

Dendrobium Culture - St. Augustine Orchid Society

| Group | Species | General Culture | Summer Cultural Requirements | | | Winter Cultural Requirements | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Water | Fertilizer | Temperature | Water | Fertilizer | Temperature |
| Standard Nobiles (smooth canes, mostly pendulous, leaves all along the canes, 2-5 flowers per inflorescence mostly from leafless canes) | chrysanthum, friedicksianum, nobile, wardianum | Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cooler Temperatures and Restrict Water After Growth Matures (When the Last Leaf is Single and Upright) | Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed | Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins | Warm | Occasional Watering to Keep from Shriveling | None after New Growth Matures | Cool (40° to 50°F min), Minimum 3 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in High Light |
| Seminobiles (smooth to lightly ribbed canes, mostly pendulous, leaves all along canes, 2 to 5 flowers per inflorescence, mostly from leafless canes) | albosanguineum, amoenum, anosmum (syn. superbum), aphyllum (syn. pierardii), falconeri, fimbriatum, findlayanum, gibsonii, heterocarpum, loddigesii, moniliforme, moschatum, parishii, primulinum, transparens, unicum | Grow with Cattleyas but Keep on Dry and Cool Side After Growths Mature, Move to Cooler Temperatures and Restrict Water After Growth Matures | Water Moderately After Buds Have Formed Through Flowering, Flood with Water after New Growth Begins | Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins | Warm | Occasional Watering to Keep from Shriveling | None after New Growth Matures | Cool (45° to 50°F min), Cold Dry Rest Period in High Light, May Need to be Kept Warmer (55 to 60°F) if Doesn't Flower |
| Callista (bulbous ribbed pseudobulbs with leathery leaves, showy pendant golden grapelike flower inflorescence, short flowering period) | aggregatum (syn. lindleyi), chrysotoxum, densiflorum, farmeri, jenkinsii, sulcatum, thyrsoiflorum | Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cool Area in Winter | Soak Plants to Initiate Flowering Cycle, Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed | Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins | Warm | Mist but Don't Water, Then Soak in Water for a Few Hours in January | None | Minimum 6 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in Medium Light |
| Formosae (cane like pseudobulbs with black hairs on silvery sheaths, large white often fragrant flowers) | bellatulum, cruentum, dearii, draconis, formosum, infundibulum, lowii, margaritaceum, sanderae, schuetzei, senile, spectatissimum | Grow with Cooler Growing Cattleyas | Flood with Water After New Roots Emerge | Heavy Fertilization Until Growth Matures | Intermediate to Warm | Light Watering, Then Flood with Water when New Roots Emerge | Light Fertilization Until New Roots Emerge | Minimum 2 Week Cold Dry Rest Period After Canes Mature, 55° to 60°F Night Time |

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| Spatulata (antelope type, tall narrow slightly ribbed canes, evergreen for several years, narrow twisted sepals and petals, may bloom several times a year) | antennatum, bicaudatum, canaliculatum, gouldii, johannis, lineale (syn. veratrifolium), stratiotes, strebloceras, taurinum, undulatum | Grow with Cattleyas | Water Like Cattleyas | Normal Fertilization | Warm, High Light | Water Like Cattleyas | Normal Fertilization | Warm, No Rest Period, Minimum 60°F Temperatures |
| Phalaenanth (thin tall smooth canes, evergreen for several years, arching terminal inflorescence with large flowers) | affine, bigibbum (phalaenopsis), compactum, dicuphum, schroederianum, superbiens, williamsianum | Grow with Cattleyas | Water Like Cattleyas | Normal Fertilization | Warm | Water Like Cattleyas (If Grown Below 50°F, Keep Bone Dry) | Normal Fertilization | Warm, No Rest Period (a Short Cool Dry Rest Period Followed by Warmth May Help Induce Flowering) |
| Latouria (large leathery leaves at the top of deeply ribbed pseudobulbs, very long lasting flowers, mostly yellow green) | aberrans, alexandrae, atroviolaceum, convolutum, forbesii, johnsoniae, macrophyllum, rhodostictum, spectabile | Grow with Cattleyas | Flood with Water | Heavy Fertilization | Warm | Water Like Cattleyas | Normal Fertilization | Enjoys a Cooler Period after Summer but Cold is Not Essential to Induce Flowering |
| Pedilonum (cane like pseudobulbs, leaves evenly spaced along stems, few or many bright pink, red and purple flowered inflorescences on leafless canes) | bracteosum, bullenianum, capituliflorum, crenatifolium, goldschmidtianum (syn. miyakei), purpureum, secundum, smilieae | Grow with Cattleyas in Summer, Move to Cool Area in Winter | Soak Plants to Initiate Flowering Cycle, Flood with Water after Flower Buds Are Well Formed | Heavy Fertilization After New Growth Begins | Warm | Mist but Do Not Water | None | 3 to 6 Week Cold Dry Rest Period in Medium Light |

General Tips for Growing Dendrobiums

1. **Watering** - Dendrobiums like to be flooded daily during the growing season and have their roots dry by noon. Adjust potting media and air flow to provide this.
2. **Repotting** - Dendrobiums do not like to have their roots disturbed and are finicky as to when they will tolerate a change of pots or media.
3. **Fertilizing** - Feed new growth, not flowers. Grow big fat healthy canes/pseudobulbs, the flower power is stored in the canes, plant will flower if energy is available.
4. **Rest Period** - In general, withhold all fertilizers from Halloween through Easter.
5. **Fungicides** - Do not use copper bases fungicides (like Kocide) or Captan.