

## Australian Dendrobiums

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*Den kingianum*, *Den speciosum* and hybrids with these species

- Spring/Summer:** Bright light, lots of water (do not let them go dry) & fertilize (1/2 strength) every 2 weeks. I take mine outside 4/20-25, placing them in full sun (no need for hardening this early). If you wait till May, harden in light shade for 5-7 days.
- September 15:** No more fertilizer.
- October 15:** Stop watering mature plants (and cut back for younger plants). If plants start to look desiccated, you can give them a little every 3-4 weeks.
- I still leave them outside, but protect them against fall rains (water will prevent buds from forming). I only bring them inside, when the first real frost is forecast.
- Winter:** As bright and cool a spot as you can manage. Once buds form, you can start watering a little. When buds get close to opening, resume normal watering & fertilizer schedule.
- Can be grown:** Plastic pots/granite pebbles (*you have to water more, but no repotting till pot is full of canes*)  
Plastic pots, with bark/perlite mix  
Clay pots, with sphagnum/bark mix. (*my choice*)

## Dendrobium nobile

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- Spring/Summer:** Bright light, lots of water (do not let them go dry) & fertilize (1/3-1/2 strength) every 2 weeks. Can go outside into light shade in late April. Can be grown in full sun, **IF**:
- You harden in 2 steps
  - Water enough..
- September 15:** No more fertilizer.
- October 15:** Stop watering mature plants (and cut back for younger plants). If plants start to look desiccated, you can give them a little every 3-4 weeks.
- I still leave them outside, but protect them against fall rains (water will prevent buds from forming). I only bring them inside, when the first frost is forecast.
- Winter:** As bright and cool a spot as you can manage. Once buds form, you can start watering a little. When buds get close to opening, resume normal watering & fertilizer schedule.
- Can be grown:** In plastic pots with bark/perlite mix, or Clay pots with a sphagnum/bark mix. (*my choice*). Grow in small pots (3" or 4"), and repot every 2 years.

## Cymbidiums

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These plants have no rest period, and grow year round. Do not let the plants dry out.

- Spring/Summer:** Very bright light, lots of water & tons of fertilizer. I take mine outside 4/20-25, placing them in full sun (no need for hardening this early). If you wait till May, harden in light shade for 5-7 days.
- Fall:** I leave plants out till first frost is forecast (if only a single night & down to abt 30°F, I cover the plants and leave them out). Some years they stay out till mid Dec.
- Water:** As bright as possible in the house, with cool temperature at night (ideally between 50°F & 65°F)..
- Fertilizer:** March: Top dress w Nutricote, 1-2 Tbsp/pot  
March/July: 20:20:20 (full strength) every 2 wks  
Aug/November: Flower booster (full str.) every 2 wks  
Dec/February: Water with 20:20:20 once a month
- Potting mix:** Use a light terrestrial mix. Mine consists of:  
3 parts Chunky peat (1/2" to 2" chunks)  
2 parts Composted manure  
1 part Bark (Cattleya size)  
1 part Perlite (large)  
1 part Aliflor (LECA nuggets), **very large pots only**

## Calanthe, species & hybrids

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Deciduous Calanthes require a 3-4 month rest period with NO water.

- Spring :** Check whether new growth has started. If so, pot up, but do NOT start watering, till the new growth is about 2" tall.
- Summer & Fall :** Grow in intermediate light (in-between Cattleya & Paphs). Catt/Paph temp range is fine. Water well, do not allow it dry out. Regular fertilizer at 3/4 strength every 2 weeks.
- Late Fall & Winter:** As foliage starts to die back, reduce watering so plant is dry 2 or 3 days before you water again. Flower spikes should form at this time. Reduce feeding to 1/3 strength.
- Winter:** When done flowering,  
NO MORE WATER till new growth is 2" tall.
- Pot & Mix:** Either Clay or Plastic will do. I use:  
3 parts Chunky peat  
2 parts Composted manure  
1 part Perlite
- Fertilizer:** 1 tsp of Nutricote (slow release) in each pot when you start watering.  
Use 20:20:20 every 2 weeks during the growing season.

**Repot annually, as the nutrients in the mix are used up.**

## Paphiopedilum

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These plants have no rest period, and grow year round. Do not let the plants dry out.

- Light:** Low light (1000-1500 footcandles), like Phalaenopsis. Northeast or Northwest facing window is ideal. In East or West windows, place them slightly back. In SE, S or SW facing windows, a sheer curtain is required. From mid March through October, avoid direct sun between 10 AM & 3:30 PM. Plants can go outside from Memorial Day till mid Oct, if placed in fairly deep shade.
- Temperature:** Minimum night temp is 55°F, ideally with day time temp at least 65°F..
- Water:** Drench when watering. Let go nearly dry (2-4 days in summer, 5-8 days in winter), then drench again.
- Fertilizer:** Any balanced fertilizer can be used, but only 1/3 of the strength recommended by manufacturer. Apply every 3rd or 4th watering.
- Potting mix:** Repot every 18-24 months. You can use either a sphagnum/bark mix, or a bark, charcoal & perlite mix. With the latter, you need to water a little more frequently. I prefer plastic pots, as they hold humidity longer.

## Phalaenopsis

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These plants have no rest period, and grow year round. Do not let the plants dry out.

- Light:** Low light (1000-1500 footcandles), like Paphiopedilum. Northeast or Northwest facing window is ideal. In East or West windows, place them slightly back. In SE, S or SW facing windows, a sheer curtain is required. From mid March through October, avoid direct sun between 10 AM & 3:30 PM. Plants can go outside from Memorial Day till end of Sept, if placed in fairly deep shade.
- Temperature:** Minimum night temp is 55°F, ideally with day time temp at least 65°F..
- Water:** Drench when watering. Let go nearly dry (2-4 days in summer, 5-8 days in winter), then drench again.
- Fertilizer:** Any balanced fertilizer can be used, but only 1/3 of the strength recommended by manufacturer. Apply every 3rd or 4th watering.
- Potting mix:** Repot every 18-24 months. You can use either a sphagnum/bark mix, or a bark, charcoal & perlite mix. With the latter, you need to water a little more frequently. I prefer plastic pots, as they hold humidity longer.