

# Orchids

## **Brassia - Spider Orchid**

**Flowering** – often fragrant lasting 6 weeks or more. Blooming twice a year is common.

**Temperature** – 55-65° f

**Light** – medium light, 4 - 6 hours bright indirect or direct morning sun.

**Humidity** – 50-70% range ideal. Frequent misting and/or a humidity tray helpful.

**Watering** – every 4-6 days.

**Fertilizer** – fertilize year round every 2 weeks with 30-10-10, when not in bloom. Use 10-50-10 (blossom booster) upon bud set.

Repotting - do not like to be repotted, but when necessary, use a medium orchid bark.

## **Cattleya's**

Cattleya, Laelia, Sophronitis, Brassavoia and Broughtonia are the genera that make up most garden hybrids, with abbreviated names such as: Lc, Blc, Slc, Bvc, etc.

**Flowers** – generally last 2-4 weeks, most standard species bloom only once a year, although some miniature hybrids may bloom 2-4 times per year under proper conditions.

**Light** – direct morning sun till 11:30 or 12:00. Some mini varieties and compact varieties can grow under “full spectrum” grow lights. Cattleya's can burn if given direct afternoon sun, so put them under diffused light or part shade if put outside in the summer.

**Temperature** – night 55-62° f basic temp-some varieties require cooler or warmer cond. day 70-80° f basic temp-some varieties require cooler or warmer cond.

**Humidity** – 60%-75% - extra humidity can be created by placing stones in a saucer and adding a small amount of water in the stone, set orchid pot on top of stones. Make sure saucer is 2-3" larger on all sides than the orchid pot. Never let orchid pot sit in standing water.

**Water** – water thoroughly then allow to dry between watering (approx. every 4-5 days depending upon humidity). Smaller pots require water every 4-5 days, larger pots 5-7 days.

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks with a 30-10-10 fertilizer through the growing season. When new growth is completed and bud sheath is showing, switch to 10-50-10 super blossom booster or miracle-gro 15-30-15 every two weeks.

**Repotting** – use plastic or clay pots. For the larger varieties, clay is recommended to help stabilize their weight. Use medium bark for large varieties, and fine bark for very small varieties.

## **Cymbidiums**

**Flowers** – most blooms last approx. 6-8 weeks, many are intensely fragrant. Flower spikes may need to be staked to avoid breaking.

**Light** – 5-6 hours bright, direct morning sun till noon per day. During the summer cymbidiums do best in a partially shaded, well ventilated area (May-Oct.). Bring in before hard frosts hits.

**Temperature** – Cymbidiums prefer cool temps. Day – 65-75° f night – 50-60° f In the summer they should be protected from direct sun and misted frequently. In the fall, leave plants out almost until frost. They need a “cold snap” in order to set bud.

**Humidity** – 60%-75% use humidity tray or a saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way up stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Watering** – do not allow them to go completely dry, especially during active growth periods (spring & summer). Water them at least twice per week in summer, but avoid getting their foliage wet late in the day. In winter once a week is usually sufficient.

**Fertilizer** – feed every 2 weeks with a 30-10-10 fertilizer to encourage strong growth. Keep them outside in shaded area in summer and do not bring them in until they have received at least 3-4 minor frosts in the fall. This will set buds. Be careful with this, as too hard a frost can damage or kill the plants. Once buds have set, use 10-50-10 blossom booster or 15-30-15 every 2 weeks. Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Dyna Bloom 3-12-6 can be used as an alternative.

**Repotting** – plastic pots. Repot in spring. Use cymbidium mix or medium bark.

## **Dendrobiums**

**Evergreen type** – produce flower spikes that come up above the pseudobulb.

**Flowers** – most varieties bloom at least twice per year. \*And flowers can last several months under proper conditions.

**Light** – 6-8 hours bright indirect light or direct morning sun till 11:30-12:00. No hot afternoon sun.

**Temperature** – night 55-66° f day 75-80° f, summer temp. up to 95° f

**Water** – water thoroughly, then allow to dry between watering, approx. every 5-7 days.

**Humidity** – 60-75% use humidity tray or a saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way up stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks with 10-50-10 blossom booster or 15-30-15 while in bloom. Every 2 weeks with 30-10-10 while not in bloom. Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Dyna Bloom 3-12-6 can be used as an alternative.

**Deciduous Dendrobiums** – produce flower spikes along the side of pseudobulb.

**Flowers** – most varieties bloom 1-2 times per year. \*And flowers can last 2-3 months under proper conditions.

**Light** – bright indirect light 5-7 hours a day or direct morning sun.

**Humidity** – 60%-75% use humidity tray or saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way up stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Temperature** – night 48-58° f day 65-80° f with temps. around 80 f or more, give the plant good air circulation.

**Fertilizer** – 30-10-10 every 2 weeks when not in bloom. 10-50-10 or 15-30-15 every 2 weeks once the buds set.

**Water** – water thoroughly, then allow to dry between watering, during late fall keep watering to a minimum only to keep the canes from shriveling.

**Repotting** – plastic or clay. Larger plants use medium bark. Smaller plants use fine bark.

## **Miltonia's and Miltoniopsis - Pansy Orchid**

**Miltonia's** – come from Brazil

**Temperatures** – night 55-62° f day 70-85° f

**Light** – very bright, indirect light or direct morning sun until 11:30-12:00.

**Humidity** – 60%-75% use humidity tray or saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way up stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks 10-50-10 or 15-30-15 while in bloom. Every 2 weeks with 30-10-10 when not in bloom.

