

VANDA CULTURE

This genus is aptly named after an Indian goddess. It can be found in the tropical rainforests in South Asia. The plants are single-stemmed and can get pretty tall; some mature plants may produce new growths at the base. It blooms on and off year round in the tropical, but only in warm seasons in other climates. The many flowers are large and brightly colored, shades of pink, yellow, white, and purple. The bluish purple is a rare color among orchids and thus is in demand. Requiring high light and high surrounding moisture gives this orchid the reputation of “being difficult” in home environment. However, with some careful arrangement and observation, they can still thrive and give a spectacular show.

LIGHT: Vanda family needs a lot of light to grow and bloom well. They like bright light in the home, near a shaded south window or in a greenhouse. Leaves should be a light medium green, never dark green.

TEMPERATURES: Vandaceous plants enjoy a warm environment. A minimum night temperature of 60° F or higher is recommended, and 80 to 85°F degrees during the day encourages fast and strong plant growth.

WATER & FERTILIZER: moisture is important to Vandas because of their large extensive root system. They are often grown in pots with a large coarse potting medium or in slatted wood baskets in tropical climates. Watering should be thorough, and plants should almost dry out all the way through the pot before watering again. Water less in the winter. If you are unsure, wait at least two or three days rather than over water by watering too often.

Using a watering can with the orchid in the sink works best. Pour at least one gallon through the pot to make sure the orchid is watered well. Remember, you can not over water by pouring too much water through the pot, only by watering too often.

A balanced fertilizer, like a 20-20-20, should be applied on a regular schedule. It is best to apply fertilizer at full strength with every watering in the summer and 1/2 strength with every watering in the winter.

RE-POTTING: it should only be done in the spring. Do not over-pot. For Vandas in pots, repot into a slightly larger pot, placing the plant in the center using a coarse medium. Keep shaded, humid, but drier at the roots until new root tips (green) appear.



by appointment
Orchidaceae, Inc.
2022 Wallula Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362
(509) 525-9566
www.orchidaceae.com