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Regal Orchids Culture Sheet For Dendrobium Nobile



Cooler growing Dendrobium Nobile varieties are popular for their showy flowers, appearing in late winter and spring all along the cane rather than other more common and warmer growing Dendrobium varieties (such as Dendrobium Phalaenopsis) that produce a stem from the top of the cane. All Nobile varieties are easy to grow and re-flower and can reach up to 40" in height when well grown. They do have a couple of unique cultural requirements that set them apart from other varieties.

Indoor Cultivation

LIGHT

Dendrobium Nobile varieties enjoy good light all year round. They can

take almost full sun as long as there is plenty of air movement to avoid scorching of the leaves. Look for a pale green colouration in the leaves to guarantee you are giving your plant the maximum amount of light.

TEMPERATURE

The Nobile dendrobium is very hardy. Day time temperatures during spring/summer should be around 75°- 85° F and 65° - 70° F at night. These plants love to be taken outside during the summer and in the autumn can take temperatures down to approximately 38°F for short periods. However, they need to be taken inside before the chance of frost arrives. Once inside, the plants are best placed in a cool bright room (such as a spare bedroom) where possible. The cooler temperatures ready the plant and initiate flowering.

HUMIDITY

60-80% is ideal for these plants although they can take fluctuations where necessary. We recommend using the gravel tray method to keep localised humidity around the plants roots.

WATER

During active growth the plant should be receiving water about once a week. If outside the plant will no doubt get more but this is not a problem as long as excess water can quickly drain away through the holes in the pot. During periods of low humidity or when it is very

hot indoors, spraying the foliage will keep it healthy. When temperatures start to drop in September, reduce watering gradually to induce bud formation. From October/November onwards, water only if the canes look to be starting to shrivel. Once buds have clearly started to form, watering can be gradually resumed into the Spring. If leaves shrivel and fall during the winter period, it is usually a sign that the canes are mature and buds are ready to form. It does not damage the plant in any way and you might see signs of new canes appearing round the base of the plant that will produce the leaves for next years growth.

FERTILIZER

Nobile type dendrobiums are normal feeders and like to be fertilized weakly every two weeks or so during the growing season. We recommend using special orchid food available from **Regal Orchids** at the recommended dosage or use normal household plant fertilizer at ½ the recommended dosage. During Spring and Summer, a high Nitrogen fertilizer is ideal for growth but change to a higher Phosphorus content fertilizer (10-30-20) in August to help mature the season's canes ready for flowering in the Winter.

Ideal formula Orchid Food is readily available from Regal Orchids.

FLOWERING

This plant generally flowers in the Winter or Spring depending on how much light it has received during the years growth cycle. Look for round bumps appearing at the join of the leaves to the main cane stem. The plant also has a good habit of producing off-shoot baby plants (Keikis) from the main stem if too much fertilizer and too warm temperatures are given. This is no bad thing as they can be removed once they have produced their own roots to become new plants but it is likely the parent will not flower that season.

REPOTTING

Dendrobium Nobile plants like to be pot bound. A plant with 3-4 canes and about 10-15" tall will find a 3" or 4" pot adequate for its needs. Repot this plant in a normal fir bark mix orchid compost (available from **Regal Orchids**) every second year or so after flowering. Keep dry for the first week after repotting to stimulate the plant to send out new roots.

Regal Orchids Compost mixes are ideal for these plants and can be bought in varying weight sizes.