Genus Cymbidium

**Swartz** *Nova Acta Regiae Sci, Upsal*., ser. 2 **6**: 70 (1799).

Epidendroidae » Cymbidieae » Cymbidiinae:

ETYMOLOGY; Greek for boat shaped or skiff and cup. An allusion to the boat shaped lip.

LECTOTYPE: *Cymbidium aloifolium* (Linnaeus) Swartz (*Epidendrum aloifolium* Linnaeus)

One of the better known and widely popular flowers of the orchid family. There are sixty-seven of these sympodial terrestrial lithophytes, epiphytes or rare saprophytes are found in low to upper elevation, hill and montane evergreen, semi-deciduous, deciduous forests and savanna scrub ranging from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar to Vietnam, Korea, japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea and Australia. Most species are found in north central China (Shaanxi to Henan) hut also ranging southward from Xizang, Yunnan to Hainan. These warm to cool growing, often tall growing plants have short, slightly elongate to indistinct, strongly compressed to ovoid pseudobulbs, often subtended completely with leafy sheaths (rarely absent and replaced by a slender stem), each with several, long, strap-like, obscurely bilobed leaves. The erect or arching, solitary to numerous-flowered inflorescence has showy, small to large, waxy, often fragrant flowers. The floral shape is diverse as is the coloration. These plants can stay in bloom for periods of up to three months or more. The trilobed lip is free or fused to the column base, the side lobes are erect around the long, often forward bent, winged column, and the midlobe is recurved.

NOTE: This genus is used extensively for the cut flower industry. There are many artificial hybrids: numbering well into the thousands.