

General Dendrobium Culture

General rules

1. always pot in minimum size reasonable
 - increase as little as possible when repotting
 - Dendrobiums like being pot bound
 - really don't need pots (pots are for people)
2. repot as seldom as possible
 - many resent repotting and may sulk for years
 - small pots dry out better, medium pots more slowly
3. potting medium is not often critical
 - fir bark, hapuu, perlite, lava rock
 - nearly all will do well on a slab
 - must have good drainage or get root rot
 - even very wet growers must have perfect drainage
4. food and water
 - use care in watering small, new canes or will get rot
 - water less in winter for all forms
 - prevents rot and plants are less active
 - most are heavy feeders when in active growth
 - all will survive if fed little
 - grow better if fed better
 - in general feed less in winter
 - must respect individual needs or will die
 - if a rest is needed, it must occur
 - if good flowers are wanted, must respect feeding cycle
5. in potting, know your plants
 - if pendant, leave it that way
 - if small creeper or dwarf form, put in shallow pan or slab
 - nearly all do well on slabs
6. Diseases and bugs
 - mealy bugs in tips of tall growths
 - Sevin or Malathion at two week intervals
 - spider mites
 - increase humidity
 - miticides = (Aramite, Dimite, Isotox, Orthene)
 - fungus
 - leaf spot, leaf drop, cane rot
 - use general systemic throughout year
 - specific treatment = use AOS bug book
 - drafts
 - many will drop leaves if chilled
 - many warm types will die below 50 degrees
 - atmospheric dryness
 - leaf and bud drop
 - ethylene gas - leaf and bud drop

SECTION - *Callista* Number of species - 12-15±

- no true dormant period (feed through year)
- do not dry off completely or will damage roots
- light and water as for *Cattleya*
- cool to 50-55 in winter w/less water till new growth shows
- pot in tree fern, lava rock, or medium bark
- problems -- red spiders on thin leaves
- spray undersides of leaves
- common species
 - **aggregatum (see lindleyi)**
 - **chrysotoxum**
 - **farmeri**
 - **thyrsiflorum**

SECTION - *Dendrobium* Number of species - 45±

- mostly deciduous forms that need severe rest to mature canes
- unless dried to point of death, canes will flower poorly and may rot off
- no water from October 1st till buds well along
 - may spray to keep canes from shriveling
 - don't worry about leaf loss
- no fertilizer during drying off -- low nitrogen all year
- buds appear in December and January, then and water normally
- pot in coarse to medium bark, tree fern chunks, or fine lava rock
- common species
 - **loddigesii**
 - **anosmum (syn. is superbum)**
 - **anosmum v. album (also called 'superbum')**
 - **aphyllum (syn. is pieradii)**
 - Habitat -- Wooded tropical valleys, mangrove swamps, low hills, damp plains
 - elevation -- sea level - 100 m
 - bloom time -- Winter -Spring; early Summer
 - special notes -- stems very long...slabs or baskets
 - deciduous and need winter rest -- dry & cooler if possible
 - **brymerianum**
 - **harveyanum**

Nobile - types

- variation of Section *Dendrobium* -- grow same way
- fertilizer all important
 - used to think needed cooling
 - use low nitrogen all year
 - at last waterings in fall, use super-hi phosphate fertilizer once or twice
 - no more fert and water till get buds
- if not followed, get tall gangly plants with widely spaced flowers
- will also get lots of keikis, few flowers
- potting materials not too important
- cooling not needed if above followed
- **common species**
 - **nobile (nobile var. virginalis)**

Formosae (*Nigrohirsutae*, in part) Number of species - 35±

- Formosae* -- grow like *Cattleya*, no dry spell
- strong growers need much food and water
- robust canes and leafy

- potting media not critical
- some leaf drop in winter, spider mites
- common species
 - **cruentum**
 - **draconis**
 - **christyanum (syn. is margaritaceum)**
 - **bellatulum**

