

HOW TO



care for your ORCHIDS

PHALAENOPSIS (Moth Orchid)

Most orchids are grown in greenhouses or outdoors and although some orchids are unsuitable for use as houseplants, the *Phalaenopsis* orchid is extremely adaptable to growing in the home or conservatory.

The flowers of the *Phalaenopsis* are remarkably long lived and can be open for several months - no other houseplant can surpass the orchid for the beauty of its flowers. Many people believe orchids are temperamental and difficult to grow but most live for a great many years if properly maintained.



Phalaenopsis MALIBU MINUTE

In some ways, growing orchids in the home can be less demanding, as you are with them most of the time, making it easier to attend their needs more quickly and not leaving the task until you have time to spend in the greenhouse. Another advantage is that orchids adapt to the conditions in the home and don't have a specific environment created for them for example they are less likely to suffer from overheating in the home if you are out all day, which can so easily occur in a greenhouse, should the vents be left closed.



Position:

A bright spot is ideal but protect from direct sunlight.

Watering:

Only water when the compost is quite dry (room temperature).

Feeding

Must be fed with orchid food.

Aftercare:

After flowering, the stem can be cut back to one of the eyes - choose the fattest, strongest eye and cut the stem about 1cm above it.

Re-potting

Only re-pot every 2-3 years using orchid compost. This can be done at any time of the year except winter.



Phalaenopsis WILD DELIGHT

Within the home, there are many areas where orchids will grow. A light window sill facing south, can provide an ideal position during the winter, when the low sun can benefit the plants without the danger of burning the leaves. In summer, a north or east facing window will be better. If you cannot move your plant to a shady position, grow them behind a slatted blind or net curtains so they receive good light but not direct sunlight. The shade loving *Phalaenopsis* is at home in the centre of a room where light is coming in from more than one side.