

## Promenae Orchids



Prom Crawshayana

These are a little known group of miniature orchids from central and southern Brazil. It is believed there are between 8 and 20 species depending on the orchid books you research.

They grow like epiphytes in the moist forests at a moderate altitude and are part of the *Zygopetalum*/*Lycaste* group.

### Why grow them?

- Plants will flower in 50mm tubes often with flowers as big as the actual plant.
- Compact growth so will take up little space.
- Great range of colours from greens to yellows to creams – then with various amounts of red to black spots and bars on the flowers.
- Flower size is about 50mm.
- Flowers last about 8 weeks.
- Summer flower which doesn't mind being kept inside the house.
- I've had a plant in 140mm pot which has produced over 110 flowers.

### Cultivation

- Easy to grow – very forgiving little plants.
- Most critical point is LOW LIGHT about 80% shade (I often hang the plants under the bench.)
- Only small so can't be allowed to dry out as they will dehydrate quickly – need to keep just moist.
- I'm growing in mostly peat and perlite however bark has worked well.
- Temperature range in Maleny is 3° C. to 40° C. no problems if kept moist and dark.
- Extreme heat will result in withering and cold will result in leaf loss.
- Keeping foliage dry during cold is important.
- It is easy to rot new growths by leaving water in the leaf crown but plants are very forgiving and will just shoot new growths.



Prom Limelight

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