



Dendrobium victoria-reginae

Dendrobium victoria-reginae is a species native to the highland areas of the Philippines. Beautiful violet-blue flowers emerge from the sides of the pendulous pseudobulbs. They are long-lasting and the plant can often flower more than once per year. These are small plants with narrow canes at the base. The growths should be staked up when grown on a bench or hung with a single wire hanger allowing the canes to hang down. This plant rarely grows more than 10 inches in height.

Temperature and Humidity: This plant prefers temperatures of 55-62 degrees at night and days of 68-75 degrees. Humidity of 50% or higher is ideal. The use of humidity trays or room humidifiers is beneficial.

Light: Medium light is best, from 1500-3500 foot-candles. More light is acceptable in winter with slightly shadier conditions in the spring and summer. This plant will do well under artificial light and in light that is given for the *Cattleya* variety.



Watering: It is best to use rainwater, distilled or reverse osmosis water. Municipal water with a pH of 7.5 or lower can be used. This plant likes an abundance of water during the growing season from spring through fall. During the winter months after the growths have matured and hardened; allow the plant to become drier at the roots between watering. Watering every 2-3 weeks in the winter may be sufficient. It is acceptable for the canes to shrivel slightly. If they continue to shrivel, however, increase the frequency of watering. Overwatering can cause severe problems such as root rot and promote infectious growth in the potting medium.

Fertilizing: We highly recommend using Green Jungle Orchid Food; especially formulated to work with rain, distilled, reverse osmosis water or low alkaline water. Fertilize with Green Jungle every time you water if plants are planted in bark. Be sure to flush the mix with clear water only once per month to prevent fertilizer salt build up. For plants in moss or mounted on slabs, feed every 3rd or 4th watering as the moss holds a lot of nutrients.

You can also use GrowMore 20-10-20 Urea-free for municipal or well water. Use at the rate of ½ teaspoon per gallon. If you are using GrowMore with rain, distilled or reverse osmosis water, add back 5-10% municipal or well water to supply the necessary calcium and magnesium. Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter.

Re-potting: This plant has a pendulous growth habit in nature. If grown in pots the canes must be staked. If grown on slabs or hydrologs, grow with canes hanging down. The best time for repotting or mounting is in the spring just after flowering. New Zealand sphagnum moss or a small bark mix is best for potting.

Flowering: The heaviest production of flowers occurs in the spring months. The growth that matured over the summer will start pushing out flower buds between the leaf axils of the plant causing the foliage to turn yellow and fall off. This is normal. When you see these buds forming, keep the plant more evenly moist. New growths should follow flowering. The flower size is between 1 ½ to 2 inches. The colors vary slightly but for the most part are deep violet blue. Temperature and light can influence color as well. When the light is bright and the temperature is cooler, darker blue flowers will result. Sometimes when we have shipped plants in flower, the color changes while in the box becoming a purple-lavender color. In a day or two they change back to the deep violet blue once they are in normal growing conditions.

Akatsuka Orchid Gardens * P.O. Box 220 * Volcano, Hawai'i 96785
Phone: (808)967-8234 Toll Free: 1-888-967-6669 Fax: (808) 967-7140
Email: info@akatsukaorchid.com Website: www.akatsukaorchid.com