



# GROWING ORCHIDS

# PHALAENOPSIS

## PHALAENOPSIS OR MOTH ORCHID

The Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchid as many know it, is the ideal orchid to grow in the house under warm conditions. Moth orchids thrive in the temperature range which most people prefer for their homes, and they require only the amount of light that enters an average window. Flowers are long lasting. Flower stems on mature plants last for three to four months on the average. Some plants will bloom twice a year. Certain species and hybrids can be forced to re-bloom by cutting only the top half of the bloom stem off after the initial flowering.

### Light -

Give the plants bright light, with very little direct sun. In the home, an east facing window is always best.

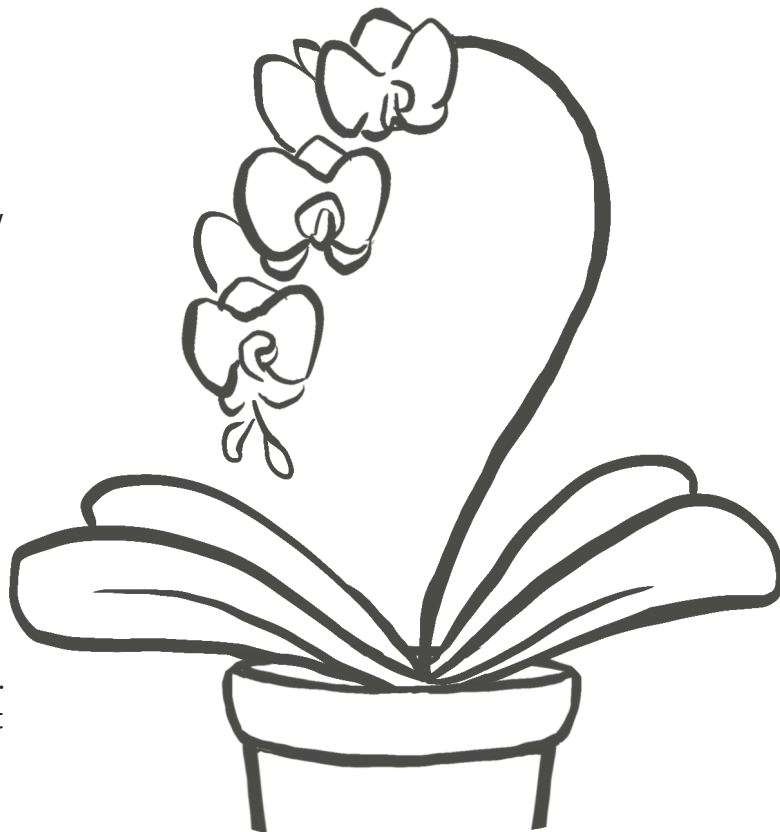
### Temperature -

Night temperature should be 60° to 65°. Fall nights around 55° will help encourage flowering. Day temperatures of 70° to 80° are ideal. Greatly fluctuating temperatures cause buds to drop.

### Water -

Plants should be watered thoroughly and not watered again until nearly dry through the pot. Do not let water stand on the leaves overnight or for extended periods of time. Misting the plants in the morning will help maintain adequate humidity. Plants can also be set on trays of gravel that are partially filled with water.

**Fertilizer -** Food must be given on a regular basis since the potting media does not provide it in adequate amounts. 30-10-10 or ORCHID PLUS should be given at every second or third watering. Blossom Booster, 10-30-20, will help encourage flowering. When conditions are cool or cloudy, less fertilizer is needed. Re-potting is best done in the spring after blooming. Use a well-drained mix such as Phalaenopsis Mix or Fir Bark.



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