



## 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 which meets at 8.00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Forestville Memorial Hall, Starkey St, Forestville. All visitors welcome.



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