

Dendrobium Kingianum

Commonly known as Pink Rock Lily. Captain Kings Dendrobium. (Pink) Rock Orchid, this is a very hardy little Australian lithophytes native. Flowering in spring with masses of small fragrant flowers, ranging in colour from pure white, to pale pink through to shades of mauve and deep reds



Dendrobium kingianum is found growing on the eastern coast of Australia, from the Hunter River near Newcastle to Carnarvon gorge in central Queensland and from the sea to as far west as the mountains and elevations up to 1200m. In nature found almost exclusively as a lithophyte, rarely being seen as an epiphyte. It is often found as large clumps clinging to the debris filled cracks on cliff faces or exposed rocks in open temperate forests, and wet sclerophyll forests, favouring eastern and south-eastern aspects.

The general climatic conditions are cool dry winters and hot, humid summers. Plants can grow to a very large size, 300+ pseudobulbs. An intermediate grower, it will handle temperatures to about 2 degrees Celsius. Flowering is from late winter to late spring.

Growing Dendrobium kingianum is not difficult. They can be grown in shallow pots with a medium bark mix, and do very well in pots. They can also be mounted in the forks of trees or on rocks in the garden, though they do need a little more care and watering while they are establishing. Once they have taken hold they need little care or attention. They can tolerate considerable dry periods and have developed root systems that absorb the smallest amounts of moisture, and also have juicy pseudobulbs to store water. New growth will start in the spring after the flowering period, during this time water and fertilize regularly. Less water is required during the autumn and stop fertilizing at this time. Winter temperatures should not fall below 2 degrees. A dry rest during the cooler months is beneficial for good flowering. This species has been used extensively in hybridizing and line breeding.



Den Kingianum "Fred's Red"

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