

Species-specific Care

Much of the information contained here is already mentioned elsewhere in the document. By grouping by species, it makes it easier to find things you need to know about a particular species.

Ascocenda [Ascda,]

Better than Vandas in Fla; don't need much water; 1/2 day sun; full enclosure [2].

Catasetum [Ctsm.]

Will fill pot with roots; leave space; no peanuts.

Fast growing.

Use time release fertilizer.

Cattleya [C.]

Only bloom in one direction [6].

When dividing, cut through rhizome, seal with paste, mark cut with toothpicks [6].

Short cuts thru rhizomes; should get blooms on either side [6].

Fungus on outside top -- use cinnamon [6].

Healthy when grows in multi-dimensions (starfish pattern) [2].

Prefer to be bone dry before watering [11].

Like more room than Dend [11].

Celsius (sp?)

Water a lot when new roots; need bright; don't mount or put on a tree [2].

Bright winter light; cold in winter.

Cymbidium [Cym.]

love to be repotted every 3 months.

Dendrobiums [Den.]

Cooler temps [6].

Bloom 3-4 times a year; if not, probably needs more light [6].

Like to be in tight quarters [11].

New growth canes get bigger [6].

Grow on base of Royal Palms [6].

Reduce to manageable size [6].

Cut off current cane 1" from bottom; hide for 6 months; next growth on main plant 50% smaller [6].

Don't cut canes off; will flower again [2].

"Dendrobian Orchids Online" - John ? (Sept. society speaker) [2].

Use grey pea rock.

Epidendrum (sp?)

Epiphytes (tree orchids)

Epiphytes are plants that grow in trees.

Grammatophyllum (Gram.)

Lithophytes (rock orchids)

Orchids may be found growing on rocks, posts, etc where pockets of organic matter have settled, providing a home for the flowering plant.

Nostrum (sp?)

Epson Salts once a month.

Obsidians (sp?)

Water every 10-12 days [6].

Fertilize every time you water; twice a week.

Phalaenopsis [Phal.]

Water once a week [6].

Like more room than Dend [11].

Fertilize every time you water; twice a week.

Phal media - Phal mix - hydrate [6].

Spaghnum moss is costly [6].

Moss breaks down [6]:

Fla moss in 3-4 months.

Wisconsin moss in 6-7 months.

Chili moss in 1-1/2 year.

New Zealand moss in 2 to 2-1/2 years.

Can repot while in bloom without shock [6].

Flower spike [6]:

 Cut between top 2 growth nodes.

 Phal "White Swan" - use wire to curve like a swan.

 95% chance of a new spike in same season.

Water spots, fungus - wet spot - shake on cinnamon [6].

When stops blooming, remove from sphagnum moss.

Simvidium (sp?)

 Love to be repotted every 3 months [6].

Terrestrial orchids (ground orchids)

Examples include Paphiopedilums and some Cymbidiums.

Put into cypress mulch. They like full sun, from the east.

Vanda [V.]

Require most light [6].

Vandas need frequent watering [7]. At least 2 times a week [6].

Water, wait 10 minutes, then water again.

Almost impossible to over-water Vandas during the hot months.

Hang upside down for 1 month. Orchid goes into shock. 2-3 months later, flower spikes [6].

Fertilize every time you water; twice a week.

Cinnamon & fungicide [6].

Don't let roots touch ground [pests] [6].

Twist Vanda; will keiki [6].

Keiki at crack [6].

Separate keiki from Vanda where there is at least 3 roots; 3-5 inches [6].

Make cut; seal cut on both sides. Put top in new pot; will get keiki at cut [6].

Color on root tips can suggest flower color [2].

Bloom Booster fertilizer.

Following from Tony Romani [10]:

 Vandas don't like nitrogen.

 Miracle Gro hose-end feeder; Ortho dial-top jars.

 All liquid plant food is buffered.

 Dry soluble plant food - low dose.

 Free hydroxyl radicals:

 Ozone in water; attacks bacteria; breaks down into oxygen.

SaniDate - peroxide, ivnegar

3% peroxide (1 tsp) in water.

Reverse osmosis (R-O) plus peroxide, fertilizer.

Podtec (sp ?) - like Dithane.

Dyna-Gro "Grow" - cadillac of fertilizers; good for small growers. Costly.

Lucerium (sp ?) wilt - purple band at bottom of dried stalk.

Equinoxes are signals to vanda hybrids to bloom; cool snaps also; daily temp swings.

Peroxide deters bugs; daily basis.

No oils! -- smothers plants.

Dithane & Protech (sp?) - 1/2 tsp [+ 1/2 tsp orthane?]. Every six weeks.

DWS Distributers (sp?) - local.

Using same chemicals for long time can cause pathogen resistance; switch every 2-3 months.

Heritage Syngenta - curative; mid-summer.

Vanrot (sp?) - 1/2 tsp.

Dyna Gro Pro-tek or Ditech - fungicide;

Growing outside makes vandas more cold tolerant than when in shelter.

When cold, use Epsom salts or magnesium.

Water vandas every day, unless rainy.

Just because roots look dry or brown, it doesn't mean they are dead.

Allied Technology (sp ?) preferred over R-O.

Pond or lake water can present pathogens; et, microbes, bacteria, algae spores, fertilizer residue, fecal matter.

"Big Bubba" filter - removes most algae; around \$400.

Bio film grows inside pipes; ozone destroys.

Dyna Gro - once per week for vandas.

Salts are bad for vandas.

Bacteria excretes nutrients that plants need.

Vandas like even numbers X-X-X; balanced diet.

Home Depot vandas have long travel time - bad environment. Phals probably ok.

Lucerium wilt - purple rot spores; use vanrot (sp?).

Dyna Gro "Bloom Booster".