

The individual flowers are not large, only about 3" across, but each of the spikes has from 15 to 20. This year there were 6 spikes.

This plant is from James Lathrop's collection and was one of my first. I asked Jim for one that would bloom during the winter when there wasn't much else blooming and he recommended this one. It was a good choice indeed.