

Doritis

Pronunciation: doe-RYE-tis

Tribe: Vandeeae

Subtribe: Sarcanthinae

Very closely related to *Phalaenopsis*, *Doritis* is a genus of small to medium-sized, predominantly terrestrial plants native to southeast Asia. The showy, medium-sized flowers are strongly allied to *Phalaenopsis* and freely interbreed creating thousands of registered *Doritaenopsis* hybrids. These intergeneric hybrids commonly behave more like their *Phalaenopsis* ancestors and should be treated or grown as such. Christenson, in his *Phalaenopsis* Monograph sinks *Doritis*, as section *Esmeralda*, into synonymy with *Phalaenopsis* and the Kew World Monocot Checklist has accepted this taxonomic revision. While hybrids continue to be registered as *Doritaenopsis*, this may change in the near future if the RHS Registrar also accepts the revision. The name *Doritis* is derived either from the Greek dory, spear – an allusion to the lip shape or from *Doritis*, a name given to the goddess Aphrodite. While many *Phalaenopsis* inflorescences tend to gracefully arch, those of *Doritis* are stiffly erect, an adaptation resulting from their terrestrial habitat. *Doritis* also bloom during the summer and are characterized by a dark, cerise color, which is shared with many of its hybrid progeny (the bright red lip of many hybrid *Doritaenopsis* is believed to be inherited from the *Doritis* background as well). The most commonly grown species of this is *D. pulcherrima*.

If you want to learn more, join the [International Phalaenopsis Alliance](#) (IPA), an AOS affiliated specialist group.

Number of species: 2 or 3

Distribution: Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, Malaya and Sumatra

CULTURE:

Temperature: Warm conditions. 65 at night, 85-90 during the day

Light: Bright, but no direct sun light. (between 1,000 to 1,200 footcandles)

Water-Humidity: Water when almost dry. Ideal humidity is in the 50% range.

Fertilizer: Fertilize every time they are watered with a balanced fertilizer at half the recommended strength. Flush with pure water every fourth time.

Potting: Pot every year in late Summer after they finish blooming. . Use Sphagnum Moss in warm and humid areas and bark type mixes in cooler and dryer environments. Does not like to be over potted.

Page 1

Larry's Orchids & Tropicals, Inc.

www.LarrysOrchids.com • toll free: 855-262-4442