

## **Growing Nepenthes in Sri Lanka**

Nepenthes are known as very difficult to grow plants. For this reason, the world market is limited, because most growers need a greenhouse and specialized facilities. However, in Sri Lanka we are lucky, because the climatic conditions here suit some species of Nepenthes to be grown outdoors or on a windowsill with minimal maintenance. Especially some of the hybrids bred by Borneo Exotics over the past 20 years and which are now being released onto the local market for the first time. We give you some basic growing tips below.

### **GROWING GUIDE**

#### **Water**

Water daily, early morning and late afternoon to keep roots wet. NEVER allow the roots to dry out. Alternatively, stand the pot in a saucer of water but be careful not to allow mosquitoes to breed in the water.



#### **Potting Media**

Coir fibre is good for all the hybrids released into the Sri Lanka market. Wash the media with water before use to remove any possible salt. Salt will quickly kill Nepenthes.



#### **Drainage**

Plant in well drained container, hanging coir fibre baskets are most suitable.

#### **Light**

Plant in semi-shade or ½ a day's sun. On a veranda or from a tree. They are very light sensitive. In a nursery environment, 60% shade cloth is suitable.



Too much sun and the leaves will burn. If this occurs, you may wish to move the plant into a little more shade, but if you wait for new leaves to foam, they may adapt to the raised light levels and be stronger than previous leaves, those seen on plants grown in less light.



Not enough light and the leaves will be soft, green, with no coloration and the pitchers will lack color intensity, or may fail to form at all.

It is possible to grow nepenthes indoors under an inexpensive to run LED desk lamp but be careful to keep in a humid place and away from dry air conditioners.

#### **Humidity**

A new pitcher should form on the end of the tendril produced by each new leaf. To encourage pitcher formation, humidity is a factor. Therefore, if you are growing Nepenthes plants outside as suggested you will probably notice that in the rainy seasons you have faster growth and better pitcher formation than during the lower humidity experienced during long periods of hot sun and dry wind. In a nursery environment, aim for relative humidity of no lower than 70%.



#### **Fertilizing**

The plant will catch insects by itself. If you wish to encourage healthy plant growth you can feed with almost any household or orchid fertilizer sprayed onto the leaves monthly but this must be used at only ¼ of the manufacturers recommended strength or it may burn the leaves. Too much fertilizer will cause the plants to produce soft leaves and no pitchers.



***We wish you and hope you enjoy your Pitcher Plants. !***

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