



Australian Native Orchid Culture - *Dendrobium* & *Sarcochilus*

General guide to basic culture:

Environment: *Dendrobiums* prefer bright filtered light; 50%-70% shade cloth is ideal or a tree or similar screen allowing dappled sunlight. *Sarcochilus* prefer heavier shade in summer; about 90% shade and somewhat higher humidity than *Dendrobiums*.

Temperature: NSW coastal temperatures mostly satisfactory; good air movement is important, especially during very hot or cold periods. *Sarcochilus* tolerate temperatures up to 30 degrees; above this, try to minimise maximum temperatures by providing more shade or air movement.

Watering: Perfect drainage is very important; water thoroughly then allow plants to dry out completely before rewatering. Water regularly in summer, sparingly in winter. If you receive regular winter rain, a solid roof over plants may be necessary to control watering in cold weather.

Fertilise regularly with liquid fertiliser at half recommended strength.

Repotting: *Dendrobiums*: repot soon after flowering at the beginning of the growing season. *Sarcochilus*: March/April after hot weather has past. Ensure pots have adequate drainage and are just big enough to contain the roots.

Compost must be free-draining. A coarse bark mix is ideal; 20% gravel or similar may be added if you wish. Plants may be attached firmly to a tree or rock.

Pests & Diseases: May be attacked by scale, aphids or spider mites; your local nursery can provide appropriate remedies.

For more information, visit an orchid society such as The North Shore Orchid Society. Meetings 8.00pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood. All visitors welcome.