

# Orchid Care

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## Phalaenopsis

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Orchids are very easy to care for as long as you take notice of each Orchid's preferences. These preferences include humidity, light, air, watering, feeding, temperature, and potting.

Phalaenopsis Orchids are considered among the easiest of the orchid family to care for as well as the most common. This is the variety Good Earth usually carries. The long-lasting flowers bloom perfectly for up to three months, providing you with ample return on your investment.

**Light:** Phalaenopsis will flourish indoors under normal lighting conditions, with indirect sunlight being the most advantageous. Do not place your Orchid in direct sunlight due to the fact that its leaves burn easily from too much exposure to the sun.

**Temperature:** Phalaenopsis enjoy much the same temperature range as we do. The minimum temperature at night is 60-65°F, while the average daytime temperature should be around 75-85°F. Occasional deviations will not harm your plant, except when it is in bud -- chilly temperatures may cause the plant to stop budding.

**Water:** Watering your Orchid once a week is normally sufficient to keep a 6 inch size plant healthy and happy. Water smaller sized a little more often.

**Humidity:** Phalaenopsis enjoy moist air, with a humidity level of 55-75% being ideal. Placing your plant over a tray or dish of water can increase moisture. Separate the pot and tray with pebbles or small stones to raise the height of your plant and ensure that it does not sit directly in water. Mist your orchid occasionally.

**Feeding:** Good results may be obtained by using an Orchid food year-round at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water. Feed your plant once a month. In this instance, less is more. So be sure not to overdo it.

**Repotting:** plants should be repotted at least every other year. A medium-grade wood bark works well with the base of the bottom leaf at the surface of the medium. It is usually recommended to soak your Orchid Mix in water for up to 8 hours before using. Water sparingly until new roots are well established. It is best to repot /orchids when they are out of bloom.

**Reblooming:** Phalaenopsis Orchids do rebloom; usually every 6 months or so. Cut any brown or spent stems off of your Orchid. Pay attention for any life or new shoots from just above a "node" and just below the lowest bloom. The plant will frequently send out a new flowering branch at that location. Carefully water and fertilize your plant to build it back into shape for future flowering on a brand-new stem. Be patient with Phalaenopsis, like most Orchids, it is a relatively slow-growing plant.

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