

## *Vanda ustii* Golamco, Claustro, & de Mesa

**SYNONYMS:** This species was named in the Waling-Waling Review (the official publication of the Philippine Orchid Society) in February 2000. Plants have been shipped from the Philippines as *Vanda luzonica* var. *immaculata*.

**ORIGIN/HABITAT:** The Philippines. This orchid is known only from the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, and Ifugao on Luzon Island. It grows as an epiphyte at elevations of about 4100 ft. (1250 m).

**CLIMATE:** Station #98328, Baguio, Luzon, Philippines, Lat. 16.4N, Long. 120.6E, at 4962 ft. (1512 m). Temperatures are calculated for an elevation of 4100 ft. (1250 m), resulting in probable extremes of 87F (30C) and 49F (9C).

N/HEMISPHERE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F AVG MAX	75	76	79	80	79	78	74	74	74	76	77	77
F AVG MIN	58	59	61	63	64	64	63	63	63	63	62	60
DIURNAL RANGE	17	17	18	17	15	14	11	11	11	13	15	17
RAIN/INCHES	0.9	0.9	1.7	4.3	15.8	17.2	42.3	45.7	28.1	15.0	4.9	2.0
HUMIDITY/%	83	83	83	85	89	90	93	93	92	89	86	84
BLOOM SEASON	N/A											
DAYS CLR	N/A											
RAIN/MM	23	23	43	109	401	437	1074	1161	714	381	124	51
C AVG MAX	23.8	24.4	26.1	26.7	26.1	25.6	23.3	23.3	23.3	24.4	25.0	25.0
C AVG MIN	14.4	15.0	16.1	17.2	17.8	17.8	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	16.7	15.6
DIURNAL RANGE	9.4	9.4	10.0	9.5	8.3	7.8	6.1	6.1	6.1	7.2	8.3	9.4
S/HEMISPHERE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN

### Cultural Recommendations:

**LIGHT:** 3000-4000 fc. Light should be filtered or diffused, and plants should not be exposed to direct midday sun. Strong air movement should be provided at all times.

**TEMPERATURES:** Summer days average 74-78F (23-26C), and nights average 63-64F (17-18C), with a diurnal range of 11-14F (6-8C). The warmest days of the year occur in spring at the end of the dry season.

**HUMIDITY:** 85-95% most of the year, dropping below 85% in winter.

**WATER:** Rainfall is very heavy from spring to autumn but is greatly reduced in winter. Cultivated plants should be kept moist but not soggy from spring to autumn. Water should be gradually reduced in late autumn.

**FERTILIZER:** 1/4-1/2 recommended strength, applied weekly when plants are actively growing. Many growers use a high-nitrogen fertilizer from spring to midsummer, then switch to one high in phosphates in late summer and autumn.

**REST PERIOD:** Winter days average 75-77F (24-25C), and nights average 58-60F (14-16C), with a diurnal range of 17F (9C). Rainfall is low for 2-4 months in winter, but the continuing high humidity indicates that additional moisture frequently is available from dew or fog and mist. Cultivated plants should be allowed to dry somewhat between waterings, but should have high humidity and never remain dry for long periods. Fertilizer should be reduced or eliminated anytime water is reduced or plants are not actively growing. In the habitat, light may be highest in winter.

**GROWING MEDIA:** Plants are usually grown in hanging pots or slatted wooden baskets filled with a very open, fast draining medium. Some are grown with only enough open chunky medium, such as charcoal, wine corks, or large cork chips, to anchor the plant until it becomes established. The roots should be allowed to grow and hang down as far as they choose and should not be trimmed to make things look neat. Growers indicate that anything more than minimum root trimming may set the plant back 2-3 years. Good air movement around the roots at all times seems to be very important.

**Plant and Flower Information:**

**PLANT SIZE AND TYPE:** A large, upright monopodial epiphyte that may become semipendulous when older and growths become longer. Plants produce thick roots that may grow to as much as 18 in. (300 cm) long.

**STEM:** Up to 39 in. (100 cm) long on older specimens.

**LEAVES:** Up to 14 in. (35 cm) long by 0.8 in. (2 cm) wide. The gracefully curving leaves alternate on the stem and are unequally bilobed at the tip.

**INFLORESCENCE:** Length not reported. The horizontal to pendulous flower spikes emerge from the base of the leaves.

**FLOWERS:** Up to 12 per inflorescence. The flowers have sepals and petals that are creamy yellow, with tan or pinkish markings near their tips on some clones. The lip is magenta with some white at the base. Flowers are about 2 in. (5 cm) across. The spatulate dorsal sepal is erect, about 1 in. (2.5 cm) long, and has a fairly narrow, long, stemlike base. It then spreads abruptly to about 0.7 in. (1.7 cm) wide above the middle and then curves into a rounded to bluntly pointed apex. The obliquely descending lateral sepals are similar in shape to the dorsal sepal but have a shorter stem at the base. They are up to 1 in. (2.5 cm) long by about 0.7 in. (1.7 cm) wide near the middle. The obliquely ascending petals are spatulate with long, narrow, stemlike bases. They are up to 0.9 in. (2.3 cm) long by 0.7 in. (1.7 cm) wide but twist at the base so that the surface of the blade that normally faces forward faces downward and the normally back side faces upward. The 3-lobed lip is up to 0.7 in. (1.8 cm) long by 0.5 in. (1.3 cm) wide across the spreading, somewhat squarish lateral lobes. The rather squarish to heart-shaped midlobe is slightly narrower.

**REFERENCES:** These cultural notes are written by Charles and Margaret Baker  
ORCHID SPECIES CULTURE <http://www.orchidculture.com/>

Cootes, J. 1999. *The Orchids of the Philippines*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

**PHOTOS/DRAWINGS:** Cootes, J. 1999. *The Orchids of the Philippines*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. (Color photo)