

A Grower's Notes for Victoria Cultivation

By Kathy Cahill – Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, IL

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- Community sown seeds, 4-5" pots
 - Screen sand/silt/clay soil with $\approx 20\%$ chick grit (quartzite)
 - Under ≈ 2 " water, 5.5ph
 - Germinate – 82°
 - Approximately 10 days for Longwood Hybrid (100% germination rate)
 - Extra week for parents (20-40% germination rate)
 - Alternatively germinate in floating sandwich bags, 5.5ph, 82°
 - I do not pierce the operculum
 - Top off tanks or overflow to clean
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- Grow 1-2 floating leaves then
 - Gently tease plants apart in a dishpan of water
 - 4" pots to start, gradually boost as necessary
 - Initial soil: fertilizer ratio for 4" pot: 5 gallon bucket of soil mixed with 6 crushed PondTabbs with Humates (quarter sized).
 - Increase up to 26 crushed PondTabbs per 5 gallons of soil when you're in 10" pots
 - When transplanting: Hit with 16 hrs/day of light, basically until transplant shock dissipates
 - I have 125W 6500K 5U bulbs right over my tanks
 - Clean algae by hand. Alternatively use a very weak Pylam dye and/or pistia, hyacinth to filter

Thank you.