Dendrobium

CALLISTA – Most are bulbous plants with a pendant inflorescence.

Species: *aggregatum, chrysotoxum, densiflorum, farmeri, thyrsiflorum,* etc.

CULTURE: Summer – give warmth (60° to 90°F), medium light, medium quantities of water and fertilizer. Winter – cool (50°F nights), medium light, just enough water to keep bulbs from shriveling, no fertilizer.

SPATULATA (antelope-type) – Evergreen for several years. Most are large, vigorous plants with long-lasting blooms in summer to several times a year.

Species: *antennatum, canaliculatum, discolor, gouldii, johannis, lineale (veratrifolium), stratiotes, strebloceras, taurinum.*

CULTURE: Warm all year (55° to 60°F nights, 65° to 90°F days); no rest period; can be kept cooler in winter if dry; medium to high light.

DENDROBIUM – Most plants pendulous, leaves all along canes. Flowers 2-5 per inflorescence, from upper nodes of leafless canes.

Species – Group 1: *chrysanthum, friedricksianum, nobile, wardianum.*

Species – Group 2: *anosmum, crassinode, falconeri, fimbriatum, findlayanum, heterocarpum (aureum), loddigesii, moniliforme, parishii, primulinum, transparens.*

CULTURE – Group 1: Growth period in summer – give warmth, water, and fertilize heavily from when roots appear until top leaf appears on canes. Then give high light, little to no water, no fertilizer, cool nights (40° to 50°F). In other words, forget about them!

CULTURE – Group 2: Same as Group 1, but winter nights 55°F. Deciduous species need virtually no water in winter.

LATOURIA – Leaves at top of pseudobulbs are large and leathery, inflorescence erect, flowers commonly yellow-green.

Species: *atroviolaceum, macrophyllum, spectabile,* etc.

CULTURE: Same as antelope-types, but cooler and drier when resting in winter.

FORMOSAE – Cane-like pseudobulbs, with black hairs on leaf sheaths and pseudobulbs often apparent. Flowers usually white, up to 4" across, 2 to 3 together from near the end of the pseudobulb.

Species: *bellatulum, dearii, draconis, formosum, infundibulum, lowii, lyonii, margaritaceum, sanderae, schuetzii.*

CULTURE: Intermediate to cool year-round, 50° to 60°F nights, max. 85°F days. Water and fertilize when growing; give a slight short rest (dry) when growth is completed. Keep barely moist until growth starts again.

PHALAENANTHE – Evergreen for several years, with thin, tall pseudobulbs, terminal inflorescences, usually appearing in fall or twice a year (see culture).

Species: *affine, bigibbum (phalaenopsis), dicuphum, williamsianum.*

CULTURE: Grow warm year-round (see below); 60°F nights; water and fertilize heavily when roots appear from new growth; low to medium light; reduce water and fertilizer after growth finishes. If a short (3 to 4 week) cooler (55°F), dry rest is given, and then plants are warmed again (60°F min.), another growth may mature during winter and bloom in spring. Treat this growth as a summer growth cycle. These grow well with phalaenopsis, except for the rest period. If you must keep plants cool in winter, keep them bone dry until weather warms, then water as growth appears. Plants will go deciduous with this cool/dry treatment.

Dendrobium

Dendrobium is a diverse genus of orchids with different cultural needs. Many go through a growth phase and a rest phase during the course of one year, and must be given water and temperature to match these growth and rest periods. Flowers can last one day to many weeks, depending on the type. General culture follows below; specific care is noted above.

Light – Strong light is important, especially when growth is maturing.

GIVE: Bright light, some sun.

In the home, an east, shaded-south or west window. In the greenhouse, 25% to 50% of full sun. Less light is needed when plants are resting.

Temperature – Temperature needs vary widely. It is best to follow the plant's natural requirements.

GIVE: Nights of 45° to 60°F; days of 65° to 95° F.

Most dendrobiums will do well under intermediate conditions: 55° to 85°F. Exceptions are listed above. Most plants require cooler nights while resting.

Water –

GIVE: When plants are growing, water when medium begins to dry. Some types need severe drying while resting. Mist in home in the morning if air is dry. A humidity of 40% to 60% is optimum.

Fertilizer – Must be provided on a regular basis because potting media have little.

GIVE: In active plant growth, apply 30-10-10 at recommended rates. Reduce fertilizer when growth is completed. A bloom booster may encourage flowering. More frequent fertilizing is good under high temperature and light conditions.

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