



### Cool Species Care



Cooler growing orchid species are well suited to the British climate as we have quite a temperate environment here. They often come from high altitude habitats in the mountain ranges of South America or the Himalayas where the temperature can drop quite low at night in the cool season. A general rule is that most cool growing species need to drop to 10°C (50°F) in winter, some will even take 8°C (45°F). This is a difference of around 10° from the normal daytime or summer temperature required. This fluctuation is entirely natural and necessary to ensure the correct growing and flowering of the orchids. If a cool growing orchid is kept constantly too warm then this can prevent flowering. Here are a few of the most popular genera of cool growing species:

**COELOGYNES:** These come from India and Malaysia, growing high in the mountains. They often rest in winter when much less watering is required, just enough to keep the pseudobulbs plump. Regular watering is needed in summer when the new shoots are growing. These include *C. cristata*, *C. ochracea*, *C. fimbriata* and *C. triplicatula*. Some species may grow in the winter though, so check individual plant labels. There are also a few warmer growing species too.

**DENDROBIUMS:** These orchids live in similar habitats to the coelogynes, so require the same culture including resting in winter. Some species are semi or totally deciduous also. Popular species are *D. nobile*, *D. densiflorum*, *D. fimbriatum* and *D. kingianum*.

**PROSTHECHEAS:** These are Central and South American orchids also requiring cool conditions but not always such a definite rest, some actually grow through winter. Give more regular watering when in growth and less when the pseudobulbs are complete. Popular species include *P. garciana*, *P. radiata* and *P. cochleata*.

Other genera liking cool conditions are *Oncidium*, *Maxillaria*, *Brassia*, *Masdevallia*, *Pleurothallis* and *Cymbidium*.

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