

ORCHIDS

Hollandia Nurseries Care Sheet

Orchids

Tropical orchids are exotic, elegant and can bloom for exceptionally long periods. Hollandia offers a variety, including Phalaenopsis hybrids and Oncidium.

Light & Temperature:

Orchids generally like as much indirect light as possible. A window facing east or southeast is often the best location. They should never be placed in direct sun. Most orchids can also be damaged if temperatures drop to 50 degrees. The plants generally like a 60-degree night and temperatures above 70 during the day. Of all the house orchids, Phalaenopsis generally tolerates normal house temperatures the best. Each variety, however, requires slightly different light and temperature conditions. Tags on your plants will give you specific instructions. Leaf color indicates whether the plant is happy. If the leaves are dark, it is probably not getting enough light. Ideally the leaves should be light green. If the leaves also feel hot midday, it is probably getting too much sun and needs a shadier area. The more heat and light the orchid receives, the more water it needs.

Watering and fertilizing:

Orchids usually suffer from overwatering. Do not set a fixed watering schedule. Feel for moistness. If it feels almost dry, then it is time to water. However, water only in the morning so the plant has time to dry before dark. Using Jack's Classic, fertilize once a week (One teaspoon per gallon of water). Once a month, skip fertilizing and flush the plant with water to avoid salt buildup.

Orchids usually grow in the spring and summer and rest in fall and winter. Growth tends to slow after flowering. During the fall and winter, fertilize less, about every four to eight weeks. Many growers put their orchids outside in summer, from June to September. The orchids, however, must be placed in shade.

Humidity:

Homes in this area do not have enough humidity to satisfy an orchid. Orchids prefer 60 percent humidity. Use humidifiers, humidity trays or fill trays of water and place around the orchids. Along with the humidity, orchids want good air circulation. Putting a fan near them is sufficient.

Soil:

Our orchids are already sold potted, and most orchids do not need repotting more than every two years. Do not use regular potting mix. Orchids prefer a well-draining, moisture-retentive soil. Hollandia offers a special potting mix just for these plants.

For more information, Hollandia recommends these books:
Taylor's Guide to Orchids
The Orchid: From the Archives of the Royal Horticultural Society
Orchid Growing for Wimps
Orchids.



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