



Cymbidium Booklet

2025

The Mathers Foundation

Our Team



Marguerite, Hendrelien, Gill, Jim & David

The Mathers Foundation was established as a UK charity in 2019 to conserve collections of orchid species and hybrids and to support ex-situ and in-situ conservation.

Alongside *Cymbidiums*, we are the holders of the **National Collection** of *Oncidiums*, *Pleiones*, *Stanhopeas*, *Masdevallias*, *Anguloas* & *Acinetas*.

About Us

There are over **20,000 plants** grown at the nursery, led by our Head Nurseryman, Jim Durrant. The Foundation also operates a propagation laboratory, making both species sibling crosses and new hybrids.

A sneak peek inside



Introducing Our Catalogue

Dear Grower,

We are delighted to present our first catalogue of Cymbidiums. They represent a range of breeding from classic standards made in the 1960s, through Jim's work over the last fifty years and some of the latest Dutch hybrids.

Why are we selling plants?

One of the purposes of the Foundation is to encourage the growing of these plants. Given the decline of commercial orchid nurseries in the UK, these plants have been increasingly scarce, even though much of the original breeding was conducted in the UK over the last century. We are keen to encourage growers to form and add to their own collections.

Furthermore, all of the plants for sale are in surplus to the requirements of our collections. Selling these plants both raises funds to support the Foundation and releases space in the nursery – space which is much needed given the active breeding program that is underway at the Foundation.

All proceeds from the sale of these plants go the Foundation and support its work. Furthermore, by buying plants that have been professionally raised through artificial propagation you reduce the pressure on the remaining populations of these plants in the wild.



Jim, our expert grower

By Paul Upward Photography

The boring bits

Given the size of these plants and the level of variation in the hybrids, we prefer sales to be made in person rather than by mail order, to allow our customers to see and judge the individual hybrids themselves.

However mail order is available on request.

Our Plants



One of
our awards

It can take **more than six years** from pollination to flowering size plants which explains why new hybrids can be expensive as to make the most delicate and appealing flower takes skill and time.

Selecting clones with distinct characteristics by name ensures unique plants are recognised. Plants awarded an Award of Merit by the RHS Expert Group have benefited from years of dedication and expert care and deserve the accolade of being simply the **'best of the best'** in the world.

Fancy a visit?

We welcome visitors to our **Guided Tours** to see the collection and we normally display our plants at the RHS Orchid Show in March.

Visits can be booked via our website and include a full tour of the nursery and growing advice.



Guided tours by Jim (by Paul Upward Photography)

Pricing

All of the plants in catalogue are divided into **different pricing categories**. All of the plants for sale are of flowering size (and indeed will be in flower) but many are significantly larger.

Some hybrids are priced in bands as there can be **variation in flower size and colour**.

The photographs are an example of each hybrid for sale but the actual plants may vary.



By Paul Upward Photography

Symbols



Limited availability

URG

Unregistered grex - not yet named and registered with RHS

Price band	Typical pricing per band
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A

£25 - £30

B

£35 - £50

C

£50 - £80

D

£75 - £100

E

£100 - £125

F

£125 - £175

Cymbidium Species and Hybrids

C



Cym. Candy

Sweetheart x Vieux Rose

Division of one of classic large standard hybrids originally bred at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate in the 1980s; an important historic hybrid

F



Cym. Chilton Common

Goldrun x Loch Torridon

Division of a selected clone of Jim's famous (and remade) cross; best specimen plant at RHS Orchid Show

C



Cym. Dots Downunder 'New Horizon'

Mount Vision x devonianum

Excellent examples of modern pendant Cymbidium breeding, registered by Andy Easton in 2011

F



Cym. Eme's Natatee

Pontac x Loch Maree

Division of a selected clone of a stunning Jim Durrant hybrid

C



Cym. Forty Niner

Apollo x Dorama

Division of one of classic large standard hybrids originally grown by Stewart in the 1980s; an important historic hybrid

D



Cym. Hector Grey

Harriet Ishitani x Cliff Hutchings

Excellent example of Bert Ruiters' spotted breeding lines; green with a contrasting red velvet lip



Cymbidium Species and Hybrids

F



Cym. Ice Magic

Rose Armstrong x Pure Ice

A division of a classic hybrid, originally made by Bryant in Australia

C



Cym. James Westwick

Mighty Sensation x Golden Tiger

Mericlones of a modern golden brown hybrids, made by Andy Easton and registered in 2012

D



Cym. John McCormack 'Andjik'

Noni Poland x Devon Parish

Deep red spotted semi-pendulous hybrid, mericlone of a plant selected by Bert Ruitter from a hybrid registered by Andy Easton in 2018

C



Cym. King Paul

Sick King x Paul Robeson

A dramatic spotted pink hybrid registered by Bert Rüter in 2023, epitomising latest Cymbidium breeding; winner at RHS London Orchid Show 2024.

