

Growing Vireya Rhododendrons

[Courtesy of Bovees Nursery](http://www.bovees.com)

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CULTURE TIPS

Important new cultural suggestions:

For wintering Vireyas inside the home, the following conditions are essential for growing and blooming.

- **Humidity: either use a small humidifier or one of those "rocks and waterfall" bowls. Spraying once a day with water is not enough in dry winter environments.**
- **Good air movement is very important: use a small fan 12 hours a day, if possible.**
- **Adequate light: use supplemental light if necessary to provide a bright 12 hour day.**
- **Lower night-time temperature; Vireyas are rhododendrons and rhododendrons like warm days and cool nights.**

Outside summer environments will differ but the above suggestions still apply as goals.

The suggestions included with plants are too long to include here; however a summary may help dispel any fear you might have regarding the possible difficulty in growing them. Vireyas are really very easy to grow, but we have learned from experience that certain requirements must be met to insure success. A condensed version of our directions follows.

For six months - -

- Keep in the same pot in which it came.
- Use only our special fertilizer and in the proportions we recommend.
- Read and follow the watering instructions carefully.
- Inside the house, locate your Vireya in a "community" of plants, not as the only houseplant you are growing. This is because houseplants might not do well in all home environments. If you can't grow other house plants well, it might be best to avoid Vireyas.
- Move your Vireyas outside when the danger of frost is past. If you have a greenhouse or a plant room then you are ready for Vireyas.
- Avoid temperatures below 32 degrees F. Vireyas will take **NO** frost. Don't use any chemical spray that is not mentioned in the Culture Tip sheet.

FUTURE NEEDS

It is now possible to order small amounts of our potting mix, measured by the quart. \$0.75 plus shipping. It will be fairly light weight. In choosing a new pot size, allow approximately one inch space around all sides and adequate depth for drainage. Don't over pot your plants.

- 1 pint of mix will pot a 1 yr. into a 2 yr.
- 3 cups will move a 2 yr. into a 3 yr.
- 2 quarts will put a 3 yr. into a gallon pot.

SUPPLIES FOR VIREYA GROWERS

Here at Bovees we know how hard it is sometimes to get the proper potting materials so we are offering our potting mix already made up in 1 gallon packages.

Bovees custom Vireya potting mix in one US gallon package. \$3.00 *

Square Anderson pots, tall bands, 2 3/8 x 5 inches. We root our cuttings in these. \$0.15 *

2 7/8 x 5 inches. Transplant into or for small plants. \$0.20 *

3 5/8 x 6 inches. Used to grow on bigger plants. 2 & 3 year old ones. \$0.35 *

NOTES : We use chunky peat moss but you do not have to. If you want to use any of the fine particle peat moss just add a little bit more Perlite.

What is Perlite? Perlite is a naturally occurring mineral that “pops” when furnaced. Each particle has a large, irregular surface area enclosing numerous tiny closed air cells. Perlite is lightweight, sterile, chemically inert, permanent, non-toxic, incombustible, rot and vermin resistant, asbestos-free and has a neutral pH.

Pumice is also a natural material. Ours comes from central Oregon and has been sifted to remove most of the fines. Pumas is much the same as Perlite but much heavier.

Orchid bark is Douglas fir bark that has been sifted and sorted to size. There are very few fine particles in good Orchid bark. Ours has also been heat treated. Great stuff.

Our Vireya potting mix uses 1 part of each item (except 2 parts orchid bark).

You pay only the material cost and UPS Ground Service. No handling or packing charge for these materials. On these items we do not plan on making any money, but hope to provide you with a service.

Note: pricing was copied from Bovees website on 4/28/08. Check with Bovees or [their website](#) before placing an order.