

Parkside Orchid Nursery

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Hours: Friday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm

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Orchid plants Potting supplies Gift Certificates Beginners and advanced classes Special Events

ORCHID CARE SHEET

PHALAENOPSIS

LIGHT They grow easily in a very bright window, with little direct sun. In the home an east window is ideal or shaded south or west windows are acceptable.

TEMPERATURES for Phalaenopsis should be above 60°F at night, and range between 75° and 85°F or more during the day. Night temperatures to 55°F are desirable for several weeks in the fall, in order to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

WATER. Because they have no major water storage organs other than their leaves, they must never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered and not watered again until nearly dry through the pot. Water only in the morning, so that the leaves are dry by nightfall, to prevent rot from occurring on the leaves.

FERTILIZER should be applied on a regular schedule. Dilute applications of 20-20-20 or similar formula may be applied once a week. It is beneficial to water thoroughly without fertilizer once a month.

POTTING is best done in the spring, after blooming. Repotting is usually done every 1 to 2 years.

For Phalaenopsis growing in peat based mixes like Pro-Mix and Sphagnum Moss refer to the following.

Phalaenopsis potted in peat based mixtures, like Pro-Mix or sphagnum moss require less water and fertilizer than in other media. They may only need water once every 7-10 days. Any of the balanced fertilizers, such as 20-20-20, or similar formula may be added to the water once a month at the rate of one teaspoon per gallon. Too much water or too much fertilizer will damage Phalaenopsis, especially those in a peat based mix, so the best practice is to water and fertilize lightly and not too often.

MILTONIOPSIS

LIGHT Miltoniopsis require about 1000-1500 foot-candles of diffused light. Their foliage tends to be yellow-green, but when the leaves become quite yellow, this indicates the plant is receiving too much light.

TEMPERATURES Prefer the same house temperatures as people with optimal night time temps between 55-60°F and days below 80°F. **WATER** Keep moist at all times, never allow to dry out.

FERTILIZER should be applied on a regular schedule. Dilute applications of 20-20-20 or similar formula may be applied once a week. It is beneficial to water thoroughly without fertilizer once a month

POTTING Repot after blooming in a fine but well draining mix of fir bark, charcoal and perlite. If summer temperatures are high, avoid repotting until cooler weather.

CATTLEYA

LIGHT Bright light to some sun must be given to the plants, but no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means a southeast, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain), or west window in the home. Leaves should be a medium green color, not dark green.

TEMPERATURES are recommended for 55-60°F at night and 70-85°F during the day. A 10-20 degree differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated if humidity, air circulation, and shading are increased.

WATER Watering is dictated by many criteria size and type of pot, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again.

FERTILIZER should be applied on a regular schedule. Dilute applications of balanced formula may be applied once a week. It is beneficial to water thoroughly without fertilizer once a month Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when 1) the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot, or 2) the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). It is best to repot 1) just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, 2) after flowering, or 3) in the springtime. Cattleyas are usually potted in medium-grade potting material, with seedlings in fine-grade. Until a plant has six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, 3 to 5 bulbs per division are required.

ONCIDIUM

Includes: Alcra, Bilra, Brsdm, Burr, Colm, Dgmra, Mtssa, Mtdm, Odcn, Odtna, Onc, Vuyl, Wils

LIGHT Oncidiums can be grown in just bright to almost full direct sun depending on the plant. Most will thrive with one to several hours of sun a day. Generally thicker-leaved plants can stand more light, such as "mule-ear" and "equitant" Oncidiums. In the home, southeast, south (shaded in the summer) or west windows are ideal. Many types will grow under artificial light: four fluorescent tubes 6 to 12 inches over the plants are necessary for proper growth.

TEMPERATURES for this group are generally called intermediate to warm: 55 to 60° F at night, and 80 to 85° degrees F during the day. Temperatures to 95 to 100° F are tolerated if humidity and air movement are increased as the temperature increases.

WATER requirements vary with the type of plant. Generally, plants with large fleshy roots and/or leaves need less frequent watering than thin-leaved and/or thin-rooted plants. Watering should be thorough, and plants should dry at least halfway through the pot before watering again. Frequency will depend on weather, pot size and material, type of orchid and type of potting medium.

FERTILIZER should be applied on a regular schedule. Dilute applications of balanced formula may be applied once a week. It is beneficial to water thoroughly without fertilizer once a month. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent buildup of fertilizer salts.

REPOT when new growth begins from the base of the plant, which is usually in the spring. A fine-grade potting medium is usually used with fine-rooted plants and coarser mixes with large-rooted plants; the standard size is medium-grade. The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth(s) are farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growth before crowding the pot.

MASDEVALLIAS/PLEUROTHALLIDS

LIGHT Grow in an east, or shaded south window or under fluorescent lights.

TEMPERATURES Should be cool to intermediate depending on the type. Night time temps between 55 & 60 and day time 75 to 80 are ideal.

WATER Should never be allowed to dry completely, and good quality water is imperative.

FERTILIZER Dilute applications of balanced formula may be applied every other week.

REPOT Yearly in the early spring in fine grade potting mix or sphagnum moss.

PAPHIOPEDILUM

LIGHT is easier to provide for "paphs", as we will call them, than many other types of orchids. The mottle-leaved, like shady conditions. In the home an east or west window, or **near** a shaded south window. The strap-leaved types need brighter conditions. This means a southeast, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain), or bright west window in the home.

TEMPERATURES A general rule of thumb divides Paphs into two groups, the warm growing mottled-leaf types and the cool-growing, green-leaf types. Warm-growing types should be 60 to 65° F at night and 75 to 80° F or more during the day. Cool-growing types should be 50 to 60° F at night, 75 to 80° F during the day. Many growers grow all plants in the same temperature range with excellent results.

WATER must be available at the plants roots constantly, since they have no pseudobulbs, and therefore store most of their water in their leaves. They need a moist medium, never soggy, but never dry. Water once or twice a week, depending on the pot size.

FERTILIZER must be applied on a regular schedule, but care must be taken to avoid burning of the fleshy, hairy roots. Dilute applications of balanced formula may be applied once a week. It is important to flush with clear water monthly to leach excess fertilizer, which can burn roots. In cool weather, fertilizer applications once a month are sufficient.

POTTING should be done every one to two years, or as the medium decomposes. Seedlings are often repotted annually. Mixes vary tremendously; most are fine- and/or medium-grade fir bark, with varying additives perlite (sponge-rock), charcoal etc. Moisture retention with excellent drainage is needed.

CYMBIDIUMS

Plants like very bright light and cool temperatures in the fall and winter. Water thoroughly and fertilize (20-20-20) often during the spring and summer period of active growth. Reduce water and fertilizer, especially during the cooler months. In the fall temperatures in the 40s or lower, for several weeks, are required to initiate the flowering process. Repot in terrestrial orchid mix when plants outgrow their pots. Do not over pot.

DENDROBIUMS

Warm growing Dendrobiums are often called phalaenopsis type Dendrobiums, because of the flower shape. These plants like very bright light. Avoid the most intense sun during the summer. Water thoroughly, then allow them dry out before watering again. Feed with a balanced fertilizer several times a month. Repot in orchid potting media when plants outgrow their pots or every two years.