



TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

PO Box 7710

Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4352

The Society meets each month (except September and December) at
St Pauls Hall, Phillip Street, Toowoomba at 7.30pm

Visitors most welcome

MASDEVALLIA ORCHIDS

The six essentials required for growing Masdevallia Orchids are:

**LIGHT, TEMPERATURE, AIR MOVEMENT, WATER, FOOD & WELL
DRAINED COMPOST.**

These conditions are for Toowoomba.

LIGHT: Light levels for these orchids are normally fairly low, however some growers succeed with higher light levels but when these are used you must keep the plants cool.

TEMPERATURE: These should be cool to intermediate. Nights of 7-10 degrees are ideal and days from 15-24 degrees. Evaporative coolers or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions.

AIR MOVEMENT: To maintain the above conditions a good supply of air is essential however they do not like frost so in Toowoomba need an enclosed area in which to grow.

WATERING: This is a very crucial element in growing these plants as they have minimal water storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become dry just before watering again. Humidity is important for these plants, 60%-80% is ideal. To achieve this, plants can be set on trays of gravel filled with water. To add to the humidity misting or watering under the benches can be used.

FOOD: Fertiliser should be applied regularly whilst the plants are actively growing. A high phosphorous fertiliser should be used as the plants approach flowering.

POTTING MEDIA: A fine grade compost such as fine pine bark or sphagnum moss or a mixture of both is ideal. The bottom third of the pot should be filled with rocks/styrene foam or something similar and the plant placed in the centre of the pot as they can grow in all directions.

REPOTTING: This is best done in Winter or early Spring before the heat of Summer. Repotting must be done at least every one or two years to keep the mix from decomposing.