



Dendi Orchids

Dennis Diehm Nominees Pty Ltd.
ABN.95003191991

Po Box 1119, Griffith. N.S.W. 2680
Phone 0269 622007 Fax. 0269 645959

Growing Miniature Cattleya

The genus Cattleya with thousands of hybrids is one of the best known of all the orchids. The miniature cattleya has come into vogue in the last 10 years, although they have been around for quite some time. But as space now diminishes in the back yards of city and country areas, people are finding they can grow these magnificent little plants, which don't take up a lot of room and can have two or three flowerings a year.

Colours are numerous and varied. They range from purple, coming in light, dark and intermediate shades, white, vibrant yellow, red and combinations of colours. Some have spots and splashes of colours. Once in flower they can be moved anywhere in the home for decoration.

POSITION /LIGHT

In warmer climates, cattleya can be grown in a bush house or outdoors, but for those in cold or frosty areas, they may require a little heat. The ideal temperature ranges between 8° - 10° C at night to 28° - 32° during the day. Cattleya require indirect sunlight, either by way of shade cloth or leaves of a tree. If you have only one or two plants these could be kept indoors.

WATERING

In winter, usually only require watering once a week, but this will depend on their position and the amount of heat, whether artificial or natural: During summer approximately every two days. If you 'are unsure if they require water or not, place your finger into the bark mix and feel for dampness. During hot periods the plants and floor of shade houses can be given regular misting. Indoors the plant maybe misted with an atomiser.

FERTILISING

Cattleya, in my opinion, love to be fed every 2nd watering with organic or fish emulsion. I tend to vary the product from feed to feed.

RE-POTTING

Re- potting is done when the plant is "crawling out of its pot". Once re-potted the plant should be place in a shady spot. Make sure it does not get "stressed". Do not over water.

POTTING MIXTURE

Consists of treated bark :-

65% 8 -10 mm treated bark 20% 6 - 10 mm charcoal 15% perlite or pumice

Pumice 4 - 7 mm can be used instead of perlite



PESTS and DISEASES

Much has been written on this subject and on the type of pests that plague orchid growers. The usual scale, mealy bug and aphids are perennial problems and cockroaches can make short work of any bud or flower. Fungus will crop up from time to time. It is easier to deal with the individual plant rather than spray everything in sight. I find a walk through the house at night with a good strong torch will reveal a lot of "nasties" and maybe some other things you didn't even know were there!!, giving you the opportunity to rid your plants of that pest. If your growing conditions are sound you should not have any great problems.

The author disclaims all liability for any losses which maybe attributed to the use of any materials or techniques mentioned in these notes.

Dendi Orchids

Dennis Diehm

Nursery open by appointment only
Plants available by mail order

