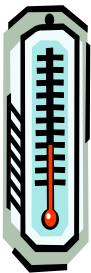


Phalaenopsis

The Phalaenopsis (Orchid) is a great household plant that is best kept in warm conditions. They usually bloom several times a year and can be forced to re-bloom by cutting off the tip of the spike after the initial flowering. Normal home temperatures are usually sufficient for the health of your Phalaenopsis.



Temperature

Phalaenopsis don't tolerate extreme cold temperatures, but flowering will be successful when outside in 55 degree F during fall evenings. Day time temperatures are best at 70 to 95 degrees F. Night is best at 60 to 65 degrees F.



Light

Provide your Phalaenopsis with bright light, such as placing it in front of a window without direct sun. Place plant in an east, south-shaded or west window inside. Leaves should retain a medium green color. If the leaves are lighter, the plant needs more light.



Water

Don't let your Phalaenopsis dry out completely. When the plant is inside, it is best to mist the plant during the morning hours, particularly if the air is dry. The plant enjoys 50% to 80% humidity.

Feeding

Fertilize your Phalaenopsis with a 30-10-10 fertilizer in the summer. A 10-30-20 fertilizer may be used in the fall or when the plant is blooming. Fertilize once a month.



Re-potting

Phalaenopsis may be repotted when the plant has outgrown the pot (every 2 years) or when the potting medium begins to deteriorate. You may also repot when the mixture become sour, does not drain rapidly, and is invaded by snow mold or shows green mold on the surface.