

Light

Most *Nepenthes* species are epiphytic or semi-epiphytic, and require high light levels for optimal growth. At Malesiana Tropicals, we have used the following mixtures for our *Nepenthes* with excellent success:

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Potting Mix 1

- 1 part granite chips*
- 1 part tree fern root fibre
- 1 part charcoal (optional)

A very well-drained mix suitable for daily watering and epiphytic species.

*Pumice, lava rock, or coarse sharp sand may be substituted for granite chips.

Potting Mix 2

- 2 parts coconut peat**
- 1 part vermiculite
- 1 part tree fern root fibre

A good general mix for lowland terrestrial species; high moisture retention.

** Regular sphagnum peat (peat moss) can be substituted for coconut peat.

Potting Mix 3

- 2 parts sphagnum moss
- 1 part tree fern root fibre(optional)

An excellent mix for many highland species. Also good for some lowlanders.

Air & Humidity

Being wholly tropical plants, sufficient humidity is a key factor in the health of *Nepe*

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foliage. Generally it is recommended to maintain the humidity at a minimum of 70%, which can be accomplished in non-tropical climates by frequent misting or growing the plants in a greenhouse or terrarium. Species with thick waxy leaves are able to tolerate somewhat drier air and make good candidates for windowsill growing (see below). Those with thin, delicate leaves (e.g.,

N. hamata, *N. tentaculata*, *N. muluensis*, etc.) are very susceptible to humidity fluctuations.

Temperature

The genus is generally divided into two sections, lowland and highland species, according to their altitude of origin and different climatic preferences.

Lowland Species		Highland Species	
Natural	Habitat	Natural	Habitat
(0-1000 meters elev.)	Montane forest to alpine scrub.	(1000-3500 meters elev.)	Sea Level to hill forest.
Temperature in Cultivation		Temperature in Cultivation	
(80-95 F or 27-35 C day)	(70-80 F or 21-27 C night)	(70-85 F or 21-29 C day)	(50-65 F or 12 - 18 C night)
Suggested Growing Situation		Suggested Growing Situation	
Greenhouse, Heated Terrarium, or Indoors (Tropical Climate)	Outdoor (Tropical Climate)	Greenhouse, Heated Terrarium, or Indoors (Tropical Climate)	Outdoor (Tropical Climate)

Due to their different temperature requirements, it is usually necessary to cultivate lowland and highland species separately. A few highland species (*N.fusca*, *N. maxima*, *N. veitchii*, etc.) can be considered "intermediate" plants, and at least some varieties of these can be successfully grown along with lowland species.

Watering

Nepenthes appreciate frequent watering and the soil should never be allowed to become dry. Watering can be done on a daily basis (in warm temperatures), or once every 2-3 days during winter. Pots should never be left in standing water as this will quickly suffocate the roots. Clean, pure water should be used whenever possible (rainwater, distilled water or reverse osmosis are ideal) as the excess dissolved minerals frequently found in tap water can accumulate in the soil and cause damage to the sensitive roots.

