

# Rhododendron vireya

**Vireyas** belong to the largest group of rhododendrons and originate mainly from Southeast Asia, Malaysia and New Guinea. Vireyas can be found from sea level up to an altitude of 4,300 m. In spite of the fact that vireyas were introduced by Dr William Jack of the East India Company as early as 1823, they are still not very widespread in our part of the world.

Vireyas are epiphytic, and could be described as growing in a similar manner to orchids: they sometimes grow in the humus layer in the tropical rainforest, but also in the tree canopy at heights of up to 30 m.

This type of growth does necessitate a few specific maintenance tips:

## **Substrate**

A mixture based on coconut, bark, perlite and pine needles is generally used; n.b. the mixture should be well aerated.

Please feel free to contact us for advice on re-potting your vireya.

## **Feeding**

During the summer months a liquid compound fertiliser (NPK ratio of 1-1-1) may be administered every 3 weeks at half the stated dose.

## **Moistness**

Vireyas cannot tolerate standing water!!! It is generally sufficient to water indoor plants once a week; outdoors they can be watered liberally, preferably in the evening.

## **Temperature**

Vireyas cannot tolerate frost; most vireyas do very well at room temperature (14°C to 25°C)

Avoid excessive temperatures; if the plant is placed in a greenhouse or conservatory, make sure there is sufficient ventilation.

## **Vireyas the year around**

In our climate most vireyas flower twice a year, some varieties flower only in the winter, while some flower during the summer and others flower the year round.

During the summer months you can place vireyas in the garden or on your terrace. It is advisable to protect them against the fierce midday sun. Once the first frosts appear, bring the vireyas back indoors; a veranda is ideal, but a light place in the living room will give you even more enjoyment from this splendid tropical rhododendron.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.