

-15- GROWING VANDA ORCHIDS

Vanda Lighting

Light is essential for the growth and blooming of Vandas. Vanda should not be grown indoors due to size and light limitations, but other vandaceous plants can thrive indoors in bright light.

Key points include:

- Ideal greenhouse light exposure is 50% to 100% full sun (around 53,750+ lumens).
- In southern climates below the 37th parallel, 25% to 35% shade cloth is recommended.

Northern growers can generally use full sun without issues.



Vanda Temperature

Temperature preferences differ among orchid hybrids and species. Vanda coerulea hybrids and other highland varieties thrive in cooler conditions, while Vanda orchids prefer warm to hot environments. Ideal night temperatures are 55°F to 72°F (12.7°C to 22.2°C), and daytime temperatures range from 70°F to 95°F (21.1°C to 35°C). They can tolerate daytime highs up to 105°F (41°C) if humidity, watering, air circulation, and shading are properly managed.

Vanda Humidity

Maintaining high humidity is essential for Vanda orchids, protecting them from dryness and allowing slower drying, which benefits their exposed roots. In their natural habitat, they thrive in humid canopies. In greenhouses, proper air circulation is crucial to prevent fungal or bacterial diseases while ensuring the desired humidity levels.

Vanda Watering

When considering watering for epiphytes such as Vanda, it's important to remember that they thrive on quick wet/dry cycles and grow in exposed conditions. Vanda prefers to dry out between waterings, but should be watered as soon as they or their media become dry. In a greenhouse setting, daily watering is essential, whether the plants are potted, in hanging baskets, or mounted. Be sure to use lukewarm water! Water temperatures below 50°F (10°C) can harm the plants, as can hard water or water that has been softened with salts.

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