F



Cym. Loch Torridon 'Jumbo'

Thurso x Loch Leven

Division of a key green hybrid made by Jim; an important Cymbidium parent

C



Cym. Mavoureen 'Jester'

Miretta x Sussex Moor

A division of the one of first peloric Cymbidium hybrids

Cymbidium Species and Hybrids

E



Cym. Memoria Patsy Bauman

Rose Armstrong x Pharaoh's Star

Division of a large green/yellow alba, originally made by Bryant in Australia; similar plant gained a PC from the RHS in 2003

D



Cym. Passionate Harriet 'Nighttime'

Magic Passion x Harriet Ishitani

Deep red spotted hybrid, mericlone of a plant selected by Bert Ruiten from a hybrid made by Andy Easton in 2018

D



Cym. URG (Cliff Hutchings x Janis Elaine Hoenig)

Cliff Hutchings x Janis Elaine Hoenig

New seedlings of latest generation Cymbidium breeding

C



Cym. URG (Doctor Seton 'Las Vegas' x Eva Marie Saint)

Doctor Seton x Eva Marie Saint

Seedling of a new apricot/pink semi-pendulous hybrid made by Andy Easton

F



Cym. URG (Ice Nymph x Ice Magic) 'Purity'

Ice Nymph x Ice Magic

Division of the Purity clone of one of Jim's famous alba crosses

Growing these species



Inside our greenhouse

Winter

In Winter, we keep these plants relatively dry, watering only sparingly. They can withstand quite low temperatures during this time, although we try to keep the greenhouse **above 7C**.

Summer

In Summer, although we prefer to keep daytime temperatures in **20-30C range**, they can withstand temperatures above 30C provided that they are kept watered. A common mistake is to over fertilise the plants, which will result in fine green leaves but **fewer flowers** next Spring.

Diurnal Shifts

It's important to have a **large day-night** temperature drop in late Summer/early Autumn to initiate flowering. Many growers keep them **outside** during the late Spring and Summer and only bring them inside in late October, keeping them in a cool porch area to keep the plants dormant until flowering in January / February. Exposure to higher temperatures may result in **bud blast** and early initiation of the next growing (rather than flowering) cycle. Repotting should be done in the Spring, immediately after flowering, allowing the **new roots to get established** before the acceleration in growth in the late Spring and early Summer.

Lighting

Cymbidiums need good light, and can be grown outdoors in Summer. However, direct sun should be avoided and so on sunny days throughout the year our shading systems will cut out about 60-70% of the light. These automated systems withdraw completely when there is cloud.

Compost & Feed

We use a mix composed of **bark, heat-treated coir, chopped turf and dolomite** which has a life (before repotting is required) of three years. We are very careful to allow the compost to dry to just damp before re-watering. We use rainwater, adding low dosage fertilizer at around 300-400 microsiemens, in three out of four waterings. We **normally include Cal-Mag** in our feed as these minerals are lacking in rainwater.

Jim's compost (available to purchase)



Watch Out!

Like many plants, these orchids are susceptible to viruses, which are incurable for all practical purposes. Common types include the **Cymbidium mosaic virus** which can be tested for using strip test kits (similar to COVID-19 tests).

At TMF, any plants that test positive are destroyed and we take a number of precautions to avoid transmission. However, it is important to **look for signs on new foliage** as older leaves often get marked by mechanical damage or non-viral infections and the plant may not be infected by a virus.

Climate Change

Cymbidiums are much more resilient to higher Summer temperatures than many of the other orchids. Although not recommended, we have seen temperatures as high as 40C in our greenhouse without long-term effects.

The plants need more watering during such hot periods to avoid dehydration, and we have installed additional under-bench misting to maintain humidity and reduce temperatures during the Summer.



Summer at the nursery

Going back to the roots

There are more than **120 species of *Cymbidiums in the wild***, with these thriving as epiphytes on large trees with filtered sunlight. Whilst cool-growing species can be found in Himalayan foothills, warm-growing species, such as *Cym. canaliculatum*, flourish in the tree-hollows of dry Australian woodland.

A long history

Cymbidiums have been cultivated in ancient China for thousands of years. Mentioned by Confucius in his writings in around 500 BCE, one common name is the '**scholars orchid**'. They are also known as the 'boat orchid' because of the flower shape. These species are still **highly prized in China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan**, particularly those with variegated leaves.



Large potted Cymbidiums on a Chinese terrace

Today...

There are now over **16,000 registered *Cymbidium hybrids***, confirming how important this genus is. Greater use of *Cymbidium devonianum* in recent years has resulted in beautiful pendant flower spikes.

Plants range from very large specimen plants (often bred for cut flower production) through to much smaller pot plant hybrids. The plants in this catalogue are mostly descended from the cooler growing species, which is reflected in our suggested growing conditions.

Cymbidium tracyanum flowering in Chinese garden



Terms and Conditions

All plants are offered subject to stock availability and will be supplied with a UK Plant Passport. We currently do not have a European or overseas partner to sell these plants and due to strict UK export requirements we cannot therefore supply non UK customers at present.

Prices are for flowering sized plants, which have been grown in our nursery. The plants will be sold in flower but we would caution these cool-growing orchids can be challenging plants to grow indoors in a house due to the climatic requirements and are more suited to a cool greenhouse. As your growing conditions are beyond our control, we cannot assume responsibility for lack of performance but are always happy to give advice and support.

All photographs in the catalogue have been taken during the flowering season but there are substantial variations in colour and patterning in many of these hybrids. We hope that any mistaken identity will be rare but we are human so do contact us if you think we have made a mistake as we do aim for satisfied customers.

Given the size of these plants and the level of variation in the hybrids we prefer sales to be made in person rather than by mail order, to allow our customers to see and judge the individual hybrids themselves.

If you are not able to visit us at the nursery or at the RHS Show do get in contact via email and we will see if we can assist by mail order. Email for all enquiries is admin@orchid.foundation.

For mail orders we will send photographs of hybrids you are interested and prices. There will be a minimum order of £50 (excluding postage) and postage via Parcelforce will be passed on at cost as it depends on the size of plant and packaging. Mail orders will require advance payment and we will send an invoice with our banking and PayPal details and acknowledge receipt by return.

