



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

STANHOPEA ORCHIDS (The upside down Orchids)

The six essentials required for growing Stanhopea Orchids are:

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

These conditions are for Toowoomba.

LIGHT: During the growing season, Spring/Summer, Stanhopeas grow under 50% to 70% shade. However during the dormant season, Autumn/Winter, this can be reduced to 50%.

AIR MOVEMENT: Stanhopeas do not like stuffy conditions and should be grown where there is plenty of air movement. However, the stronger the air movement, the quicker the compost will dry out.

WATERING: Plants should be kept moist during the growing season, however from mid April only water enough to stop the pseudobulbs from shrivelling.

FOOD: Most Stanhopeas bloom from January to April. High N fertiliser should be used in Spring to promote fast growth building plants up for blooming. Switch to a low N during Summer/Autumn to promote flowering.

TEMPERATURE: Stanhopeas are found in Central America, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Venezuela. Those from the cooler mountain regions do well in Toowoomba in a shade house or cold glass house. The warmer growers need a little heat.

POTTING MEDIA: Stanhopeas bloom from the bottom of the pot, so a hanging basket or open weave pot is required. Everyone has their own potting mix; however a mix of medium pine bark, styrene foam granules and sphagnum moss or straight medium bark or medium bark and charcoal can be used. It has been found straight sphagnum moss gets too cold in Toowoomba for these orchids.