

# Vanda Culture



Vandas are warm growing very colourful orchid from South East Asia with large showy bright orange, purple and reds exotic flowers.

Vandas do best when grown at temperatures 15°C - 32°C in bright light. *V. coerulea* & its hybrids prefer slightly lower temperatures. Periods as short as a few hours below 10°C will result in the plant becoming semi-dormant. This will require an extended time at elevated temperatures to reverse. Temperatures that are too high produce less intense flower colours particularly blue and reds. The ideal humidity is 80% if possible with good air movement.

**Watering:** Vandas require copious quantities of water in the growing season but also need a drier period after active growth in the cooler months. The root colour suggests when watering is required White – watering required, Green – sufficient water has been absorbed  
Do not allow plants to be wet at the coldest part of the day i.e. overnight

**Growing Conditions:** They can be grown in plastic pots with coarse long lasting media, more common is a slatted teak or other hard wood baskets. (*not* preserved pine)  
They resent disturbance so care must be taken when repotting is required. Keep on the drier side for the first few weeks after repotting to give any damaged roots a chance to repair themselves. Flowering can be any time of the year but a peak time is between spring and autumn

Cuttings or keikis can be taken when there are at least 3 well developed roots.

**Fertilising:** Vandas are among the heavier feeding orchids and require more feeding than Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. Regular feeding with a balanced soluble fertiliser and use of a higher phosphorus blend in late summer will assist in flower initiation. Trace elements should also feature in your feeding regime.

**Pests & Disease:** As with most plants the best defence against pests and disease is a healthy plant. Plants which are stressed due to their growing conditions will be susceptible to fungal and insect attack which can be treated as normal for other orchids



*Good Growing  
Collectors Corner 2006*

