



Surrey, BC, Canada
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Tolumnia (formerly equitant *Oncidium*)

These darling orchids are robust growers and vigorous bloomers. *Tolumnia* have unusual 3 sided leaves. They were once members of the genus *Oncidium* and some still refer to them as “equitant oncidiums”. *Tolumnia* reward their growers with clouds of flowers whose shape is reminiscent of the flowing ball gowns of the 19th century, generally white or yellow with red, purple, or brown markings.

They bloom on tall thin stems, which carry clusters of blooms. Available in white, pink, red or yellow, many varieties are finely spotted or boldly blotched with a contrasting color. Some blooms undergo color changes; in one variety, for example, the blooms are creamy yellow upon opening, turn white after 1 to 2 days, then get progressively pinker until they wilt.

Temperature: *Tolumnia* like day temperatures of 19 to 30°C (66 to 86°F), and night temperatures of 15 to 22°C (60 to 72°F). They can take higher daytime temperatures if there is adequate airflow around the plants. Keep out of draft.

Light: *Tolumnia* prefer the medium light of east or west windows and shaded south window. Leaves are normally vibrant green, but will bleach if plant gets too much light and darken if light is insufficient. A light reddish color to the leaves indicates that the plants are getting the proper amount of light.

Watering: *Tolumnia* like their medium to remain almost dry. Water lightly once a week during the winter and every 3 to 5 days during the summer.

Fertilizing: Fertilize at ¼ - ½ strength with 28-14-14 at every watering to promote new growth. When new growth matures, start fertilizing with 10-30-20 at half strength to promote flowering.

Re-blooming: With proper care, flower stems develop on both mature new and old growths. Mature plants can bloom 2 to 3 times a year.

Repotting and potting medium type: Repot every 12 to 24 months, as required. A coarse free-draining potting mix, predominately medium grade fir bark nuggets and coarse perlite, is recommended.