

Phalaenopsis (or Moth Orchid) are easy to grow and are one of the most popular flowering plants to be grown in the home. Cared for correctly, your Orchid could bring you many years of colour.

Where to display your orchid

Phalaenopsis don't like to be in full sun, they prefer bright but indirect light, an east facing window sill is ideal.

Ideal temperatures are approximately 29°C in the day and 18°C at night. You can tell if your orchid is happy where it is by its leaves, they should be mid-green in colour and firm. Keep out of draughts and away from radiators.

Watering your orchid

They should be grown in a bark rich mixture but care should be taken not to let them dry out completely. Tepid water should be used when watering, as with most orchids over watering should be avoided. Water in the morning roughly twice weekly (depending on your condition i.e. light, temp, air movement etc) allowing the top of the media to dry out slightly between waterings. Do not let the plant sit in water as their roots will rot. A pot with drainage holes is best. They benefit from misting (foliage only) which reflects the humidity of their tropical origin.

Feeding

Feed them 2 -3 times a month in the summer and 1 -2 times a month in winter, using a specialist orchid feed.

After flowering

Looked after properly, your phalaenopsis should flower for up to three months or more. After flowering cut the stem back to the second or third node (joint) below the spent flowers. From this a new flowering system should develop. Water twice weekly and feed once a month with a balanced fertilizer diluted to half strength.

