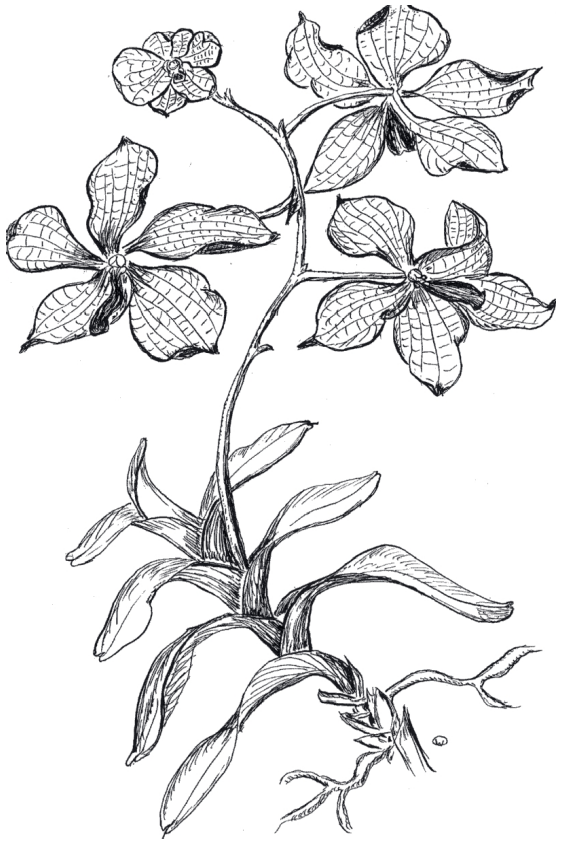
VANDA Orchids

Pronounced: VAN-dah



The pride of tropical orchid growers, Vandas are a challenge to grow in Canada because of their need for warmth, high light and humidity. Successful culture of these plants is possible, and brings forth stunning flowers in white, yellow, green, yellow orange red and burgundy shades as well as blue. Fast growing and frequent bloomers, Vandas can be most rewarding.

Healthy Vandas start with healthy roots:

- Pot in a very coarse medium. Fir bark mixtures are best, with 2.5 to
- 3.5 cm chunks of bark. In humid areas, plants may be grown without any medium, hanging from a wire, however, if they are potted, some large chunks of bark or charcoal may be required to hold the plant in place.
- Repot when plant outgrows its pot. Because no pot is really required, this is mostly for the grower's convenience in handling the plant.
- Typically the existing pot will be covered with roots inside and out and should simply be placed into a larger pot without disturbing the roots any more than necessary. Roots growing around the pot will bend more easily if moistened first. Choose a clay pot or cedar basket.
- Vandas will grow roots over the side of the pot and up into the air as well as out from the stem well above the pot. Leave these roots on the plant, perhaps misting them when the plant is watered.
- Roots should be soaked at least once daily, more often in sunny, warm weather, and then allowed to dry before the next soaking. Water thoroughly, particularly if your water has a high mineral content.
- Do not use water softened in salt-consuming water softeners. Low mineral water is preferred, such as naturally soft water or rain water. If hard water is used, water very heavily to flush minerals. Use room temperature or warmer water.
- Fertilize frequently with a balanced fertilizer. One-quarter to one-half strength recommended by manufacturer for house plants every week in spring and summer and every two weeks in autumn and winter.

Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- High to very high light levels are appropriate for most. Terete Vandas (with cylindrical leaves) require the most light while Ascocenda and Rhynchostylis need less light. Leaves should be a medium green, not yellowish or dark green. They should be firm, not long and floppy (more light needed). A slight red blush indicates good light on some plants while a red blush which covers the leaves indicates too much light.
- Three or more hours of sun on a west, south or east window, or under a bank of 8 fluorescent light tubs, or HID sodium or metal halide lights. Only the shorter varieties are appropriate under fluorescent lights. In areas of dark, overcast winters, artificial lighting may be a must.
- Vandas do best with 70-80% humidity, but will grow and bloom, although more slowly and with fewer flowers, in lower humidity. Use humidifier to raise humidity – humidity pans and misting rarely effective. Enclosing plant growing areas is effective but ensure fresh air and air movement to avoid mold and rot.
- Grow Vandas in warm temperatures with 18°C minimum winter nights and 35°C summer day maximum. Ensure 6-12°C day/night difference to aid flower formation. Vanda *coerulea* and hybrids, as well as *Neofinetia* hybrids require slightly cooler temperatures to initiate flowering.

