

# Phalaenopsis Orchids

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Phalaenopsis orchids are ideal house plants and are very easy to grow! They flower during the winter and early spring months. The beautiful blooms can last up to 4 months! As they age, the number of buds on the spike increases.

## **LIGHT:**

In a home, placement near a window is ideal.

Bright, east or west exposure is recommended. If placed in south exposure, filter sun. They require some direct sunlight to encourage good growth and blooms. 1-3 hours of direct sun is best in average home temperatures, but if temperature is above 85° F, full shade is required.

## **TEMPERATURE:**

Your orchid is a lot like you as far as temperature goes. Chances are that if you are comfortable, your orchid will thrive. Your orchid likes temperatures around 60F - 85F degrees best. Never expose your orchid to temperatures below 50 degrees or above 100 degrees. In late summer and early fall, the Phalaenopsis requires a 15° drop between day and night temps to start the bloom cycle. Example: Day 68° Night 53°

## **WATER AND SOIL:**

As with most things, moderation is the key. Again, your orchid is a lot like you when it comes to water. When the weather is hot and dry the plant needs water more often, even 3-4 times weekly. As the weather becomes cool and overcast, watering twice a week is usually sufficient. Another method of determining if it's time for watering is by placing your fingers on the growing medium at the base of the plant, if it feels dry to the touch it is time to water your orchid.

Phalaenopsis orchids are grown in a very unique medium to ensure quality. Styrofoam peanuts are used to insure aeration, charcoal is used to absorb any impurities in the medium and new Zealand sphagnum moss, which has proven itself excellent for your orchids by its cleanliness. Orchid potting bark mix is also good.

## **FERTILIZER:**

Fertilize your orchid with 30-10-10 every three to four weeks. In late summer a low nitrogen fertilizer, 10-50-10 (a bloom booster) is recommended to promote flowering.

## **GROOMING:**

Once your orchid has finished blooming, cut the bloom spike 2" below the last flower to promote additional spiking. Flower count and the number of blooming spikes will increase over time. Using this method with regular fertilizing and your Phalaenopsis can bloom and re-bloom for 6 or 7 months of the year.