

Phalaenopsis Orchid Growing

Phalaenopsis orchids are among the easiest and most rewarding orchids to grow and has become one of Australians favorite orchid. The plants adapt well to the environment of the home or office. From the time that the first flower bud opens, the sprays will remain in bloom for 2 to 3 months.



Lighting

Sufficient lighting is a must for successful cultivation. Phalaenopsis orchids prefer either an east or a lightly shaded south facing window. West windows should be used with caution. Depending upon the location of the home, the west window may become very hot during the late spring through early fall. The foliage on your Phalaenopsis may burn.

Phal equestris

Watering

Depending upon the temperature, Phalaenopsis orchids should be watered about twice a month. During the summer, the plants may need to be watered once a week. The rule of thumb for watering should be as followed: more heat more water, less heat less water.

Phalaenopsis orchids potted in New Zealand sphagnum moss should be watered less often, about once a month.

Phalaenopsis orchids prefer to be kept on the moist side. This does not mean that they like to be left in standing water, however try to water the plants early in the day so that the foliage will be dry by nightfall.

Humidity

Phalaenopsis orchids prefer 50% humidity. Often a kitchen or bathroom will provide sufficient humidity.

Fertilizer

Phalaenopsis orchids must be fertilized on a regular basis! For the best results, use nutrients every other month. It is recommended to pre-water the plants before applying the diluted nutrient solution if the potting media is dry.

Potting

Phalaenopsis orchids may be grown in either New Zealand Spagnum Moss or Medium Orchid Bark Mix. Phalaenopsis should be repotted once every two and a half years. Ideally Phalaenopsis orchids should be repotted immediately after flowering.

Pests

Common pests associated with Phalaenopsis orchids are scaled, mealy bugs and spider mites. X-CLUDE, an encapsulated pyrethrum time-release insecticide is the most efficient method of pest control.



Phal Leopard Prince

These notes have been used at our Cultural and New Grower's Meetings. They are from various sources and we thank the authors. All articles are supplied in good faith and the Bribie Island Orchid Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.