

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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Den nobile and hybrids based on this species

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.