



Cultural Requirements – Peristeria

Pronounced: per-ih-STEER-ee-uh

Tribe: Maxillarieae | **Subtribe:** Stanhopeinae

The Holy Ghost or Dove Orchid (*Peristeria elata*), named for its flowers, is the most recognized member of this genus and Panama's national flower. This sympodial orchid has large pseudobulbs and 4-5 pleated leaves. Its inflorescence, bearing 4-20 flowers, can be pendulous or erect. As of 2020, 12 species are recognized, distributed from Costa Rica and Panama to Peru and Brazil.



Temperature: Ideally between 60-70F

Lighting: Provide moderate, filtered light at 2400-3600 footcandles.

Watering: Maintain 40-70% humidity; water generously during growth, but once pseudobulbs are formed, keep the plant on the drier side.

Fertilizer: Apply a monthly feeding with an 18-18-18 ratio.

Potting: Use a rich humus mix, preferably sphagnum moss, peat, and decomposed leaves, ensuring good drainage.

References: *American Orchid Society via aos.org*

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