



Dendrobium (den-DROH-be-um)

Dendrobium, phalaenopsis, are natives of India and Southeast Asia. They are among the easiest orchids to grow. They flower usually 1-2 times a year, flowers lasting 6-8 weeks, a well grown mature plant may be in flower for 3-4 months. They may flower from new mature canes and well grown older canes.

Origin

Pacific Basin, Australia, Pacific Islands, Thailand, Philippines and the Himalayan foothills.

Temperature

They will tolerate temperatures as low as 45° F to as high as 95° F, with the ideal temperature being 60-85° F. When in flower it is better to keep temperatures above 60° F at all times to prevent bud drop.

Light

To grow and flower dendrobiums well they need very bright light, 30% shade to full sun during spring and summer and full sun during winter months for 4-6 hours a day. Good air movement during this time is very important.

Humidity

Relative humidity of 50-60% is considered good for their culture, although a little variation is perfectly acceptable.

Watering

They do not like to dry out between waterings. Water well with a thorough soaking, and then let it dry out before watering again. During summer months it may be twice a week watering to once a week in the winter months.

Fertilizer

A good rule is to water dendrobiums well with water and then apply fertilizer at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. per gallon of water, once a week or 1 tsp. of fertilizer per gallon of water once every other week. A balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 will accomplish the desired results.

Repotting

We prefer growing dendrobiums in fir bark and perlite though they can be grown in lava rock or charcoal. They can be grown in clay pots or plastic pots as long as the drainage is good. The plants in clay pots require more frequent watering. Our mix consists of 80% fir bark and 20% perlite. Put a few small rocks in the bottom of the pot for drainage and stability. They like to grow in small pots. A large mature plant can be grown in a 4-5" pot. Potting media under these conditions would last 2-3 years. Keep plants lightly watered every 3-4 days and shaded 40% for 3 weeks after repotting. After new roots emerge you may resume regular watering and light conditions