

# DEFLASKING Australian Native Dendrobium Orchids (The Cedarvale Way)

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Make sure you purchase your flasks from a reputable nursery or flasking service so you can be sure plants are correctly named and good plant clones have been used in crosses.

**YOUR FLASK** - Examine your flask and make sure there are strong roots visible (usually white/green in colour). If dead leaves are appearing it may be that the plants are starting to run out of nutrient. Then it is time to deflask. The most important time to deflask is when the plants are ready however the start of the growing season is ideal.

**WASHING OFF AGAR** - Remove plants carefully from the flask. Wash agar off the roots in clean potable water.

**TRAYS** - We then place the plants (individually) on newspaper in open seedling trays to 'harden them up' prior to potting. They are then placed in the covered bushhouse and sprayed with Envy two or three times (a couple of days apart). At Cedarvale we believe that we have a clean fungus-free environment within the covered area of the nursery. It is always good to keep an eye on the plants to make sure no fungi grows. (Should this happen then spray with a fungicide.) The plants then receive the same watering/misting/fertilizing as the rest of the nursery.

**COMPOTTING** - After a period of time (usually when we get around to it) we place 25-30 plants into each compot with a fine seedling mix of 70% bark and 30% small perlite OR 5mm charcoal as a potting medium. Once again the compots then receive the same watering/misting/fertilizing as the rest of the nursery. The compots are then set aside in the covered bushhouse until the plants are strong and well established before putting into individual 50mm tubes (with seedling potting medium).

**DISCLAIMER:** This is what Cedarvale does in our climate and our environment. It is not necessarily the only way!! Your location may require variations to the above procedures.

**If what you are doing is working for you then why change!!**