

PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID

Information & Care Instructions

Orchids are the largest species of plants in the world. There are no other species of plants that are formed in such diverse environments and climates. They are naturally found in mountains, forests, valleys, cliffs and trees. They readily adapt to most climates.

Everyone assumes that orchids are delicate and difficult to care for. This is not so! In reality, orchids are very hardy, resilient plants. The following information will help you get to know your Phalaenopsis orchid so that you can enjoy your plant for many, many years.

Growing Medium: Phalaenopsis are grown in a very unique medium to ensure quality. Styrofoam peanuts are used to insure aeration, charcoal to absorb any impurities the medium may have, and New Zealand sphagnum moss which has proven itself excellent for your orchids by its cleanliness.

Water: As with most things, moderation is the key. When the weather is hot and dry the plant needs water more often, even three or four times weekly. As the weather becomes cool and overcast, watering twice a week is usually sufficient. Another method of determining if it is time for watering is by placing your fingers on the growing medium at the base of the plant. If it does not feel moist to the touch, it is time to water your Phalaenopsis.

Feed: Your orchid should be fed about every other week using a liquid plant food applied at one-half the label strength. Orchid food is available in our fertilizer section.

Light: Your orchid is a low light plant, like ferns or African violets. Ideal light is approximately 10000 foot candles. Never expose your orchid to direct sunlight. This will cause burns and will kill your plant. A bright room is perfect, but never in full sun.

Temperature: Your orchid is a lot like you as far as temperature goes. Chances are that if you are comfortable, your plants will thrive. Your orchid likes the zone from 70 to 80 degrees best. Never expose your orchid to temperatures below 50 degrees or above 100 degrees.

Cultivating: When the flowers fall off, cut the flower spikes back to approximately one-half inch below where the oldest flower was. The old flower spike will often blossom again from the side branches that are produced lower down on the spike.

Flowering ability: Phalaenopsis bloom December through May. Each flower in full bloom lasts 2-3 months ensuring continuous enjoyment. As Phalaenopsis mature the number of buds in the spike increase.