

Collectors Corner Fact Sheet

Dendrobiums Kingianum and Novelty Hybrids



Aussies with a future

Orchids are the most collected plant family on earth, unfortunately most of these are imports, the news however is not bleak, Aussie Natives are rapidly making themselves a mark on the world orchid scene. The last 20 years has seen dramatic improvements in the breeding of our natives and many new and exciting hybrids are being released each year to satisfy the ever growing demand. The selective breeding of D, kingianum and the crossing of D, speciosum, tetragonum, bigibbum and many others

are now opening new directions for future breeders.

Temperature Dendrobiums are hardy and can do well in all climates in Australia, in the coldest areas some winter protection may be required to keep the plants dryer in winter, otherwise they do best in shaded protected areas receiving 25 to 60% of the days sun. Hybrids using Bigibbum in the parentage may require some winter warmth. Darker positions will reduce flowering. Winter is required for Dendrobiums to rest, flowers appear in spring once the daylight hours increase, new growths occur mainly in the spring, these mature in summer and flower the next year.

Watering

Dendrobiums can survive in dry arid environments and will live months with very little water but will lose condition and flower less. Over the warmer months they should be kept moist, not saturated, wall or tree mounted specimens need more water than potted plants.



Position

Protected outdoor positions are best in 40 to 75% shade, full sunlight will cause a plant to look yellow. Indoors they are best in unheated rooms next to windows. Shaded trees, shadehouses and cover areas are best in cold wet climates protection from the rain may improve growth and flowering over the winter months.

Flowering

Flowers appear in late winter to early spring from the older stems, stems can produce flowers for many years, dead flower spikes can be removed if unsightly.

Fertilizer

These plants will benefit from a regular feeding of a general orchid fertilizer, such as Peter's Excel or Campbell's Yellow. Follow the directions on the packet. Slow release fertilizers will substitute or complement liquid foods. Do not use high nitrogen fertilizers as they will discourage flowering.

Repotting

Any potting medium should have good drainage. A medium grade bark (8-18mm) is ideal. If wall mounted they should have a pack of moss or fiber around the base to increase water availability. Repotting is best done in early spring once flowers have died as new growth will soon emerge.

Pests & Disease

For insect infestation such as aphids, use Pyrethrum spray or dust. If mealy bug attack, soak the complete pot and plant in the recommended strength solution of Clensel to which a little methylated spirits is added.



Good Growing!
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