How to Care for Orchids

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

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