# Dancing Lady Orchid
## *Oncidium*



*Oncidium* 'Sharry Baby'



*Oncidium* Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen'



*Oncidium* 'Twinkles'



*Oncidium* Aloha Iwanga 'Golden Showers'

# REIMAN GARDENS
### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Dancing Lady Orchid
## *Oncidium*

Family: Orchidaceae

**Stem & Leaf Type:** evergreen often with pseudobulb
**Size:** 6" to 36" tall and wide—flower spike is much larger than plant itself
**USDA Hardiness Zones:** 9 to 12
**Leaves :** oblong to elliptical to linear thick leaves 2" to 6" long borne atop a fleshy enlarged stem
**Leaf Color:** medium to dark green
**Fall Color:** not notable
**Flower Time:** November—March
**Flower Color:** vary widely by species/variety.  Yellow, brown,  bicolor, most common, many more
**Fruit:** not notable
**Light:** indoors, bright indirect light—south or eastern exposure ideal)
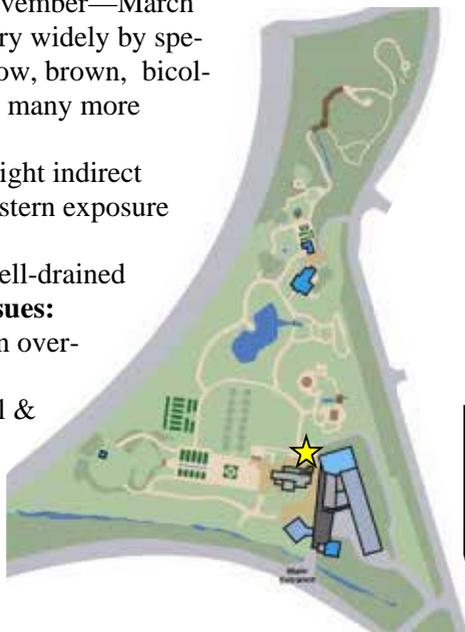**Moisture:** very well-drained
**Insect/Disease Issues:** Few, root rot when over-watered
**Nativity:**  Central & South America
**Location in the Gardens:** Conservatory

**Culture & Landscape Value:**  Plants are not winter hardy in central Iowa but this species make a wonderful, colorful houseplant. With dozens, sometimes hundreds of blooms on large panicles. Grow this plant in bright indirect light (which can be supplemented artificially) with average to warm home temperatures. Plants need moist but well drained soils—never wet and never dry. Fertilize with a complete fertilizer at 1/4 strength with each watering. Keep good air circulation and do not overcrowd plants.  Plants also benefit from high humidity, use humidifiers or pebble-trays.  Orchids benefit from frequent (every two years) repotting  Never over-pot; plants like roots slightly crowded.  Remove spent flower panicles at base.

**Notes:**  This enormous genus is very diverse.  Plants vary greatly in size.  For those with coarse roots, plant in coarse bark and water less.  Those with finer roots need a finer bark mixture and more frequent irrigation.  Be sure to do a little research—the large diversity means a slight variation in culture from plant to plant. The cultivar 'Sharry Baby' has a chocolate scent!

## Months of Interest:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| May | Jun | Jul | Aug |
| Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |