

Winter Rest for Orchids

This information was compiled from www.orchidboard.com threads.

There is much confusion about orchids and which ones get a "winter rest"...even those of us with extensive collections and LOTS of research have found it a daunting question. If orchids originated from a location with very dry, cool winters, we try to mimic that habitat as well.

As classified by Rebecca Tyson Northern, there are six groupings that describe the differences in growing needs of Dendrobiums. I am paraphrasing to avoid copyright infringement.

Type I (*deciduous, so-called nobile type*) intermediate to warm in summer, cool to cold in winter, full winter rest. Examples: D. nobile, D. chrysanthum, D. wardianum.

Type II (*deciduous*) intermediate to warm all year, full winter rest. Examples: D. speciosum, D. aggregatum, D. findlayanum, D. heterocarpum, D. superbum (anosmum), D. parishii, D. pierardii.

Type III (*persistent*) intermediate to warm summer, cool in winter, no winter rest - simply reduce water. Examples: D. densiflorum, D. fimbriatum, D. thyrsoflorum, D. farmeri.

Type IV (*persistent*) cool all year. Short suspension of water early autumn. Examples: D. bellatulum, D. secundum.

Type V (*persistent*) Intermediate all year. No rest. Examples: D. antelope and hybrids of type V and type VI.

Type VI (*persistent*) warm growing all year. Restrict water twice during year. Examples: D. phalaenopsis, D. bigibbum, D. superbiens.

See the lists below. Put these orchids on the side to rest and treat differently from Halloween through Valentine's Day. I use those holidays as a general guide...if I see lots of action in late January, I do sometimes bring them out of their rest earlier. As with everything orchids...there is no one exact set of rules...pay attention to *your* plants and they will tell you what they need.

In September, I've started moving my winter rest orchids to their own rack, away from the other racks in the room to avoid any overspray. They are still getting misted at the moment but it is a much lighter misting...and it will stop on Halloween. After that, the rack will get a very general light misting once every two weeks or so until Valentine's Day. They need a cooler temperature and little to no watering and no fertilizer at all.

Aerangis punctata

Aerangis luteo alba v. rhodosticta

Brassavola nodosa – occasional misting, light water every 2 – 3 weeks

Den parishii

Den nobile var kingianum

Den nobile

Den aggregatum

Den lindleyi (aka aggregatum)
 Den smilleae
 Den farmeri x griffithianum
 Den kingianum - rest 2 months in summer and 4 in winter, mist daily, water every 2 weeks, if stressed then add water
 Den primulinum
 Den Little Sweet Scent
 Den Medy Stripe
 Den Super Star x Ise 'Pearl'
 Den mohlianum x Den sulawesiense
 Den violetta
 Den amethystoglossum
 Den moschatum
 Den canaliculatum
 Den dantaniense
 Den pierardii has now had a name change and is known as Dendrobium cucullatum
 Den aphyllum
 Den anosmum (superbum)
 Den christyanum (syn margaritaceum)
 Den senile
 *Den hercoglossum (slight rest)
 *Den moniliforme (slight rest)
 *Dendrochilum filiforme (slight rest)
 *Den goldschmidtianum (slight rest)
 Den primulinum
 Den wardianum
 Coelogyne cristata
 Cuitlauzina pendula
 Ctsm Rebecca Northen
 Ctsm pileatum
 Encyclia mariae
 Fredclarkeara After Dark
 Galeandra batemannii x greenwoodiana
 Mystacidium braebonae
 Mystacidium capense Neo falcata
 Neo. Falcata 'Benisuzume' -light water every 2 weeks, highest light now, 3 month rest, occasional mist between 1st of Nov and end of January
 Psychopsiella limminghei (Still wetting the back of the fern fiber after it dries out, but thats it. No water around the roots on the front of the mount.)
 Schomburgkia galeottiana
 Solenangis aphyllum

*Den hercoglossum, goldschmidtianum, and moniliforme - I read in a few places they only need a 2 week rest. Slightly less water, no fertilizer and higher light for 2-4 weeks and then warm it back up again for them. I also believe I read they only need temps down to about 50F although mine have been down to 39F and seemed to be fine.

All Catasetinae: Catasetum, Cycnoches, Mormodes, Clowesia, Galeandra, Fredclarkeara, etc. Also Calanthe (some of them), some Eulophias and "some" Lycaste (not sure if there is any species which does not do it.) They all light Cattleya light now. When in active growth, use 1 teaspoon per gallon of fertilizer. Nov 15th reduce watering

by half, no fertilizer. Jan. 1 should have no leaves = no water. Severe shrivel – water once. Wait to water when roots are 3” long. If the pseudobulbs are not mature yet, continue watering until mature.

For the orchids below, due to heavy dew in their location, the water should be heavily reduced but they shouldn't be allowed to go completely dry for long periods of time. Occasional early morning misting, especially on bright sunny days will help keep them from becoming too dry. Eliminate fertilizer until you see new growths.

Barkeria spectabilis

Barkeria scandens

Barkeria Marsh Melton (slight rest...first year with this one and only one parent likes an actual rest)

Stan lietzi (slight rest)

Grammatophyllum – when growth complete (March – October), 2 – 3 week rest needed. Sensitive to salt buildup. Likes fish emulsion as fertilizer. *G. speciosum* likes to be in baskets.

Encyclia cordigera – occasional misting in winter, light water every 3 weeks.

Laelia tenebrosa – reduce watering and eliminate fertilizer in winter, but don't dry out completely

Psychopsis papilio – water every 2 weeks, occasional misting in winter

Rhynchostylis gigantea – eliminate fertilizer, water one time every week or two. Keep rather dry between waterings in winter.

Zygopetalum – reduce fertilizer, less water, do not dry out completely