

The Orchid Society Of WA (Inc)
Hard Cane Dendrobium Orchids
(den-DROH-bee-um)

The Dendrobium orchids are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the retail trade. Like a lot of other orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well developed water storage organs (pseudo bulbs) which are often called canes for their upright leafy appearance. They come in a multitude of colours with recent trends in hybridising.

POSITION

Dendrobiums will grow quite happily in glasshouses or shade houses, depending on variety.

TEMPERATURE

Most Dendrobiums prefer temperature in the range of 18-35 °C highs (day) and 8-15 °C lows (night), but they will tolerate higher temperatures if the humidity and air circulation are good.

LIGHT

They require sufficient light for healthy growth and flower production. In a shade house situation, shading with 50-70 % shade cloth is ideal. Plants receiving adequate light should be naturally erect without the need for much staking, and be of medium to olive green in colour.

WATERING

They should be watered thoroughly and kept evenly moist while in active growth. Allow them to dry between watering after the growth is mature (as indicated by terminal leaf).

FERTILIZING

The plants require fertiliser on a regular basis. Fortnightly or weekly fertilising is preferred through the growing period. Fertilise at ½ strength. Good results may be obtained by using a balanced fertiliser with NPK of 12-12-12 all year round.

HUMIDITY

Dendrobiums, like most orchids, enjoy moist air, requiring a minimum of 50-60% humidity in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Humidity can be increased by misting during periods of hot weather, or by placing plant pots on moistened trays of pebbles.

POTTING

Dendrobiums need to be repotted every 2 to 3 years, depending on the mix selected, as some medium will break down quicker. The potting medium should consist of medium pine bark with perlite, charcoal, or polystyrene balls added to provide good aeration of the mix. When repotting, allow enough room for two years of growth.

DIVIDING

Only divide when the divided plants will be in clumps of three to five mature pseudo bulbs.

N.B. These suggestions have been made without prejudice as a guide only and no guarantees can be given with regard to successful growing.