



Cultural Requirements - *Dendrobium tobaense*

Dendrobium tobaense, native to North Sumatra, thrives in pine or fir forests on Mt. Dolok and the northeast of Lake Toba, at altitudes ranging from 3200-4500 ft. This small-sized orchid grows up to 11.8 inches, featuring cylindrical stems with bilobed leaves covered in black hairs. Blooming in the fall, the Toba Dendrobium displays stiff, fleshy flowers with slender tips, pale green petals forming a net-like pattern, and an orange-red lip adorned with oblong red lines.



Light: Thrives in very bright, indirect light at 1850-2700 foot candles. Give the plant more light in winter for better blooming.

Temperature: Keep the day temperature between 70-73°F (21-23°C) and the night temperature around 55-57°F (13-14°C) all year with a daily difference of 7-9°F.

Humidity: Maintain the humidity at 75-80% year-round.

Watering: Water the plant regularly throughout the year, but less in winter. Keep the plant moist but not soggy.

Fertilizer: Feed the plant every week or two with a 1/2-1/4 dose of orchid fertilizer.

Potting: Grow on tree root or cork pads, or in small pots with a loose, quickly drying substrate. Repot when new roots emerge.

Rest period: Reduce watering slightly in winter, especially in shorter, darker days at moderate latitudes, but ensure plants don't dry out completely. Natural habitat experiences slightly higher light levels during the winter months. Reduce watering slightly in winter, but don't let the plant dry completely.

References: *American Orchid Society via aos.org*

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