



NEW GARDEN
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Growing Orchids-Phalaenopsis

Known as the Moth Orchid, this is one of the very best varieties for home growing.

They prefer temperatures between 70° and 86° during the day, with a 10-15 degree at night—but no lower than 60° .

Happy in a bright window, phalaenopsis needs little or no direct sun. Artificial lighting is excellent for this type of orchid.

Phalaenopsis have no water storage organs, unlike some other types of orchids. For this reason, their roots must never completely dry out. In the heat of summer in a dry climate, this may mean watering every other day. Check first to see if the potting medium is dry almost all the way to the bottom of the pot. Again, pebble trays are recommended to provide the high humidity these plants love.

Orchids in the wild are fertilized only by tiny bits of organic material that wash over their roots, so they are generally not heavy feeders. We suggest a half-strength mixture of a 20-20-20 formulation, or a fertilizer specifically made for orchids during growing season, fed twice a month.

To ensure that your phalaenopsis orchids will rebloom, the following procedure is important. For two to three weeks in the spring and fall, when the outside night temperature is between 50° and 60°, place your plants outside in a sheltered location (a screened porch or covered patio is ideal). They will not bloom unless they are exposed to night temperatures that are 15 to 25 degrees cooler than daytime temperatures.

See also our [Growing Orchids](#) Info sheet.

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