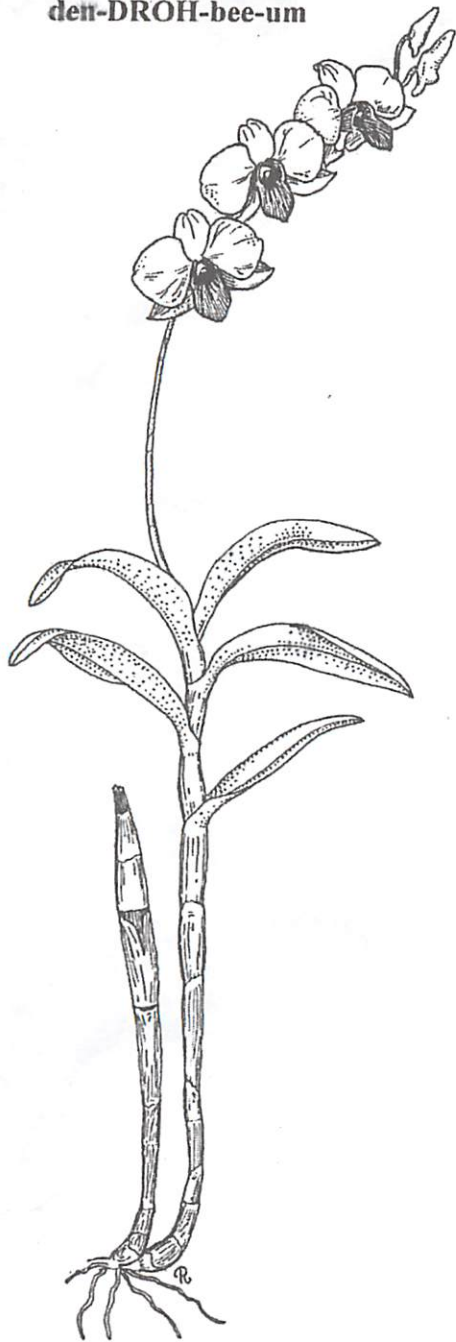
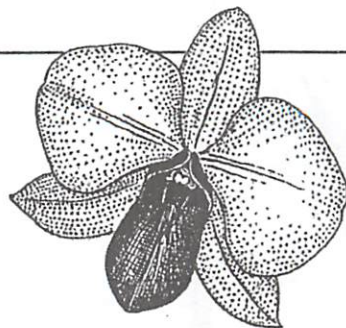


# Dendrobium

deit-DROH-bee-um



## The Spray Orchid

**D**endrobiums are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the retail trade. Like most other cultivated orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well-developed water-storage organs (pseudobulbs), often called “canes” for their upright, leafy appearance. They should be potted in porous, free-draining media.

There are many different types of dendrobiums available to the specialist grower. However, hybrids involving *Den. phalaenopsis* are what you will most often encounter.

### LIGHT

Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production.

**PROVIDE** Bright light, to 50 percent sun. In the home, an east, west or lightly shaded south window. In a greenhouse, about 30 to 50 percent of full sun. Under lights, four 40 watt fluorescent tubes and two 40 watt incandescent bulbs directly over plants. Plants should be naturally erect, without need of (much) staking, and of a medium olive-green color.

### TEMPERATURE

Mature plants need a 15 to 20 F difference between night and day.

**PROVIDE** Nights of 60 to 65 F; days of 80 to 90 F. Temperatures up to 95 to 100 F are beneficial if humidity and air circulation are increased. Low temperatures (below 50 F) may cause leaf drop.

### WATER

Keep evenly moist while in active growth. Allow to dry between waterings after growth is mature (indicated by terminal leaf).

### HUMIDITY

Dendrobiums need 50 to 60 percent. In the home, place on trays over moistened pebbles. In greenhouse, use a humidifier if conditions are too dry.

### FERTILIZER

Should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period.

**PROVIDE** The exact fertilizer you use will depend on the mix in which your plant is growing. A good general rule is to apply a balanced (10-10-10, 12-12-12, or similar ratio) fertilizer “weakly, weekly” during the period of active growth. That is, fertilize every week at one quarter to one half of the recommended dilution.

### POTTING

Should be done every two to three years before mix loses consistency (breaks down). Pot firmly in medium, giving aeration and ample drainage, allowing enough room for two years’ growth. Dendrobiums grow best in pots small for the size of the plant.



American Orchid Society

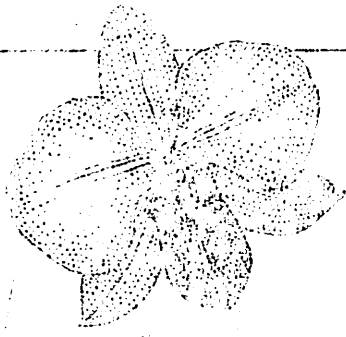
Education. Conservation. Research.

