

Orchid

Culture Highlights

Cattleya

Light: Bright light, some sun but not at midday. 3,000-5,000 fc, or about 50% of full sun.

Temperature: 60-65°F. winter nights, 85-90°F. Summer days. As temperature increases, increase air movement, water, humidity and fertilization.

Water: Water thoroughly and then allow to dry slightly between watering. Between one and three times per week will be adequate.

Fertilizer: Fertilize plants regularly when in active growth. Best results will be obtained by fertilizing weekly, but often.



Dendrobium

Light: Bright light, some sun, more than Cattleyas, about 60-70% of full sun. Exact light requirements will vary with type.

Temperature: Two main types; cool growers, need 50-55°F nights. Warm growers, need 60-65°F nights. Most will do well in intermediate (60°F nights) conditions.

Water: Give plants plenty of water when in active growth. Give less as growth matures. In varieties that lose their leaves, give water only to prevent shriveling of canes.

Fertilizer: Give plenty when in active growth, less or none while resting.

Oncidium

Light: Bright light, some can take full or near full sun. Thin leaved plants generally take less light. About 50% sun for most plants in this group, less for some of the hybrids.

Temperature: Most are intermediate (60°F nights). Some hybrids may need lower temperatures.

Water: Many do not have pseudobulbs; therefore, should not dry completely. Allow media to become just a bit dry. Thick leaved and rooted plants need less water.

Fertilizer: Give plenty when in active growth, less when resting. Best results are obtained by fertilizing weakly, but often.

Paphiopedilum

Light: Bright, indirect light, no direct sun, about 40% full sun. About 1,5000-2,000 fc.

Temperature: Two types. Cool growers need 50-55°F nights. Warm growers need 60-65°F nights. Day temperatures should correspond to night temperatures. Cool growers need day temperatures about 10°F lower than warm growers.

Water: Keep plants evenly moist, but not soggy all year. Do not allow water to stand in the crown of the plant.

Fertilizer: Should be provided regularly, but weakly. Roots can be sensitive.

Phalaenopsis

Light: Bright, indirect light, no direct sun. Slightly more light than Paphiopedilum.

Temperature: Intermediate to warm temperatures (60-65°F nights). A month of nights in the 55°F range in the fall can help to initiate buds.

Water: Do not allow to dry completely, allow the surface of the media to dry about 1/2 inch deep, then water again. Do not allow water to stand in the crown of the plant.

Fertilizer: Should be provided regularly. Phalaenopsis really do not rest, so they should be fertilized all year.

Vanda

Light: Very bright light, some can take full sun. All need some sun for best flowering

Temperature: Warm temperatures (65°F nights). Temperatures below 45-50°F may cause leaf drop.

Water: Water heavily, but allow plants to dry quickly. Water till the roots turn green, let dry till roots are white before watering again. Can take from one to five days. In a mixed collection, water Vandas, then water other orchids, then rewater the Vandas.

Fertilizer: Give plenty, regularly. A balanced (20-20-20) fertilizer is best. Bloom booster (10-60-10) can be used once a month to promote blooms.



All orchids will benefit from Epsom Salts applied at the rate of 1 tablespoon/gallon, once a month from September to February.

Created by:

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