



Phalaenopsis are commonly referred to as “moth orchids” and are considered among the easiest of the orchid family to care for. There are some 60 species in the genus, found throughout south and east Asia into Australia. The long-lasting flowers bloom perfectly for up to six months, providing you ample return on your investment. The flowering intervals vary with each plant and you may be treated to blooms as often as twice a year.

Temperature

Phalaenopsis enjoy much the same temperature range as we do. The minimum preferred temperature range at night is 15° - 18°C, while the average daytime temperature should be around 23° - 30°C. Occasional deviations will not harm your plant, except when it is in bud - chilly temperatures may cause the plant to drop buds (called bud blast).

Light

Phalaenopsis will flourish indoors under normal lighting conditions, with indirect sunlight being the most advantageous. Caution should be used when placing a *phalaenopsis* in direct sunlight as the leaves burn easily from too much exposure to the sun.

Water

Water often enough to keep continuous moisture just below the surface of the medium, but be cautious of over-watering. Watering once a week is normally sufficient to keep your plant healthy and happy. Rather under-water than over-water!

Feeding

Good results may be obtained by using a general-purpose fertiliser as well as fertilisers high in nitrogen all year round. When a spike emerges, switch to a feed that is high in phosphorus and potassium to give the flowers an extra boost. Feed once a month at one-third or half of the recommended dilution.

Humidity

Phalaenopsis require humidity levels of between 55 and 75 percent. To increase humidity in the house place the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist.

Cutting Dead Flower Spike

After your *phalaenopsis* has finished flowering cut the spike off 2 or 3 cm above the next growth node (looks like a little green bump) just after where the flower closest to the leaves was positioned. Your plant should flower from this point again.

Repotting

Repot every two to three years during spring with a well-draining medium. Because they grow upwards, the plants can often go back into the same sized pot. Water sparingly until the new roots are well established. *Phalaenopsis* also do well mounted on bark.

Did you know?

Over 75% of all orchids sold globally are *phalaenopsis*.

Did you know?

Very few *phalaenopsis* are bred, propagated, flowered, and sold in the same country. Their journey may take them from Holland, to Japan, to Korea, then to your country.