



BROWNS NURSERY

GROWERS OF FINE PLANTS

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Vireya Rhododendrons originate from South East Asian countries including New Guinea, Borneo, the Philippines and Malaysia. Since their discovery in the mid nineteenth century many hybrids have been and are still being raised. New Zealand is at the forefront of this ongoing hybridising.

Although Vireyas come from a tropical region, growing conditions in New Zealand are well suited to them.

Garden Situation:

- Drainage is extremely important for Vireyas. Raised beds, the use of ponga rings set above the soil surface to elevate the plant and the addition of bark, potting mix or good quality compost, all aid in drainage.
- Keep the roots cool by adding mulch to the surface. Bark is ideal.
- Do not disturb the root ball when planting.
- Fertiliser - a little and often is the rule here as Vireyas are capable of constant growth. Slow release fertilisers are best. Liquid feed can also be applied.
- Watering - keep well watered during the summer and autumn. At other times of the year, natural rainfall should be adequate.
- Light - Vireyas require good levels of light to flower properly.
- Frost - protect from frost.

Containers:

- Use containers with good drainage holes.
- Use commercial potting or container mixes.
- Do not place a saucer under the container as this impedes good drainage.
- Do not over pot your Vireyas.
- Apply fertiliser and water as for ground grown plants.

General:

- Deadheading - remove all spent flower heads as soon as possible after flowering by breaking off the seed pods. This helps conserve food and energy and promotes the generation of new growth and flowers on the plant.
- Spraying - thrips and powdery mildew are the two main problems. Shield or Rose and Shrub Spray are the easiest to use during the spring and summer. Always use as directed on the label. Ask for advice at your local Garden Centre.

In Brief:

- Good drainage
- Adequate water
- Regular fertiliser
- Plenty of light
- Protect the roots from damage
- Protect from frosts
- Spray spring and summer for thrips and powdery mildew
- Deadhead after flowering

**Well grown healthy plants will flower throughout the year.
Enjoy Versatile Vireyas from New Zealand's Vireya Specialists.**