

Growers guides | *Vanda*



There are around 80 species of *Vandas* and around 80 genera in the *Vanda* alliance and are found across East Asia, Southeast Asia and Australasia. These orchids are mostly epiphytic, but can be found in lithophytic or terrestrial environments. Most *Vandas* require warm, bright conditions with plenty of water and the general growing requirements listed in this guide can be applied to the majority of plants in this alliance. *Vanda* species can bloom every few months and the flowers generally last for two to three weeks although some can last for over two months.

Temperature

Most *Vanda* species are warm growing and should see a winter temperature of no less than 15° C at night. Some species and hybrids with *Vanda coerulea* as a parent can grow slightly cooler. Maintain a gentle air movement around the plants to avoid fungal and bacterial infections.

Light

This genus and most species and hybrids across the alliance prefer bright light with some species growing in full sun. Higher light results in better and more frequent blooming.

Water

Vandas are often grown bare rooted in pots and require frequent watering (multiple times a day during summer). This alliance also requires longer duration of watering to allow the thick roots to take in water. Dipping your plants in a bucket of water for 15 minutes allows more water to get absorbed.

Feeding

Use a balanced fertiliser at quarter or half strength once a week during the summer. This can be reduced to once a month in the winter. Organic fertilisers are preferred as some chemical products can burn the roots.

Humidity

Most *Vanda* species and hybrids prefer a high humidity (minimum 70%) year round. By watering your plants regularly and wetting down the greenhouse floor, you can keep the humidity high.

Cutting Dead Flower Spike

Dead spikes can be cut off at the base of the inflorescence, close to the plant. Some species and hybrids can produce multiple inflorescence at each flowering and can flower more than once a year.

Repotting

Vandas prefer to be mounted although can do well in basket culture too. A free-flowing medium works best to ensure good air movement around the roots. This alliance does well with a bit of charcoal in the mix. Only remount or move from one basket to a bigger one when the plant outgrows its mount/basket.

Did you know?

The name *Vanda* came from the Sanskrit word for orchid.

Did you know?

Vanda Miss Joaquim is the national flower of Singapore and the only orchid hybrid to be the national flower of a country!