

# Orchid Care

**Paphiopedilum** (Lady Slipper Orchid)

**Phalaenopsis** (Moth Orchid)

**Oncidium** (Dancing Dolls)

**Cattleya**

**Flowering:**

One or two blooming periods per year for paphs, flowers last one to two months. Phals generally have one blooming period per year lasting three to six months.

Oncidiums bloom 2-3 times per year.



**Water:** Never allow to go bone dry. Water when moderately dry, reducing frequency in winter months. Summer outdoors in June-August.

**Paphiopedilum Tips:** Paphs prefer medium light and high humidity. Set on a tray of pebbles with a little water in the bottom of it; water level in tray should not reach bottom of pot. Let potting mix dry slightly. Repot after bloom at 12-18 months intervals. Use an orchid mix adjusted for draining and your water habits, (if you tend to over water, loosen the mix). Paphs require the least fertilizer of all orchids, especially paph species. Use orchid fertilizer once a month; none in the winter. When dividing, leave a minimum of 3 healthy growths. Keep night temperatures at 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit for solid green leaf paphs and 58-65 degrees Fahrenheit for mottled leaf paphs. Day temperatures should be 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit. Paphs prefer plastic pots or glazed ceramic pots.

**Phalaenopsis Tips:** Prefer medium light and high humidity. Use a humidity tray (see paphs tips). Minimum night temperature is 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Daytime temperatures should be 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit. Let potting mix dry slightly; avoid complete drying. Repot annually (preferred) or every second year depending on condition of media. Use orchid mix. Use Orchid fertilizer when plant is in active growth (spring and summer) as evidenced by new leaf or root development. Roots that form above the soil should be allowed to trail out of the pot.

**To Spike Phals:** In early September give 2 weeks of 50 degree Fahrenheit nights to initiate midwinter spikes. Exceptions are Doritis and their hybrids, which tend to be summer bloomers and are spiked by cool spring temperatures. Phals can be forced to bloom by a cool cycle, but care should be taken to feed accordingly (orchid food). Flower stems can be cut back when brown. If still green, they may produce side shoots with new flowers.



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**Oncidium Tips:** Prefer medium to bright indirect light. Minimum night temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit; day temperature should be 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit. Let potting mix dry slightly when in flower and active growth; keep a little drier when not actively growing. Use orchid food when in active growth period.

**Dendrobium-** Prefer medium to bright indirect light. Minimum night temperature is 60 degrees Fahrenheit; day temperatures should be 65-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Let potting mix dry slightly when in active growth or flowering; keep slightly drier when not in active growth period. Likes high humidity; use of a humidity tray is helpful. Use orchid food in active growth phase.

**Cattleya-** Prefer bright indirect light. Minimum night temperatures is 55 degrees Fahrenheit; day temperature should be 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit. Likes high humidity; use a humidity tray and mist daily. In active growth, let potting mix dry slightly and use orchid food. When flowers have opened keep slightly drier until new growth begins.



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