

Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid)



Origin and Range

Species can be found throughout South East Asia, the Philippines, New Guinea and parts of Australia. Most are epiphytes (grow on trees).

Watering and Nutrition

Allow the potting mix to dry to some extent before watering. Water in the morning to allow the leaves and the crown of the plant to dry before nightfall. Many beginners (and professional growers!!) kill Phalaenopsis because they water too often. Fertilize every other watering with a weak nutrient solution (150 to 200ppm). Avoid using fertilizers with urea.

Light and Shade

Avoid direct sunlight. An eastern, western or shaded southern window is ideal. 1,000 foot candles of light is required for best growth. Pale green leaves indicate excessive light levels.

Temperature and Humidity

65° F (18° C) at night and 75° to 85° F (23° to 29° C) during the day is optimum. 50 to 60% relative humidity is best for superior growth. Small seedlings can be grown warmer.

Air Circulation

Constant air circulation is critical and will prevent bacterial diseases. Avoid hot or cold drafts.

Potting

Good drainage is essential. Medium grade fir bark mixed with coarse perlite and a small amount of peat is best. Repot when the mix decomposes or the plant outgrows its container. Soak fir bark for one full day prior to potting.

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