



Burnham Nurseries

ORCHID PARADISE

Orchids on Bark or in a Basket



Many of the tropical species grown in cultivation grow as epiphytes in their natural habitat of the rain forest. This means that they grow up on the branches of the trees where they can benefit from the light, air movement and humidity. We can grow many of these on pieces of cork bark or in baskets, hanging in the greenhouse or conservatory so they can grow in conditions more like their natural environment. Please note that it is not recommended that orchids are grown on bark in the home as they will dry out too often in the less humid atmosphere. Vandas and related genera are often grown in open wooden or plastic baskets with no compost. These too must be grown in a very humid environment to prevent dehydration.

FLOWERING: Many different species of orchids can be grown in this way and will bloom at various times of year when their season comes around. Types with pendent flower spikes grow well hanging in baskets.

TEMPERATURE: Cool species need a minimum of 10°C (50°F) in winter, intermediate a minimum 12°C (55°F) in winter and warm minimum 15°C (60°F) The daytime maximum should be 20-27°C (70-85°F).

LIGHT: Keep all orchids growing on bark in dappled light, shaded from the brightest summer sun. Vanda types need good light to help with their re-flowering.

WATERING: Plants growing in this way need regular watering by spraying, this needs to be done daily during the warmest parts of the year, or even dunk in a bucket for 10 minutes if they are drying out quickly. Add fertiliser to the water during the growing period.

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