



ORCHID CARE

What You'll Need:	
Essential Items	Desirable Items
Orchid Potting Mix	Indoor Plant Food
Spanish Moss	Orchid Pot



Care for orchids varies depending on species. In general orchids need Medium to bright light. In a home, placement near a window is ideal. Never expose your orchid to direct sunlight, this will cause burns and may damage your plant.

Temperatures need to be warm during the day (60-80°F) and cooler at night. (8-15° Difference) Never expose your orchid to temperatures below 50 degrees or above 100 degrees.

Fertilize and water regularly in spring and summer and less frequently in fall and winter. Fertilizer should be mixed at half the recommended rate for house plants.

Orchids generally like to be some-what rootbound. Repot no more than every two years to replace the soil that has decomposed. Use an orchid potting mix when repotting.

For more specific needs see below for care of each individual species.

Dendrobium -. Most dendrobiums like a strong life cycle with warm bright summers with plenty of fertilizer and regular water, and a cooler winter allowing the soil to become almost dry between waterings. After a winters rest begin watering and feeding again when new roots appear near the base of the plant. Many hybrids flower in the spring and again in late summer.

Oncidium- Known as “dancing lady” orchids. They can handle bright to full direct sun. They flower during the fall months. With proper care the plant may bloom twice a year. Their flowers are not large, but they have a considerable number of flowers produced on the long branching flower spikes, creating a cloudlike mass of color.

Phalaenopsis- Also known as moth orchid. These are ideal houseplants. They flower during the winter and early spring months. They need cool nights and warm days. The beautiful blooms can last up to 4 months!

Paphiopedilum- Or Lady’s Slippers are mostly ground dwellers so they require less light than others. They produce a single flower that resembles a slipper. The bloom lasts for 8 weeks or longer. Generally Paphiopedilums with solid green leaves prefer cooler growing conditions, while those with mottled leaves need more warmth. All varieties need high humidity.

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Town & Country Gardens, Inc.

5800 S. Yellowstone Hwy. ▪ Idaho Falls, ID 83402 ▪ 522-5247

1300 East Oak ▪ Pocatello, ID 83201 ▪ 232-7985

www.tcgardens.com