The American Orchid Society invites you to join us and learn about the world’s most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to

- Twelve issues of award-winning Orchids magazine per year
- Free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta
- Receive the annual Orchid Source Directory detailing orchid suppliers worldwide

- Access to online orchid information and features available only to our members at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- Discounts on back issues of Orchids magazine and on American Orchid Society published books
- Reduced processing fees for American Orchid Society judged plant and flower awards

American Orchid Society  
email [TheAOS@aos.org](mailto:TheAOS@aos.org)  
website [www.AOS.org](http://www.AOS.org)

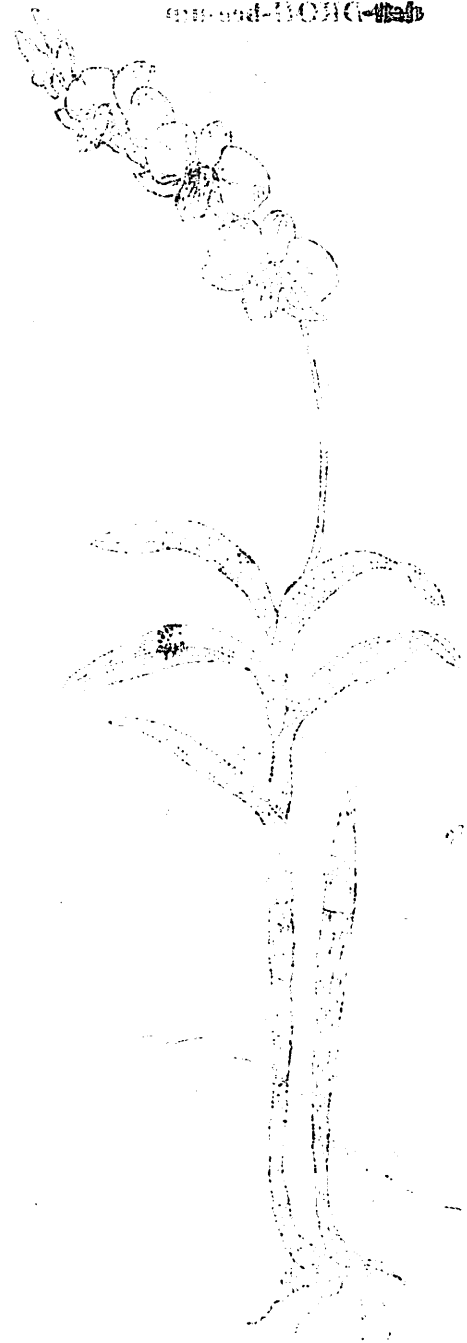


# Dendrobium

DRAC-1004-1964

## The Spiny Orchid

The spiny orchids are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the hobby. Like most other cultivated orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytic in their habits. They have well-developed water-storage organs (pseudobulbs) often called "canes" for their upright, fleshy appearance. They should be potted in porous, free-draining media. There are many different types of dendrobium available to the hobbyist. However, hybridizers favor the *Dendrobium* species which you will find most often in the hobby.



**TEMPERATURE**  
Dendrobiums need 50 to 60 degrees in the house and 60 to 70 degrees in the greenhouse. In the greenhouse, a humidity of 70 percent is recommended.

**FEEDING**  
Should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period. PROVIDE THE SAME FEEDING you use will depend on the time in which your plant is growing. A good general rule is to apply a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) or similar ratio) monthly.

**WATERING**  
"Water" the plant during the period of active growth. In the winter, water only once a week to one half of the recommended amount.

**POTTING**  
Should be done every year or so. Use a coarse mix (see "Media") and give the plant a good soaking (water down) for three to four days, giving attention and gentle drainage. Allow enough room for the roots to grow. Dendrobium plants grow best in pots small for the size of the plant.

**LIGHT**  
Dendrobium light is important for healthy growth and flower production. PROVIDE BRIGHT LIGHT (30 percent sun in the house or 60 percent in the greenhouse) with a minimum of 12 hours of light per day. Light should be 40 to 50 percent of full sun. Light should be given to the pseudobulb directly. PROVIDE LIGHT (10 to 15 hours) during the period of active growth. Light should be given to the pseudobulb directly. PROVIDE LIGHT (10 to 15 hours) during the period of active growth.

**TEMPERATURE**  
Most plants need a 15 to 20 F difference between night and day. PROVIDE NIGHTS OF 60 TO 65 F. Daytime temperatures up to 80 to 85 F are beneficial. Humidity and air circulation are important. A temperature range of 50 to 60 F is recommended.

**WATER**  
Keep evenly moist while in active growth. Allow to dry between waterings. Watering is most important during the period of active growth.

As soon as you receive your orchid, inspect it carefully for signs of disease or insect damage. If you find any, isolate the plant and treat it accordingly. Do not use chemical sprays on orchids. Use only natural products. If you find any signs of disease or insect damage, isolate the plant and treat it accordingly. Do not use chemical sprays on orchids. Use only natural products.

The American Orchid Society has a wealth of information available to you. Write to the American Orchid Society, 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. For more information, contact the American Orchid Society. Write to the American Orchid Society, 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.



The American Orchid Society  
1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004