

September	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILISER	PEST CONTROL	OTHER
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE	Water every four to five days (Larger pots over 140mm) Pots 110mm to 140mm every three days. All pots up to 100mm every two days.	Fertilise every two weeks quarter strength with high PK. From 22 September start using high nitrogen fertiliser at quarter strength every week.	Use a fungicide every three weeks. Look for evidence of scale	Water only of a morning on clear sunny days.
Dendrobium. Hard-canes	Water may now commence on a weekly basis. canes	Fertilise only from 22 September or when there are signs that your plants are showing signs of new growth use half strength high nitrogen fertiliser.	As above. Keep an eye out for the dreaded Dendrobium beetle.	Regularly inspect plants for signs of new growth. May be evident late August.
Dendrobiums Soft-canes	Water only once a week but increase watering as the plant starts to develop new growths.	Fertilise with high nitrogen only when you see evidence of new growths coming away from the base of the plant and when growths are about 50 mm high. There also should be signs of new root development	As above	Flowers should be opening up and in display..
Phalaenopsis	Twice per week early morning	Fortnightly quarter to half strength using high PK fertiliser. Change to a high nitrogen fertiliser from 22 September.	As above but also Watch for evidence of crown rot.	Flower spikes are developing . Increase humidity by spraying under benches.
Paphiopedilum	Water directly into pots, not over the plant weekly on larger pots every 3 days smaller pots. Flush pots.	Use a Paphiopedilum specific fertiliser available from Orchidaceous Supplies http://www.orchidaceoussupplies.com.au/	As with Phal.	Mix should be kept moist but not wet.
Vanda	Water weekly. Misting of the exposed root system will help. Increase	Vanda's are strong feeders and an increase in the regularity of fertilising especially as the root tips become green and are showing signs of growth. Use a high nitrogen fertiliser from 22	As with Cattleya	Keep plants warm of a night with a cover

	watering as the temperatures warms up	September. There is a Vanda specific fertiliser available from Orchidaceous Supplies see link above.		will assist in the prevention of leaf drop.
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General. September is the month when temperatures are starting to climb And there is little threat of a severe cold snap. The spring equinox is on or about the 22nd day of the month and as can be seen this is the time to change your fertilising program to a high nitrogen regime. The days start to get progressively longer and bring on the growth hormones within the plants that have been dormant over the winter months. Although this year most plants have not entered into a true dormancy. The potting season should now be under way this month particularly unifoliate Cattleyas. Remember that Bifoliate Cattleyas (two leaves per bulb) may be re-potted at any time **PROVIDING** the roots are coming away from the new growth. Dendrobiums (hard cane) should not be re-potted until later in the year preferably early November when the new roots start to show.

Watering of plants should increase as the temperature rises, but keep an eye on the weather as a cold front may still come through. The Bureau of Meteorology is your best friend <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/forecasts/map7day.shtml> click on Bundaberg on the map.