

## Vanda family



***This group has no rest period, though growth slows during the low light winter months. They require bright light, and high relative humidity around the roots. There are several ways to provide this:***

1. In empty baskets, you need to water every 1-2 days.
2. You can grow the plants in baskets with a mix (bark, or sphagnum/bark) to hold humidity around the roots. Water every 4-6 days in the winter, and every 3 days in the summer (if grown in a greenhouse: weekly in winter/twice weekly in summer).
3. Vandas can be grown in an empty vase (photo at extreme right).  
Fill with tepid water and let the plant soak 15 min, then empty; residual water will keep high humidity around roots. Do this weekly in winter, twice weekly in summer; every 3rd time, add a few drops of fertilizer to the water.

**Temperature:**

- Day time in 70-90°F range; nights ideally 60-70°F; but they tolerate down to 55°F.
- High elevation plants do well in normal Cattleya temperature range.
- Cooler growing plants (*Rhy coelestis*, *Vanda coerulea*, *cristata* & *falcata*, and their hybrids) are fine with 60-65°F days, and nights down to 50°F.

**Outdoors:** From Memorial Day till the end of September in NJ.  
Bring inside when night time temps drop into low 50's.

- Light mottled shade is good.
- Full sun (after a week of hardening) is better, but does require 1-2 daily showers (use sprinkler + electronic timer on the spigot).

**Fertilizer:** Vandas are fairly greedy plants, so apply fertilizer every 2 weeks

March-November : 300 PPM  
December-February: 200 PPM

**Pots/Baskets:** For 3"-5" size, I use net pots, and Vanda baskets for 6" & 8" sizes.  
In all sizes, I use a sphagnum/bark mix (4:1) to hold moisture around the roots.

## Sarcochilus

This Australian Vanda relative is a low light plant, and should be grown under conditions exactly like Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis. They tolerate temperatures into the 40's.

They do best in a bark/charcoal/perlite mix with good aeration, but also constant moisture.

