# Greenhouses capture public fancy

Cymbidium orchids win my ac-claim as the ideal orchids for the in-door gardener who doesn't have a greenhouse and would like to experi-ment with the most highly prized of

ment with the most highly prized of all flowers.

Although the orchid literature con-nues to recommend the phalanopsis (Moth Orchid) or the paphiopedilum (Lady Silpper Orchid), as the most likely to succeed in the average home, I have yet to see or even hear of anyone who has brought these spe-cies into bloom in their home. If you have grown them, please let me know.

now.

On the other hand, I can congratu-ate three local people, Joyce Cohn, late three local people, Joyce Cohn, Lee Frank and Melba Winer. These fine indoor gardeners have had the thrill of raising cymbidium orchids in their home. The greenhouse no their home — no greenhouse, no lights. If they can do it, perhaps you can, too.

Many people find orchid plants unattractive and even if the plants did bloom in the house, they often are considered too ugly to warrant the extra cost, extra misting they require and the content of th

MOST GROWERS AGREE that these orchids need a long period of very cool temperatures during the fall in order to initiate bloom. They can be left outside all fall when the

## Winter classes continue

Registration continues for winter classes for children and adults at Cran-brook Institue of Science, 500 Lone Pine.

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"Common Senses," for students ages 9 to 12 at 9:30 and 11 a.m., beginning

Feb. 23; \$20.
Adults classes are "Seasonal Skies." beginning at 7:30 p.m. March 3; "Indian Cultures of the Great Lake," at 7 p.m., Feb. 21; and "Introductory Lapidary" beginning at 7 p.m., Feb. 14. Fees range from \$14 to \$36.
For more information, call \$65-3220.
Cranbrook Institute of Science is a natural history museum, open daily except major holidays.

third and fourth graders at 4 p.m., be-ginning March 4; \$12. "Common Senses," for students ages

days are still sunny and warm but the nights are cool. Some growers recommend a 45-day period of night temperatures between 45-50 F. I generally bring the plants inside during the first frosty nights but put them out again during the sunny days, and keep them well chilled until late October.

As for other cultural factors, both in the greenhouse and the house, treat cymbidiums like terrestatal plants. They aren't tropical or epiphytic like most orchids. Their roots grow in soil and therefore should never be allowed to dry out completely. Water them thoroughly and then let them become almost dry before watering again. They like highly a tropical again and the like highly allowed the spring to speed vegetative growth and a low nitrogen-high phosphorus fertilizer toward the end of summer to encourage flower spike formation. Blooming generally during the fall bat winter months when flowers are most welcome, cymbidiums come in a fascinating range of colors. wers are most welcome, cymbidiums come in a fascinating range of colors.

company

Whether used individually or in a spray, the waxy delicately colored blooms make a stunning display.

down to earth

**Alice Wessels** 

Burlingame

THE KEEPING QUALITY of cym

THE KEEPING QUALITY of cymbidiums is unusual, even among or-chids, and the flowers will last on the plants from six to 12 weeks. If cut and cared for regularly with warm weeks, which was to care the regularly with warm weeks. You don't have to order cymbidiums from orchid greenhouses as many of our local florists carry both the standard and the miniature form. The standards are quite large plants, and the more popular miniatures are being used increasingly as space savers in small home greenhouses. Since cymbidiums are cool growing orchids and can bloom with a 55 degree night temperature in the greenhouse, they are highly desirable to the energy-conscious greenhouse owner.

Whether a greenhouse or an indoor gardener, I suggest you start — take the leap! Become an orchidist. Don't let those professionals scare you.

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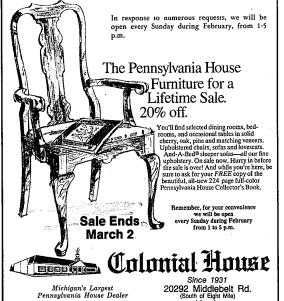
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