

Growers guides | *Dendrochilum*



Dendrochilums belong to a genus containing 313 species, found throughout South East Asia, Taiwan and New Guinea. There are three main centers of distribution: Borneo, the Philippines and Sumatra. The majority of the species are small-growing plants from elevations over 1000 metres. The flowers, though small, are usually produced in great profusion.

Temperature

Dendrochilums can be grown warm to cool, depending on where the species comes from. With this genus, it can be important to grow your plants according to their temperature requirements. Read up to find where your plant is from and the types of conditions they need.

Light

Bright to intermediate light depending on the natural habitat with the cooler growing species generally requiring more shade than the warmer growing ones. This genus enjoys bright morning sun.

Water

Dendrochilums like to be kept evenly moist at all times. Daily watering in summer will be needed if your plant dries out quickly. In winter a good watering once a week should suffice. Some species need a two-week rest after flowering.

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. Foliar feeds work well in this genus.

Humidity

Humidity should be at least 70 percent. Some species prefer much higher humidity. Maintain constant air movement.

Cutting Dead Flower Spike

Dead spikes can be cut off at the base of the inflorescence, close to the plant. If your plant is happy, you could have literally hundreds of flower spikes each containing a hundred or more flowers. Some awarded plants grown in the Cape have many thousands of flowers on the plant during flowering. Flowering generally occurs once a year.

Repotting

This genus prefers to be grown in a mix that retains water, with some growers opting for fine bark mixed with sphagnum moss. Because of the water-retentive mix, repotting can happen every year.

Did you know?

Some species are endemic to just a few islands. For example, *Dendrochilum cobbianum* is endemic to the Philippine islands of Luzon and Mindanao.

Did you know?

This genus is affectionately known as the golden chain orchid, due to the flower spikes often looking like golden chains or bracelets.