

VANDA & ASCOCENDA

These vandaceous plants have a monopodial growth habit. They are strap-leaved plants having flat, leathery leaves.

LIGHT: The ascocenda orchid can take full morning sun, but needs shade during the hottest part of the day and during most of the day in summer. Under greenhouse conditions with high humidity, maximum sunlight should be given and only enough shade to keep the temperature within the appropriate range.

WATER: High daytime humidity is essential, especially on sunny days, and vandaceous plants outdoors may need watering and misting several times daily during the growing season when the sun is bright. Indoors, somewhat less watering is required, but misting once or twice a day in bright weather will be helpful. Water sparingly in winter, during long cloudy spells, or after repotting.

TEMPERATURE: Vandaceous orchids grow best under warm daytime conditions of 65°F or higher, but can withstand long spells of hot weather and short spells of cold. They will continue in active growth anytime of the year if given warm temperatures and bright light. Night temperatures generally should be 60°F or higher, but not lower than 55°F.

HUMIDITY: In a greenhouse, under summer sun, vigorous air movement from a fan is important to keep leaf temperature down. It is important to restrict air movement under colder temperatures. On hot, sunny days, at least 60% humidity is appropriate.

FERTILIZER: Vandaceous orchids are heavy feeders. Plants in greenhouses should be given a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer once a week during the growing season. During the non-growing season, apply the same proportions every two weeks, rather than weekly. In addition, at every third feeding, substitute with Blossom Booster.

PESTS: Vandaceous plants seem to have a problem with thrips. These are very small sucking insects about 1 mm in size. Thrips damage usually occurs on the flowers and buds, causing the blooms to lose their beauty rapidly. When thrips is a problem, a spray program must be adhered to as the plants come into bud. Once the thrips get inside the flower bud, they are somewhat protected from contact sprays. A fine spray mist should be used to avoid injuring the tender buds. Spray young spikes and buds with a solution of Sevin, following manufacturer's directions.



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