Dendrocoryne

- Dendrocoryne -- cool plants in winter and restrict water
- if no rest, may not bloom for years
 - Cattleya conditions otherwise
 - pot in medium to fine bark, watch for rotting of root tips
 - common species
 - **specosum**
 - **speciosum**
 - **tetragonum**

Pedilonum Number of species - 78±

- Pedilonum -- more or less evergreen, but may lose all or part of leaves in winter
- need very high light (just below glass)
 - water heavily (reduce in winter)
 - feed well and repot seldom
 - med. to coarse potting (chunk tree fern or rock)
 - flower from any cane, even old shriveled ones, never remove canes unless rotted or dead
 - bloom throughout year, mainly in winter
 - common species
 - **secundum**
 - **secundum alba**
 - **amethystoglossum**
 - **smilliae**
 - **miyakei**
 - **victoria-reginae**
 - **purpureum**

Pedilonum - other species

- **calicopsis**
- **crocatum**
- **cumulatum**
- **intricatum**
- **lamellatum**
- **parcum**
- **panduriferum**
- **pseudoglomeratum**
- **purpureum**
- **purpureum v. album**
- **sanguinolentum**

Rhopalanthè Number of species - 45±

- evergreen, feed and water all year
- grow as Cattleya
 - flowers induced by thermal shock
 - bloom week or two later
 - short lived flowers frequently produced
 - bloom from old canes, also keikis

- Common species
 - **cruentum**
 - **luteocilium**

Section Rhizobium -- Number of species - 6-10

- evergreen, but have severe rest in Australian summer (= our winter)
 - feed and water well in growing season
 - keep in bright light and water little in winter
 - don't water or even mist heavily till buds well along
 - common species
 - **linguiforme**
 - **cucumerinum**

Other Rhizobium species:

- **crassulaefolium**
- **lichanastrum**
- **toressae**
- **wassellii**

Phalaenantha Number of species - 10±

- Phalaenantha -- evergreen, need constant food and water
 - bright light, do not dry out severely ever
 - curtail water a bit in winter, or may rot new growths
 - grow as Cattleya, feed heavily
 - will lose leaves if chilled or dried out too much
 - keep old canes, bloom again for years
 - Clay pots, not plastic (need moisture)
 - common species
 - **phaleonopsis** = note smooth lip margin and keels
 - **bigibbum** = note pointed lip margin and keels
 - **affine**

Other Phalaenantha species

???brandtia
 dicuphum
 leeanum
 ???macgregorii
 x superbiens
 williamsianum

Ceratobium (Spatulata) Number of species - 46±

- no dormant period
 - always underpot, happy if over side of pot
 - use coarse medium (bark or rock best)
 - maximum sunlight, high humidity
 - temperature always above 60 or get leaf drop
 - problems -- water in new growths
 - sooty black fungus in honeydew

- **stratiotes**
- **antennatum (plus antennatum v. d'albertisii)**
- **stratiotes**
- **strebloceras**
- **canaliculatum**

- **gouldii discolor**
- **nindii (ionoglossum)**

Ceratobium

- **conanthum**
- **johannis**
- **lasianthera (ostrinoglossum)**
- **lineale (veratrifolium)**
- **mirbelianum**
- **schulleri**
- **taurinum**
- **veratrifolium**

Latourea Number of species - 48±

- need a bit of winter cooling
- grow as *Cattleya*, quite wet (not soggy) all year
- thin leaves have spider mite problems
- common species
 - **finisterre**
 - **polysema**
 - **spectabile**
 - **alexanderae**
 - **macrophyllum**
 - **woodsii**
 - **crutwellii**
 - **bifalce**
 - **bairdianum**

Other Latourea species of note

- **atroviolacea**
- **finesterrae**
- **forbesii**
- **macrophyllum**
- **tapiniense**
- **terrestre**

Oxyglossum -- Uncertain if should recommend these for area

- grow on tree fern slab and keep wet and as cool as possible
- keep below 70-80 degrees all year
- light not critical (low to medium best)
- little fertilizer, no rest period
- **cuthburtsonii (syn: sophronites)**