

Dendrobium Culture - St. Augustine Orchid Society

Group	Species	General Culture	Summer Cultural Requirements			Winter Cultural Requirements		
			Water	Fertilizer	Temperature	Water	Fertilizer	Temperature
Standard Nobiles (smooth canes, mostly pendulous, leaves all along the canes, 2-5 flowers per inflorescence mostly from leafless canes)	chrysanthum, friedicksianum, nobile, wardianum	Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cooler Temperatures and Restrict Water After Growth Matures (When the Last Leaf is Single and Upright)	Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed	Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins	Warm	Occasional Watering to Keep from Shriveling	None after New Growth Matures	Cool (40° to 50°F min), Minimum 3 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in High Light
Seminobiles (smooth to lightly ribbed canes, mostly pendulous, leaves all along canes, 2 to 5 flowers per inflorescence, mostly from leafless canes)	albosanguineum, amoenum, anosmum (syn. superbum), aphyllum (syn. pierardii), falconeri, fimbriatum, findlayanum, gibsonii, heterocarpum, loddigesii, moniliforme, moschatum, parishii, primulinum, transparens, unicum	Grow with Cattleyas but Keep on Dry and Cool Side After Growths Mature, Move to Cooler Temperatures and Restrict Water After Growth Matures	Water Moderately After Buds Have Formed Through Flowering, Flood with Water after New Growth Begins	Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins	Warm	Occasional Watering to Keep from Shriveling	None after New Growth Matures	Cool (45° to 50°F min), Cold Dry Rest Period in High Light, May Need to be Kept Warmer (55 to 60°F) if Doesn't Flower
Callista (bulbous ribbed pseudobulbs with leathery leaves, showy pendant golden grapelike flower inflorescence, short flowering period)	aggregatum (syn. lindleyi), chrysotoxum, densiflorum, farmeri, jenkinsii, sulcatum, thyrsoiflorum	Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cool Area in Winter	Soak Plants to Initiate Flowering Cycle, Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed	Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins	Warm	Mist but Don't Water, Then Soak in Water for a Few Hours in January	None	Minimum 6 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in Medium Light
Formosae (cane like pseudobulbs with black hairs on silvery sheaths, large white often fragrant flowers)	bellatulum, cruentum, dearii, draconis, formosum, infundibulum, lowii, margaritaceum, sanderae, schuetzei, senile, spectatissimum	Grow with Cooler Growing Cattleyas	Flood with Water After New Roots Emerge	Heavy Fertilization Until Growth Matures	Intermediate to Warm	Light Watering, Then Flood with Water when New Roots Emerge	Light Fertilization Until New Roots Emerge	Minimum 2 Week Cold Dry Rest Period After Canes Mature, 55° to 60°F Night Time

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Spatulata (antelope type, tall narrow slightly ribbed canes, evergreen for several years, narrow twisted sepals and petals, may bloom several times a year)	antennatum, bicaudatum, canaliculatum, gouldii, johannis, lineale (syn. veratrifolium), stratiotes, strebloceras, taurinum, undulatum	Grow with Cattleyas	Water Like Cattleyas	Normal Fertilization	Warm, High Light	Water Like Cattleyas	Normal Fertilization	Warm, No Rest Period, Minimum 60°F Temperatures
Phalaenanth (thin tall smooth canes, evergreen for several years, arching terminal inflorescence with large flowers)	affine, bigibbum (phalaenopsis), compactum, dicuphum, schroederianum, superbiens, williamsianum	Grow with Cattleyas	Water Like Cattleyas	Normal Fertilization	Warm	Water Like Cattleyas (If Grown Below 50°F, Keep Bone Dry)	Normal Fertilization	Warm, No Rest Period (a Short Cool Dry Rest Period Followed by Warmth May Help Induce Flowering)
Latouria (large leathery leaves at the top of deeply ribbed pseudobulbs, very long lasting flowers, mostly yellow green)	aberrans, alexandrae, atroviolaceum, convolutum, forbesii, johnsoniae, macrophyllum, rhodostictum, spectabile	Grow with Cattleyas	Flood with Water	Heavy Fertilization	Warm	Water Like Cattleyas	Normal Fertilization	Enjoys a Cooler Period after Summer but Cold is Not Essential to Induce Flowering
Pedilonum (cane like pseudobulbs, leaves evenly spaced along stems, few or many bright pink, red and purple flowered inflorescences on leafless canes)	bracteosum, bullenianum, capituliflorum, crenatifolium, goldschmidtianum (syn. miyakei), purpureum, secundum, smilieae	Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cool Area in Winter	Soak Plants to Initiate Flowering Cycle, Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed	Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins	Warm	Mist but Do Not Water	None	3 to 6 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in Medium Light

General Tips for Growing Dendrobiums

1. **Watering** - Dendrobiums like to be flooded daily during the growing season and have their roots dry by noon. Adjust potting media and air flow to provide this.
2. **Repotting** - Dendrobiums do not like to have their roots disturbed and are finicky as to when they will tolerate a change of pots or media.
3. **Fertilizing** - Feed new growth, not flowers. Grow big fat healthy canes/pseudobulbs, the flower power is stored in the canes, plant will flower if energy is available.
4. **Rest Period** - In general, withhold all fertilizers from Halloween through Easter.
5. **Fungicides** - Do not use copper bases fungicides (like Kocide) or Captan.