

Care
Guide



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look after
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think.

Orchids *made easy*



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Caring for Orchids

Phalaenopsis orchids have become a very popular houseplant in recent years and for very good reasons. Available in a wide variety of colours, these exotic beauties are surprisingly easy to grow, even for the less experienced gardener. The flowers last for months and, with minimum care, Phalaenopsis orchids can be encouraged to flower again and again.

Phalaenopsis Orchids

- Warm growing orchid
- Long flowering season
- Repot occasionally in spring to early summer
- Needs bright, indirect light all year round
- Minimum temperature 16°C (60°F)
- Easy to grow



Phalaenopsis Orchid or Moth Orchid

Never let orchids or their pots sit in water.



Perform best in a warm, bright room, away from draughts. Occasionally wipe off any dust with a damp cloth. Once flowers have faded, cut the main flowering stem right back to just above the second node (bump) from the base to encourage new flower shoots. If a large and healthy plant is slow to flower, reduce the temperature by 5°C (41°F) for four weeks to induce budding.

During the growing season, apply an orchid feed when watering. Repeat a cycle of feeding three times with water, followed by a fourth time with *just* water, no feed. In the winter, feed sparingly and keep the compost moist.



Dendrobium Orchids

Dendrobium
Orchid



- Dendrobium Nobile is a cool growing orchid
- Dendrobium Phalaenopsis is a warm growing orchid
- These plants prefer smaller pots
- Needs bright, indirect light all year round
- Minimum temperatures: Nobile 14°C (57°F), Phalaenopsis 25°C (77°F)

How to choose a healthy plant:

Check for the following:

- Firm, glossy, undamaged leaves.
- Several unopened flower buds.
- Healthy roots - these will be either green or silvery and plump, not brown and withered. There may be roots growing out of the pot - this is normal.

All Dendrobiums enjoy high humidity and plenty of indirect, bright light. They can be fed every 30 days with an orchid fertiliser and should be kept away from cold draughts.

During the growing period, water them generously. Rain water at room temperature is the best option. They do not like standing in water but do like high humidity, so a regular misting is beneficial.

During the dormant period, *Dendrobium Nobile* requires almost no watering, only some occasional spraying. It needs a 'shock' in order to flower: either a sharp drop in temperature or lack of moisture is ideal. They will naturally shed their leaves during this time.

For *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis*, keep the compost moist during the dormant period. These plants require a 5°C drop in temperature to start the flowering process. If they are slow to flower, reduce the temperature a little more and hold back on watering to induce flower buds.

Hints & tips

Orchids like to keep their "feet" dry. Always water your plants early in the day to allow for water to dry before cooler night-time temperatures. Use cotton swabs to remove excess water that gets stuck in the little nooks of your plant.

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Cymbidium Orchids

- Cool growing orchid
- Flowers mid-autumn to mid-spring
- Repot occasionally in mid-spring after flowering
- Needs bright, indirect light all year round
- Minimum temperature 8°C (46°F)

Prefers a cool, bright room, away from direct sunlight. Can be taken outdoors from June to September, so long as the temperature is below 30°C (86°F) and it is positioned away from direct sunlight. Placing this orchid outside will induce flower spikes to develop, especially when there is a noticeable drop between day and night time temperatures.

When to repot:

Repot your orchid when it has been in the same compost for 2 years or when it has outgrown its current pot. Always use fresh orchid compost and reuse your old pot if the plant will fit. Snip off any dead roots with sterile scissors – these will be brown, mushy, shrivelled or hollow in appearance.

Phalaenopsis: Prefer a clear pot as the roots like to grow towards light. Shorten the remaining roots, which should be white and firm to 12cm (5in). Leave any roots that are growing into the air.

Cymbidium: Repot after flowering. There is no need to have a clear pot for this type of orchid. Shorten the remaining roots, which should be white and firm to 15-20cm (6-8in).

During flower spike development keep this plant below 15°C (59°F) to prevent flower buds falling off. Allow the flowers to fully open before moving the plant into a warmer location for display purposes.

Apply a half strength feed every third watering in spring, switching to full strength in summer. Reduce or halt feeding over winter.



Cymbidium Orchid

If necessary, remove any congested pseudo bulbs with an old bread knife, maintaining a clump of no fewer than five pseudo bulbs to maintain the plant's flowering ability.

Dendrobiums: Prefer small pots so unhealthy roots are rarely encountered. When repotting, there should only be room for two new shoots. For larger varieties, use pebbles in the base of the pot to stabilise the plant and improve drainage. To improve stability further, tie any long stems together with raffia or twine.