



Surrey, BC, Canada
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Dendrobium Antelope Type, section Spatulata

The genus *Dendrobium* is one of the largest groups within the orchid family. They can be grouped into smaller categories called sections. *Dendrobium*s from the spatulata section (antelope type) carry starry blooms that have gently twisted petals. They range in color from whites to brilliant yellows to greens as well as all shades of pink and purple. Stems carry 10 to 40 blooms lasting 6 to 12 weeks. Some of the spatulatas are fragrant.

Temperature: *Dendrobium*s prefer warmer household temperatures of 20 to 27°C (68 to 80°F) during the day and just slightly cooler at nights, 18 to 22°C (65 to 72°F). For optimal performance, cooler winter days, 18 to 21°C (65 to 70°F), are recommended. Keep out of draft.

Light: Spatulata *Dendrobium* prefer the medium to high light of an east or shaded west or south window. Leaves normally a vibrant green, but will bleach if plant gets too much light or darken if not enough light is given.

Watering: Water generously, let dry between watering. Do not let stand in water. Water every 5 to 8 days during summer and every 7 to 10 days during winter.

Fertilizing: Fertilize at $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ strength with 28-14-14 at every watering to promote new growth. When new growth matures, start fertilizing with 10-30-20 at half strength to promote flowering.

Re-blooming: Given proper care, the stem(s) develops at the top of mature new growth. Mature plants can bloom 2 to 3 times a year. Blooming season is generally spring to summer.

Repotting and potting medium type: Repot every 1 to 24 months, as required. A coarse free-draining potting mix, predominantly medium grade fir bark and coarse perlite, is recommended.