

# Growing Orchids in Your Home

## Light

Light requirements vary according to different types of orchids. Pay particular attention to the light requirements for each type of orchid. If the orchid prefers low light do not situate it in high light otherwise the leaves will scorch. Feeding: Use only recommended fertilizer for orchids. Feed only actively growing orchids. After blooms fade 20 - 20 - 20 can be used. Switch to 19 - 31 - 17 as soon as flower spikes appear or when new growth commences. Always fertilize at 1/2 strength at every watering. When in doubt though, don't feed.



## Repotting

Orchids need a very well drained mix in which to grow. After a while, the mix will deteriorate necessitating repotting. Repot once a year into same pot or pot one size up. Take the orchid out of the pot and carefully loosen roots and old mix. Cut out any dead, dying or diseased roots. Replace all the old medium with brand new orchid mix (mostly bark) and carefully replant the orchid at about the same depth it was growing or slightly deeper. Water it in well to settle the medium around the roots.

## Watering

This varies for different orchids but generally speaking, they should not dry out completely between waterings as they are native to areas where there is consistent moisture in their medium and moisture in the air. Water enough to thoroughly moisten the medium but never allow the roots to stand in water.

## Humidity

Orchids generally prefer moderately humid to very humid conditions. The easiest way to raise the humidity levels around the plants is to place them on humidity trays. Your goal is to raise humidity levels around the immediate plant. Simply fill a saucer or tray with pebbles and add water to the pebbles and place the pots on top. It is imperative not to allow the pots to sit in water at any time. The evaporating water will create humidity around the immediate plant.



**780-467-7557**

**Here are some types of orchids that are easy to grow right in your own home.**

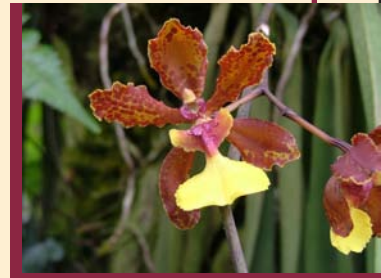
### **Phalaenopsis – Moth Orchid**

- Native to Indonesia, the Moth Orchid is the easiest to grow.
- Blooms resemble Moths.
- Flowers come in pinks, whites, yellows & mauves and can be solid, spotted or striped.
- These are great orchids for the novice grower because they don't need a lot of light to do well. Phalaenopsis prefer low light such as a north or east facing window. Shade from direct light.
- Blooms are long lasting, persisting for 3 – 5 months and may bloom 2 times a year.



### **Oncidium – Dancing Ladies Orchid**

- Blooms resemble ball gowns.
- Colours range from yellow to red with burgundy, white or brown markings; some blooms are fragrant.
- Blooms are long lasting; plants produce several blossoms on one stem. Because of the high number of blossoms, these orchids are best planted in tall pots. Oncidium orchids prefer to be slightly rootbound.
- Plants require medium to high light such as an east or west window.



### **Cattleya – Corsage Orchid**

- Native to South and Central America.
- Large blooms are often used in corsages, come in several colours and are fragrant.
- Require a brightly lit area, and high humidity.
- While most orchids prefer an evenly moist soil, Cattleya actually prefer to dry out between waterings.
- Cattleya orchids prefer to be slightly rootbound, so transplanting often is not required.



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### **Dendrobium Orchid – Phalaenopsis Orchid**

- Called Phalaenopsis as their blooms are similar to those of the Moth Orchid.
- Come from Southeast Asia and the Himalayas. One of the largest groups within the orchid family.
- Blooms range from pure white to yellow, greens, pinks and purples. Their sturdy stems and long lasting nature make them a popular cutflower.
- Stems carry 10 - 40 blooms lasting from 6 - 12 weeks
- Dendrobiums prefer moderate to high light (east or west window).
- Water generously, letting the medium dry between watering.
- Mature plants can bloom 2 - 3 times per year.



### **Paphiopedalum Orchid – Lady Slipper Orchid**

- Prized for its rich colours and unusual shape.
- Flowers come in green, white and burgundy.
- Blooms last 3 - 6 weeks between fall & spring.
- Papiopedilum orchids prefer low light such as near a north or east facing window. Leaves will bleach with too much light.



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