Dendrobium Culture - St. Augustine Orchid Society

Species	General Information	Summer Cultural Requirements	Winter Cultural Requirements
Dendrobium Section Intermediate/Warm Growers: *anosmum (*syn. *superbum), aphyllum (*syn. *pierardii), chrysanthum, crystallinum, fimbriatum, friedicksianum, gibsonii, heterocarpum, linawianum, loddigesii, moschatum, nobile, parishii, primulinum, pulchellum, schulleri, senile, signatum, stricklandianum, unicum, wardianum* Cooler Growers: *falconeri, findlayanum, moniliforme*	From low to moderate altitudes in areas with a distinct dry season. Smooth to lightly ribbed canes, upright or pendulous, leaves all along stems, numerous racemes along stem each carrying 2 to 5 flowers, often from leafless canes, spring blooming. Also known as the nobile and seminobile dendrobiums.	Increase water after buds have formed. Start watering and fertilizing after new growth begins in the spring. Water heavily and fertilize regularly throughout the growing season. Reduce water and fertilizer as fall begins to prepare for dormancy.	Deciduous, enjoys a cold dryish rest period in bright light. Some growers restrict all water, other growers provide occasional watering to keep canes from shriveling. Discontinue fertilizing after new growth matures through the winter dormancy. Protection required only if temperatures drop below the upper thirties.
Dendrocoryne Section Intermediate/Warm Growers: *aemulum (syn. odontochilum), jonesii, speciosum, tetragonum* Cooler Growers: *adae, callitrophilum, falcorostrum, finniganense, fleckeri, gracilicaulekingianum, moorei,*	From low to moderate altitudes from areas with year round rainfall, grows in a wide range of habitats so they tolerate a range of environmental conditions. Occasionally long canes with 2 to 6 leaves near the apex. Closely related to the Latouria Section.	Water and fertilize regularly during the growing season.	Evergreen but enjoys a drier, cooler winter resting period. Plants should not remain dry for long periods. Light fertilization, if any.
Densiflora Section (syn. Callista) Intermediate/Warm Growers: *chrysotoxum, farmeri, griffithianum, jenkinsii, lindleyi (syn. aggregatum), palpebrae, sulcatum, thyrsiflorum* Cooler Growers: *densiflorum*	From moderate to high altitudes in areas with a decided dry season. Bulbous ribbed pseudobulbs with leathery leaves at the apex, showy but short-lived pendent golden grapelike flower, spring blooming.	Increase water after buds have formed. Start watering and fertilizing after new growth begins in the spring. Water heavily and fertilize regularly throughout the growing season. Reduce water and fertilizer as fall begins to prepare for dormancy.	Evergreen, enjoys a cold dryish rest period in bright light. Some growers restrict all water, other growers provide occasional watering to keep canes from shriveling. Discontinue fertilizing after new growth matures through the winter dormancy. Protection required only if temperatures drop below the upper thirties.
Formosae Section (syn. Nigrohirsutae) Intermediate/Warm Growers: *cariniferum, christyanum, cruentum, dearii, draconis, formosum, schuetzei, tobaense, trigonopus* Cooler Growers: *bellatulum, infundibulum, sanderae*	From low to moderate elevations with or without a dry season. Tends to be more prone to stem rot. Long, robust pseudobulbs with black hairs on new silvery sheaths, large white often fragrant flowers blooming on last year's and older growths, summer blooming.	Increase water after new growth begins in the spring and fertilize regularly.	Evergreen, a short rest period if any under cooler conditions. Less watering until new roots emerge.

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Latouria Section Intermediate/Warm Growers: *alexandrae, atroviolaceum, bifalce, convolutum, eximium, forbesii, johnsoniae, macrophyllum, rhodostictum, spectabile* Cooler Growers: *aberrans, cruttwellii, engae*	From low to high elevations in rain forests in areas with year-round rainfall. Large leathery leaves at the top of deeply ribbed pseudobulbs, very long lasting flowers, mostly yellow green) Closely related to the Dendrocoryne Section.	Water and fertilize regularly during the growing season.	Evergreen but enjoys a drier, cooler winter resting period. Plants should not remain dry for long periods. Light fertilization, if any.
Pedilonum Section Intermediate/Warm Growers: *bracteosum, bullenianum, capituliflorum, goldschmidtianum (syn. miyakei), pseudoglomeratum, purpureum, secundum, smilieae, tannii* Cooler Growers: *crenatifolium*	From low and high altitudes from areas with year-round rainfall. Cane like pseudobulbs, leaves evenly spaced along stems, few or many bright pink, red and purple flowered inflorescences on leafless canes. Closely related to the Calcarifera Section.	Water and fertilize regularly during the growing season.	Deciduous, enjoys a cold dryish rest period in bright light. Some growers restrict all water, other growers provide occasional watering to keep canes from shriveling. Discontinue fertilizing after new growth matures through the winter dormancy.
Phalaenthe Section Intermediate/Warm Growers: *affine, bigibbum (phalaenopsis), striaenopsis, superbiens, williamsianum*	From low elevations in seasonally dry areas. Thin tall smooth canes, evergreen for several years, arching terminal inflorescence with large flowers. Closely related to the Spatulata section.	Water and fertilize regularly during the growing season.	Evergreen, keep warm (above 60°F) with dryish resting period in winter. Plants should not remain dry for long periods. Light fertilization, if any.
Spatulata Section *(Antelope type)* Intermediate/Warm Growers: *antennatum, bicaudatum, canaliculatum, carronii, discolor, gouldii, helix, johannis, lasianthere, lineale, mirbelianum, nindii, stratiotes, strebloceras, tangerinum, taurinum, trimellatum* Cooler Growers: *cochlioides*	Mostly from low elevations in year-round high rainfall areas, some have adapted to seasonally dry or cooler areas. Tall narrow slightly ribbed canes, evergreen for several years, narrow twisted sepals and petals, may bloom several times a year. Called the antelope type, closely related to the Phalaenthe section.)		

General Tips for Growing Dendrobiums

1. General Culture - Many dendrobiums enjoy similar conditions to cattleyas, growing in bright light. Typically dendrobiums enjoy more frequent watering during the growing season and a drier, cooler resting period during the winter as compared to cattleyas.

2. Watering and Fertilizing - Some groups of dendrobiums require a marked change between summer and winter, enjoying summer monsoonal rains and much drier winter conditions. Feed new growth, not flowers. Grow big fat healthy canes/pseudobulbs, the flower power is stored in the canes, so the plant will flower if energy is available. As with most plants, apply fertilize at quarter or half strength. Some dendrobiums should not be fertilized during the winter rest period.

3. Repotting - Dendrobiums have very short rhizomes so they can grow for many years in a seemingly too small pot. They do not like to have their roots disturbed and are finicky as to when they will tolerate a change of pots or media. Adjust potting media to ensure any organic matter will last in the pot until the plant is ready to be repotted and ensure the potting mix is porous enough to ensure the roots are oxygenated.

4. Fungicides - Do not use copper based fungicides (like Kocide) or Captan on dendrobiums.

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