





How to Care for Orchids

Orchid Type	Light	Humidity	Water	Fertilizer	Notes
 Phalaenopsis	Bright indirect light East facing window or Shaded South or West window	Optional: Place on trays of moistened pebbles to increase humidity	Remove any water that gets into the crown of the plant (where the new leaves form) to avoid crown rot	Once a month with diluted fertilizer	Plants need a 15° F temperature difference between night and day to bloom
 Paphiopedilum	Bright indirect light East facing window or Shaded South or West window	Optional: Place on trays of moistened pebbles to increase humidity	Care should be taken not to overwater to avoid rotting the roots	Once a month with diluted fertilizer	Plants need a 15° F temperature difference between night and day to bloom
 Cattleya	Bright light South or West facing window	Place on trays of moistened pebbles to increase humidity	They like to be almost dry before re-watering	Once a month with diluted fertilizer	Plants need a 15° F temperature difference between night and day to bloom
 Cymbidium	Very bright light Sunroom is ideal	Place on trays of moistened pebbles to increase humidity	They like to be almost dry before re-watering	Once a month with diluted fertilizer. Add slow-release fertilizer in the summer	Leave outdoors until the end of October. Keep cool during winter months

General Watering Tips

- The #1 cause of death in orchids is overwatering. Each plant has unique water needs dependent on the plant and pot size and the ambient temperature.
- Learn to evaluate the dryness of the medium your orchid is growing in. This can be achieved by feeling the weight of the pot (water adds weight), or by touching within the medium to check for moisture.
- When in doubt, do not water as most orchids can tolerate drying out for a short time.
- Water orchids with tepid water for several minutes, until it drains out of the bottom of the pot. Do not use salt-softened water.
- Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

Orchid Resources

Longwood Gardens

The GardenShop

- Books
- Plants
- Orchid Potting Mix

Take a class

Longwood Gardens Continuing Education
www.longwoodlearning.org

Additional Information

American Orchid Society

www.aos.org