

Growers guides | *Angraecum*



Angraecum is a large genus of over 220 species, found throughout tropical Africa, Madagascar and adjacent islands, and one of the first genera described of the African orchids. As a result, many species, once placed in *Angraecum* have now been separated into other genera (e.g. *Aerangis* and *Jumellea*). Few species of *Angraecum* are found in cultivation.

Temperature

Angraecums can be grown warm to intermediate, depending on whether the species comes from lowland or montane habitat.

Light

Bright to intermediate light depending on the natural habitat with the cooler growing species generally requiring more shade than the warmer growing ones.

Water

Again, depending on the natural habitat, the cooler growing species generally requiring less water than the warmer growing ones. *Angraecums* are often found in heavy-rainfall areas and prefer a good soaking to light misting. Roots should turn bright green after every watering. Daily watering during summer is ideal if the roots dry out before nighttime. In winter, give water once every week or two weeks on warm days.

Feeding

Use a balanced fertiliser at half strength once a week while plants are actively growing (spring through autumn). This can be reduced to once a month in the winter.

Humidity

Humidity should be at least 70 percent. Some species prefer much higher humidity.

Cutting Dead Flower Spike

Dead spikes can be cut off at the base of the inflorescence, close to the plant. Flowering generally occurs once a year. Some species and hybrids in cultivation can produce multiple spikes and flower for many months.

Repotting

Angraecums do not like their roots disturbed so rather pot them in a hanging basket or mounted where minimal disturbance is necessary.

Did you know?

Angraecum sesquipedale is known as Darwin's orchid, Christmas orchid, Star of Bethlehem orchid, and King of the *Angraecums*.

Did you know?

Some *Angraecum* species are only a few inches high while others can reach over 6 feet.

Did you know?

Charles Darwin predicted that *Angraecum sesquipedale* had a moth pollinator with a very long proboscis! The moth was discovered over 20 years later.