

ORCHIDS

CULTURAL CARE BY VARIETY

PHALAENOPSIS (Fah-lay-nop-sis)

"Moth or Butterfly Orchid"

- Bears lavish sprays of spotted or striped - pink, white, yellow and red flowers
- Flowers last up to 4 months
- Requires 6-8 hours of sun per day, thrives in an east or south facing window
- Prefers day temperatures 70-80*, night around 60*
- Keep media moist
- Fertilize twice a month in spring and summer
- With cooler nights, switch to a bloom booster fertilizer to induce buds and flowers to set
- Cut flower spikes off just above second node after flowers die
- If a new side shoot does not appear in two weeks, remove the rest of the spike

ONCIDIUM (On-sid-ee-um)

"Dancing Doll Orchid"

- Flowers range in color from white to pink, orange to red
- Flowers last up to 2 months
- Need 8-10 hours of sun per day, such as south, east or west facing windows
- Prefers day temperatures between 70-80*, night 60*
- Use orchid fertilizer twice a month during spring and summer
- Fertilize once a month during fall and winter
- Thick, leathery leaved varieties need less water, tiny leaved more
- Remove the flower spike completely when flowers have died

DENDROBIUM (Den-dro-bee-um)

- Bears a profusion of purple, white, pink and red flowers
- Flowers last up to 1 month
- Requires 8-10 hours of sun per day
- Allow media to dry slightly between watering and mist foliage regularly
- Fertilize regularly, especially when new offshoots are developing
- Avoid low temperatures, may cause leaf drop
- Remove entire flower spike after flowers die

ALL ORCHIDS

- Thrive in humid environments, mist twice per week to increase humidity
- Use a pebble tray or group orchids together
- Water when medium is dry to the touch to your second knuckle
- Puckered leaves mean the plant is too dry
- Do not get flowers wet
- Fertilize twice a month with orchid fertilizer at ½ strength
- SOUTHWOOD recommends orchid fertilizer as it contains essential micronutrients and trace elements

Mist

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