Vandas usually bloom every few months and the flowers last for two to three weeks:

Maintain plant orientation while spike is growing for best display.
Buds turning yellow, wilting and falling prior to opening is from not enough energy in the plant to open the flower either because the light is too dim, the plant is too small, or the roots have rotted. Also caused by ethylene gas (given off by ripening fruit) or by drastic temperature changes.

Space prevents more detail here. The general "Orchid Culture" sheets in this series, available from your society or on the web at http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/ provide further cultural information. For specific help with your orchids or further information join your local orchid society.

Canadian Orchid Congress
Copyright © 2003

Member Societies of the Canadian Orchid Congress

British Columbia

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society
Nanaimo, British Columbia
Web site: http://www.cvios.com/
CVIOS on Facebook

Fraser Valley Orchid Society
Surrey, British Columbia
Web Site: http://www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.ca/
FVOS on Facebook

North Okanagan Orchid Society
Vernon, British Columbia
Website: http://nokorchids.blogspot.com/

Okanagan Orchid Society
Kelowna, British Columbia
Web Site: http://www.okanaganorchidsociety.org/

Richmond Orchid Club
Richmond, British Columbia
Web Site: http://www.richmondorchidclub.com/
ROC on Facebook

South Okanagan Orchid Society
Penticton, British Columbia
SOOC on Facebook

Vancouver Judging Centre
Richmond, British Columbia
Website: http://fraservalleyorchidsociety.com/

Vancouver Orchid Society
Vancouver, British Columbia
Website: http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/
Victoria Orchid Society
Victoria. British Columbia
Web site: http://victoriaorchidsociety.com/
VicOS on Facebook

Alberta

Foothills Orchid Society
Calgary, Alberta
Website: http://www.foothillsorchidsociety.com/
FOS on Facebook

Orchid Society of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Website: http://www.orchidsalberta.com/

The Orchid Species Preservation Foundation of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Website: http://www.orchidspecies.ca/
OSPF on Facebook

Saskatchewan

Regina Orchid Society
Regina, Saskatchewan
Website: http://www.reginaorchidsociety.com/

Saskatchewan Orchid Society
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Website: http://www.saskorchids.com/
SOS on Facebook

Manitoba

The Manitoba Orchid Society
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Website: http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/main_mos/index.php
MOS on Facebook

Ontario

Central Ontario Orchid Society
Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge Ontario
Web Site: http://coos.ca/
COOS on Facebook

Essex County Orchid Society
Windsor, Ontario
Web Site: http://www.essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com/
ExCOS on Facebook

Kingston Orchid Society
Kingston, Ontario
Web Site: http://www.kingstonorchidsociety.ca/

London Orchid Society
London, Ontario
Web Site: http://londonorchidsociety.org/

Montreal Judging Center
Montreal, Quebec
Web Site: http://orchidophilesmontreal.ca/Centre-juge–de-Mtl.php

Niagara Region Orchid Society
St. Catharines, Ontario
NROS on Facebook

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens
Burlington, Ontario
Web Site: http://www.osrbg.ca/

Ottawa Orchid Society
Ottawa, Ontario
Website: http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com
OOS on Facebook

Southern Ontario Orchid Society
Toronto, Ontario
Web Site: http://www.soos.ca/
SOOS on Facebook

Toronto Artistic Orchid Association
Web Site: http://www.taoa.info/
Taoa on Facebook

Toronto Judging Centre
Web Site: http://www.soos.ca/AOS/index.htm

Windsor Orchid Society / La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
Website: http://www.windsororchidsociety.ca/
WOS on Facebook

Québec

Eastern Canada Orchid Society
Montréal, Québec
Web site: http://www.ecosorchids.ca/
ECOS on Facebook

Société des Orchidophiles de Québec
Québec
Web Site: http://www.orchidophilesdequebec.ca/
Les Orchidophiles de Québec on Facebook