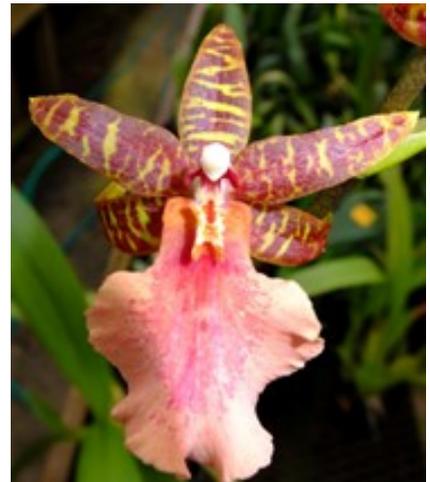


## Degarmoara Orchid Growing in the Riverina region of NSW

This intergeneric hybrid genus (abbreviated to Dgmra.) is a cross between Miltonia, Brassia and Odontoglossum (1, 2). It is therefore considered to part of the Oncidium alliance and has similar cultural requirements. They require conditions similar to Colmanaras and are regarded as one of the easiest members of the Oncidium alliance to grow.

Plants can flower twice a year in autumn and spring if growing well (1). Flowers are large and long lasting and can have a pleasant fragrance (1, 2). Flower colour is usually white, brown, orange with with speckles.

There are very few guides on their culture as mostly they are given the same care as Oncidiums.



'Jacqui Louise'

### Temperature requirements

They are more tolerant of higher temperatures than Odontoglossums due to the Brassia in the parentage (2). They will tolerate temperatures experienced in a protected shadehouse in the Riverina region of NSW where temperatures can reach 40°C in summer and as low as 1°C in winter however they prefer temperatures in the range of 10 to 27°C for optimum growth. They will not tolerate frosts. A drop in temperature is required to promote flowering.

### Light

They prefer low light and about 50-70% shade cloth or 1500-3000fc is ideal in summer (1).

### Humidity and air movement

Degarmoaras prefer a humid environment with 55-75% humidity (1). Damp down the greenhouse floor or use misters to increase humidity. Protect against hot dry wind. They like good air movement particularly as humidity increases. Where necessary this can be provided by roof vents or a fan. Having Miltonia and Odontoglossum in the parentage indicates they prefer to be moist throughout the growing season but drier in the winter rest period.

### Water

They prefer frequent and abundant watering in warmer months (1, 2). Plants grown on mounts may need to be watered daily in summer.

Avoid watering late in the day so leaves are dry by evening (1). They like a drier rest during cooler winter months when they become dormant in the Riverina climate (2). Just apply the occasional water in winter or mist to prevent pseudobulbs shriveling.

Regular watering should recommence in about September when new growths start. Shade-houses should have a solid polycarbonate roof to shelter them from winter rain while allowing good light. If plants are kept too wet they will lose their roots.



'Flying High'

Overwatering in winter and poor drainage are primary causes of plant loss. If plants have wrinkled leaves they may not be getting enough water and may need repotting.

Similarly if pseudobulbs start to shrivel this is a sign plants need more water. Overwatering particularly in cool weather and poor drainage are a common cause of poor plant growth and these should be investigated if plants are not performing well.

Avoid getting water on the flower spikes just before flowering.



'White Fairy'

### Potting medium

They can be grown mounted on wood, bark or tree-fern slabs or grown in pots or wooden baskets (1). Mounted plants allow quicker drying after watering. Keep pots as small as possible. Ensure you have at least 3 bulbs and a new shoot to a division when subdividing ().

Potting medium varies with your watering regime and plant size. As they have finer roots they do best with a smaller grade (9-12mm) bark/pearlite 50:50 mix or 3 parts bark to 1 pearlite (1, 2).



Plants in pots should be repotted about every two years in spring after flowering (1). Plants should be repotted as soon as they have commenced active growth in spring and shoots are 5-7cm tall. Ensure base of new growth is planted about 1.5cm deep into bark but no deeper. They prefer squat shaped pots and do not over pot, use a pot only slightly larger than the old one.

### Fertilizers

They require frequent application of quarter to half strength fertilizer during their growing season. Root tips can die and roots turn brown if the fertilizer is too concentrated.

A teaspoon of gypsum and half a teaspoon of Dolomite sprinkled on the top of the pot will add calcium, magnesium and counter excess acidity.



### Further reading and acknowledgements

The information in this guide has been gained from local growers and the publications below.

1. Degarmoara winter wonderland.  
<https://www.orchidweb.com/products/degarmoara-winter-wonderland-white-fairy~588.html>
2. ABC Gardening Australia Flora's Orchids. ABC Books.

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These notes are intended as a guide only and are composed from available information and local experience. The Wagga Wagga Orchid Society and its members are not responsible for any loss or damage.