



PHALANENOPSIS



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Phalaenopsis, the Moth orchid, is one of the easiest growing and most rewarding for the beginner with or without a greenhouse. A mature plant can bloom for 3 months. Flowers stem on certain hybrids can be forced to rebloom by cutting the tip off after the initial flowering.

TEMPERATURE—Extreme cold is not tolerated, but nights temperature of 55°F encourage flowering. Phalaenopsis grow well between temperature of 70-85°F. Great fluctuating daily temperature may cause bud drop .

LIGHT—Phalaenopsis grows easily in a bright window. An east window

is ideal in the home; shaded-south or west windows are acceptable. Leaves should be of medium green.

WATER—Don't allow to dry completely. The bark should be moist but not soggy; water once a week.

HUMIDITY—Humidity is important to Phalaenopsis. The recommended humidity is between 50-80% .

Humidity can be increased by placing plant over a tray of water, with some gravel, etc., to raise the pot above the water.

FERTILIZING—Must be provided on a regular basis, especially if the weather is warm, when the plant are most often growing. Twice a month applications of high-nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) , or a similar formulation. When flowering is desired, a high-phosphorus fertilizer(10-30-20) , or a similar formulation may be applied to promote blooming.

POTTING—Best done after blooming, Phalaenopsis plants must be potted in a well-draining mix, such as fir bark. Potting is usually done every 1-3 years.

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