

STENOGLOTTIS CULTURE

The three best known *Stenoglottis* species are *Sngl. woodii*, *longifolia* and *fimbriata*. *Sngl. woodii* flowers first, in early to mid-summer, while the latter two flower in late summer to fall. *Sngl. woodii* is a great all round plant - the spike is quite compact and this species, with its glossy leaves, makes a good pot plant in the house. *Sngl. fimbriata* has striking dark spots on the leaves, and a good specimen is worth keeping for its foliage alone. *Sngl. longifolia* has the most attractive flowers and grows into a big specimen plant boasting many spikes. These spikes can eventually get a bit on the leggy side. All three species are cross fertile and their many of their hybrids (*Sngl. Venus*, *Sngl. Bill Fogarty*, *Sngl. Longwood*, *Sngl. Olympia* and *Sngl. Tacoma*) are also very rewarding, attractive plants.

All species and hybrids are easily grown under the same conditions. They prefer good light, but not direct sunlight as the leaves are thin-textured and may burn. They can be grown in any good terrestrial medium containing significant crushed stone and/or rockwool. Here is a good mix that has worked for me:

- 30% rockwool (or sunk bark)
- 30% #3 sand (i.e. coarse) or similar amount of crushed stone, fine grade
- 25% potting soil
- 10% #3 Perlite
- 5% #4 charcoal

Water freely during active growth, but reduce watering as the leaves begin to yellow after flowering. Yellowing leaves should be removed since they tend to become brown and soggy if left, and bacterial or fungal rot may set in. During the dormant stage (after flowering, when old leaves die back) plants should be allowed to dry out totally between watering, since rotting of the tubers is common if plants are kept damp at this stage. Once signs of new growth are evident watering may slowly be increased. Plants may be divided at the beginning of the growing season when offsets can be removed from the parent plant by teasing the tubers free and potting plantlets individually. However, plants do not like to be overpotted and it is preferable to leave plants in clumps, as they look more attractive when flowering as specimen plants. Plants respond well to fresh potting medium, so it is advisable to leave a plant in the pot no more than two seasons without a change of potting mix.

Photographs of the three species can be seen on the website address listed below.

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