



Deciduous Orchid Care



Some orchids are deciduous, they lose their leaves for the winter period. These are often quite simple to grow as you can generally follow the rule that if they are growing leaves they need water and if they are leafless they must be kept dry. They tend to have short growing seasons during the summer when their new leaves and pseudobulbs are produced, so regular watering is required at this time. These all are potted in a mixture of fine bark, peat and perlite which helps to hold the water a little more so the fine roots keep moist whilst growing. Keep in the relevant temperatures shown below in a shaded position during summer. Annual spring repotting is usually required.

PLEIONE: These compact growing orchids are easy to grow in a very cool environment. Drop the temperature to 8 C in winter if possible. After their dry winter rest the new shoot starts to grow with the flower bud emerging from the centre with the leaf following. Showy flowers in a mixture of whites and pinks.

THUNIA: These grow very tall, cane-like pseudobulbs with the large, tissuey blooms at the top of them in mid summer. After all the leaves have dropped keep bone-dry for the winter rest. White flowers with a touch of colour in the lip.

MALAXIS & DIENIA: The main species we grow is *D. latifolia* and enjoys a minimum 12 C in winter. The upright flower stems have hundreds of tiny deep red flowers in early summer. Keikis or baby plants are often formed on the old pseudobulb.

STENOGLOTTIS: This cool growing species does not make pseudobulbs but instead has a rosette of soft leaves with the tall stem of many small pink flowers being produced from their centre in the autumn.

LYCASTE & ANGULOEA: These cool orchids need a dry winter rest but often do not lose their leaves until the following spring when the new growth begins. Flowers generally come with the new growth.

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