

Masdevallia Orchids Factsheet

These Pleurothallids have a reputation for being difficult to grow, but nothing could be farther from the truth. They are fussy if the temperatures are too warm, though, hence the bad reputation. Give them cool temperatures and they are quite easy to grow. A dark shady greenhouse in the heat of summer and a bubbled wrapped greenhouse in winter keeping temp above 7c with a heat tube will be fine.

Culture of Masdevallia Orchids

Temperature

Masdevallia need cool growing temperatures. Keep the daytime temperatures below 25C. At night, temperatures should drop at least 8C. They care a great deal about leaf temperatures, so respect this. The plants also dehydrate quickly if temperatures are too high, as they cannot close their stomata to retain moisture. The minimum

Light

Shaded light only. Masdevallia tend to be happy at 600 - 1500 ft candles of light (very winter Temp is 7C.shady). The higher the lighting, the cooler the temperatures need to be.

Fertilization

A very light feeding of a well balanced fertilizer will keep Masdevallia blooming. Too much fertilizer will cause the tips of leaves to turn brown or black. Bloom feed August to April.

Water Quality

Require high quality water. Rain water is ideal. Do not over water, keep lightly moist

Humidity & Air

Humidity is very important for all Masdevallia, as they come from cloud forests in the Andes. Try for 70 to 80% humidity. Good air circulation (from a fan) will help prevent issues with rot. The grower may want to invest in a humidifier to keep humidity up, but only necessary on hot days, misting down, or damping of the floor can suffice.

My Setup (which could assist yours)

Bubbled wrapped (large bubbles) greenhouse with shade netting inside. Oil radiator on temperature control minimum 7C. Humidity control on minimum 75rh linked to RAM humidifier. Fan comes on throughout the day. Masdevallia orchids should be potted in orchid mix, sphagnum moss or a mixture of both.