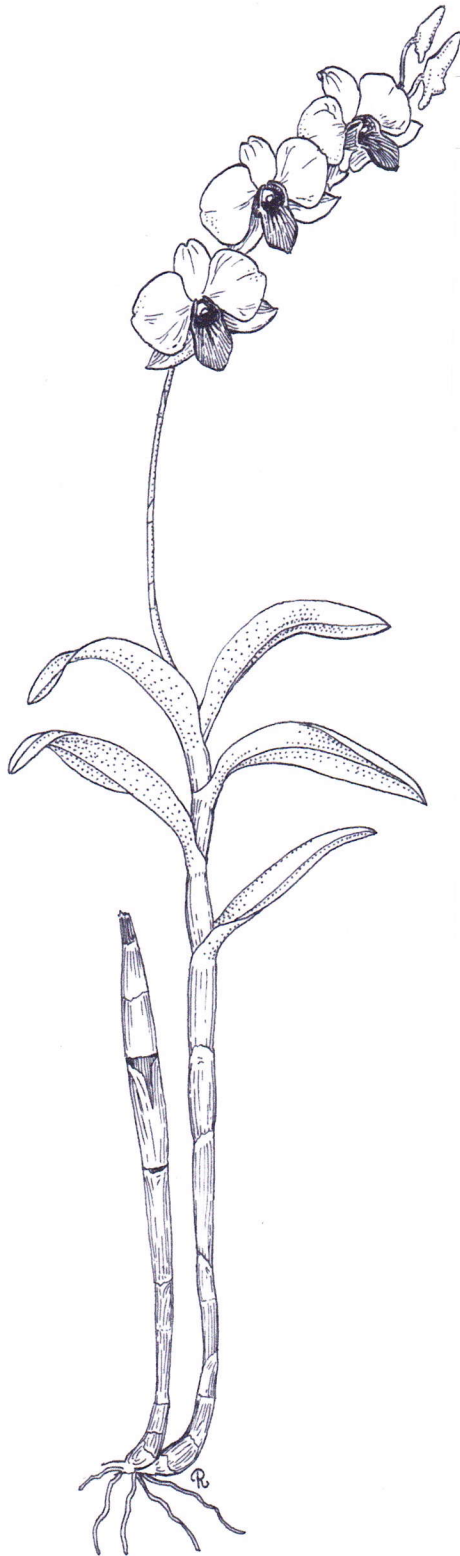
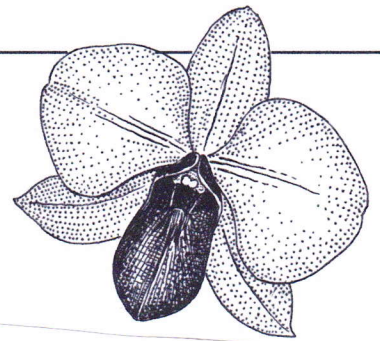


Dendrobium

den-DROH-bee-um



The Spray Orchid

Dendrobiums are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the retail trade. Like most other cultivated orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well-developed water-storage organs (pseudobulbs), often called “canes” for their upright, leafy appearance. They should be potted in porous, free-draining media.

There are many different types of dendrobiums available to the specialist grower. However, hybrids involving *dendrobium bigibbum* (synonym *phalaenopsis*) are what you will most often encounter.

LIGHT

Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production.

PROVIDE bright light, to 50 percent sun.

In the home, an east, west or lightly shaded south window is best. In a greenhouse, about 30 to 50 percent full sun is best.

Under lights, set up four 40-watt fluorescent tubes and two 40 watt incandescent bulbs (or the equivalent light from LED bulbs) directly over plants. Plants should be naturally erect without need of (much) staking and be of a medium olive-green color.

TEMPERATURE

Mature plants need a 15 to 20 F difference between night and day.

PROVIDE nights of 60 to 65 F and days of 80 to 90 F. Temperatures up to 95-100 F are beneficial if humidity and air circulation are increased. Low temperatures below 50 F may cause leaf drop.

WATER

Keep evenly moist while in active growth. Allow the media to dry between waterings after growth is mature (indicated by a terminal leaf).

HUMIDITY

Dendrobiums need 50 to 60 percent humidity. In the home, place plants on trays over moistened pebbles. In the greenhouse use a humidifier when conditions are too dry.

FERTILIZER

Feed dendrobiums on a regular basis during the active growing period.

PROVIDE the appropriate fertilizer based on the mix in which your plant is growing. A good general rule is to apply a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10, 12-12-12, or similar ratio) “weakly, weekly” during the period of active growth. That is, fertilize every week at one quarter to one half the recommended dilution.

POTTING

Repot plants every two to three years before the mix loses consistency (breaks down). Dendrobiums grow best in pots small for the size of the plant, but still allow for two years’ growth. The medium should provide aeration and ample drainage. Place the plant firmly in the medium and stake if needed.

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