



## SOFTCANE DENDROBIUMS

General guide to basic culture:

**POSITION:** Give as much light and air as possible from April to October. Softcanes can tolerate direct sunlight in autumn/winter. Some protection may be needed in summer – use 30%-50% shadecloth if necessary.

**TEMPERATURE:** They are suitable to grow in Sydney temperatures throughout the year.

**WATERING:** Softcanes require copious amounts of water during the summer growing period, November to April; reduce watering in winter but do not let dry out completely.

**FERTLISER:** Fertilise weekly during growing period November to April; use high potassium liquid fertiliser to promote flowering; stop fertiliser completely at end of April; recommence at beginning of October. Six-month slow release granules at time of repotting may be used.

**MEDIA/POTTING:** Repot after flowering has finished; may stay 2 to 3 years in same pot/mix. Use open, free-draining bark mix (bark/perlite/coco chunks/charcoal); use small pots; support each cane by staking.

**GENERAL:** Softcanes are generally easy to grow and flower; they are easier to manage if they are hung where they will receive maximum light and air movement.

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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