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An overview of the Vanda Alliance, How to measure, and How to judge
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The Vanda Alliance is comprised of warm, full sun growing, colorful flowers. They are only found in the Eastern Hemisphere with their range of distribution from northern India to the Mariana Islands and southward to southern India, Sri Lanka and to the Northern Territory of Australia. There are three types of vandas being strap-leaved, semi-terete and terete. The following table outlines the noted species associated with the vandaceous genera.

(From "Vandas and Ascocendas and their combinations with other genera" by David Grove. copyright 1995)

Species	Location	Flowering time
V. alpina	Himalayas from Nepal to Bhutan and Khasia Hills of India	spring , summer
V. bensonii	Burma and Thailand	mainly spring
V. brunnea	Burma, northern Thailand, possibly China	autumn but variable under cultivation
V. coerulea	northeast India, northern Burma, northwest Thailand, China	predominately autumn, but variable with cultivation, may bloom numerous times
V. coerulescens	northern India, Burma, Thailand, China	spring, early summer
V. concolor	China	winter, spring
V. cristata	Himalayas, northern Tibet, southern Bangladesh	spring , summer
V. dearei	lowlands of Borneo	summer, early autumn
V. denisoniana	Burma, China, northern Thailand	spring
V. foetida	Sumatra	summer
V. hastifera	Bornea	continuously (mostly)

Species	Location	Flowering time
V. insignis	Moluccas, Timor, Malayan Archipelago, Java-lower elevations	variable
V. lamellata	Philippines, Taiwan, Sabah, Borneo	variable
V. laotica	Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China	winter, spring
V. lilacina (same as laotica)	Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China	winter, spring
V. limbata	Java, Philippines	Java-july-august; Philippines-june
V. liouvillei	Burma, northern Thailand, Laos	spring
V. luzonica	Philippines on Mr. Pinatubo in Zambales Province	first and fourth quarter of the year
V. merrillii	Philippines, Quezon Province	two to three times per year
V. parviflora = V. testacea	India, Himalayas, Burma, Sri Landa, China	spring
V. pumila	northern Himalayas, Nepal, Sikkim, northeast India, Burma, northern Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China. northern Sumatra	spring (but can flower in any month)
V. roeblingiana	Philippines, island of Luzon	usually summer
V. sanderiana	Philippines on island of Mindanao	usually autumn
V. spathulate = Taprobanea spathulate	Sri Lanka, southern India	throughout the year
V. stangeana	India, Himalayas	july in native habitat
V. sumatrana	Sumatra	summer
V. tessellata	northern India, Nepal, Burma, southern India, Sri Lanka	mainly summer, throughout the year in cultivation
V. testacea	India, Himalayas, Burma, Sri Landa, China	spring
V. tricolor	Indonesia, Java, Bali, Laos, Australia	June to October

From the AOS judging handbook on judging Vanda's. (section 7.1.10) "The general form of the flower leans toward roundness, fullness, and flatness. The dorsal and lateral sepals should be nearly as equal as possible. The petals should be broad and rounded and as nearly equal to the dorsal sepal as possible and should fill the gap between the sepals. The lip should be in harmony with the rest of the flower and in accordance with the ancestral species. The super or nectary, if present, should be harmonious and compatible with the ancestral species. The color of the flower should be definite and clear; suffusion of one color over another should be regular and harmonious, not mottled. Colored venation, if present, should be definite and distinctive, or in regular lines and patterns. The lip should be distinctively colored. The size of the flower should be equal to or greater than the geometric mean of the size of the parents. Substance should be equal to or greater than the average of the parents. The inflorescence should be erect or gracefully arched according to parental background, with the flowers well-spaced and well displayed. The number of flowers will vary according to the species or the breeding. The inflorescence should be mature enough to show the full potential of the flower or flowers. Non-Euanthe type hybrids and species should be judged using the General Scale. "

(The following information is from "Judging Vandas" by Martin Motes. Published in Award Quarterly Vol. 31, No. 1. March 2000)

The purpose of the article is to make the attempt to offer a definition of the types within Vandas and to offer direction for judging of the floral characteristics. If properly judged, these types will be improved over time.

The first distinction is that Vanda and Euanthe are two very different genera. The large flowered hybrids known as Vandas in horticulture are more scientifically referred to as Vandanthes (Vanda x Euanthe) All of these plants are the result of the hybridization of Euanthe sanderiana with the true species of Vanda. The majority of the hybrids in cultivation are the result of just four species: coerulae, dearei, luzonica, tricolor (including var. suavis)

Euanthe sanderiana: All information about Vandas must include an examination of Euanthe sanderiana and its many contributions to breeding. The AOS Handbook on

judging enshrines the many qualities sanderiana brings to the breeding of hybrids. The standard for Vanda breeding is to try to create a flower with all of the aspects being like sanderiana. Color is the only exception where the breeding has been recessive.

The virtues of E. sanderiana are:

1. large flowers up to 5 1/2 inches (only V. coerulea approaches this size)
2. E. sanderiana if full-formed Instead of clawed petals and sepal bases, E. sanderiana produces a very broad base. The best clones have no windowing at their center.
3. Flatness. Sepals and petals are presented in a single plane. Judging this aspect is by looking across the flower from the side.
4. Erect spikes. The flowers stand clear of the plant's top allowing presentation without foliage distraction.
5. The flowers are symmetrically displayed in a cylindrical head. They are neither too crowed or overlapping each other and not to widely spread leaving spaces or holes in the arrangement.
6. E. sanderiana being a classic short day plant, will produce multiple flower spikes- two to six are not uncommon.
7. Color recessive but dominant for shape. The pink base of the color is recessive.
8. In E. sanderiana the color is recess but dominant fo rasp. Crossed to any Vanda species, E. sanderiana produces flowers more like its shape and more like the Vanda in color.

Euanthe sanderiana

Vanda sanderiana