**Water** – approx. every 3-4 days depending upon conditions and time of year.

**Repotting** – medium bark, plastic pots.

**Miltoniopsis** – come from Columbia and usually bloom in spring.

**SAME AS ABOVE**



## Mounted Orchids

**Flowering** – most flower once or twice a year.

**Humidity** – at least 60%

**Temperature** – night 55-65° f day 75-80° f

**Light** – 4-6 hours per day, bright indirect light, or direct morning sun.

**Watering** – should be done with a mister or fine spray nozzle at least once per day.

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks with 10-50-10 while in bloom. Every week with 30-10-10, when active root growing tips (clear green color) are visible. Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Dyna Bloom 3-12-6 can be used as an alternative.

## Oncidiums

**Flowers** – variable but most bloom once a year and last approx. 3-6 weeks. Blooms may need to be staked.

**Light** – 6-8 hours a day of bright direct morning light. If put outside for the summer, avoid direct afternoon sun. Miniature equitant Oncidiums do well under grow lights.

**Temperature** – night – 55-62° f day – 70-80° f during summer give them good air circulation.

**Humidity** – 60% - 75% - use humidity tray or a saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way to stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Water** – water approx. every 4-5 days during the growing season. During fall and winter allow plant to go dry between watering (approx. every 7-8 days). Miniature varieties need to be watered more often.

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks with a 30-10-10 fertilizer when not in bloom. Every 2 weeks, with 10-50-10 super blossom booster or 15-30-15 miracle-gro when in bloom. Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Dyna Bloom 3-12-6 can be used as an alternative.

**Repotting** – clay or plastic using medium bark or fine bark for miniature varieties.

## Paphiopedilums – Lady Slipper Orchids

**Flowers** – blooms usually may last for months, with one or two blooming periods each year, depending on variety.

**Light** – bright, indirect light 4-5 hours per day or direct morning sun till 11:30 or 12:00.

**Temperature** – night 50-60° f day 60-70° f, mottled leaf varieties can tolerate more light and higher temperatures.

**Humidity** – 60% - 75%

**Water** – do not allow to go completely dry between watering. Water approx. every 4-5 days. Do not allow water to get into the crown of the plant, and do not get foliage wet late in the day, (this will encourage leaf spot or mildew).

**Fertilizer** – Paps require the least amount of fertilizer of all orchids. In spring and summer fertilize with a 20-20-20 fertilizer. In winter feed once a month with a half strength feeding.

**Repotting** – prefers small deep pots to accommodate their large furry root system. Using pap mix which contains fir bark and charcoal. Repot after blooming. To insure flowering of most Paps, give them a night temperature of 50° f for approx. 3 weeks in September. These orchids should not be put outside in the weather, excess moisture in the crown will rot the plant.

## Phaius - Nun's Orchid

**Flowering** - These plants produce brilliantly colored flowers in combinations of yellow, white and red, often as large as 4 inches across, growing on a single stalk. Blossoms are characterized by tubular lips. Most species are earth dwellers, found in swampy soil, but some are tree-growing. The plants are notable for their leaves as well as flowers, since they may become 3 feet tall and add a tropical touch to a greenhouse or to a garden in warm climate. Nun's orchids have short egg-shaped pseudo-bulbs; heavy, folded 3-foot leaves; and a 4-foot flower spike that bears 10 to 20 fragrant flowers in spring and summer. The sepals and petals are white on the outside and reddish inside, with yellow edges. Ruffled and tubular, with a short spur, the lip is white; it has a yellow throat and sides colored dark burgundy and purple.

**Temperature** - Intermediate to warm temperatures suit the nun's orchid. In winter it grows well if it is given temperatures of 65 to 75 degrees in

the daytime and 55 to 60 degrees at night; in summer, if kept moist and shaded, it adjusts to higher temperatures.

**Light** - Provide filtered sunlight to low light.

**Water** - this terrestrial plant requires liberal watering with good drainage.

**Fertilizer** - at every third watering with a balanced orchid fertilizer, such as 18-18-18, diluted to half the strength recommended on the label.

**Repotting** - phaius orchids every two or three years. To propagate additional plants, divide plants at the end of a growing season so that you can place at least three pseudobulbs in each pot. Alternatively, after flowering has stopped, cut the flower stalks into 6-inch pieces, each with at least two joint-like nodes. Place these cuttings on moist sand to root.

## Phalaenopsis - Moth Orchids

**Flowers** – generally will bloom for many months under proper conditions. Many varieties will have several flower shoots.

**Temperature** – min. day 70-80° f night, 60° f night temperatures of 48-50° are need for six weeks in the fall to initiate flower spikes.

Fluctuating temperatures or drafts can cause bud drop on plants. These orchids should not be put outside in the weather, excess moisture in the crown will rot the plant.

**Light** – very bright, indirect light 6-7 hours per day or direct morning sun til 11:30 or 12:00

**Humidity** – 60% - 75% - use humidity tray or a saucer 2-3" larger than pot. Fill with stones and water (1/2 way up stones). Place pot on stones so it's not sitting in water.

**Water** – they should never be allowed to dry out completely. If in moss water thoroughly then allow to dry slightly (approx. every 6-7 days). If in bark, water approx. every 5-6 days.

**Fertilizer** – while in bloom, feed with 10-50-10 super blossom booster or miracle-gro every 2 weeks. When out of bloom, switch to 30-10-10 orchid food every 2 weeks. When the spike is turning brown cut it off at the base of the plant.

**Repotting** – Phals prefer plastic pots. They should be repotted with medium bark, approximately every 3-4 years.

## Vanda's Ascocentrums & Related Genera

**Flowers** – most species bloom once annually but they have 1-4 flower spikes. Some hybrids bloom twice per year. Flowers usually last 3-4 weeks with the proper conditions.

**Light** – minimum of 6 hours direct sun in the winter. In the summer it may need protection from too much hot afternoon sun. If inside give it 6-8 hours per day of very bright light (if planted in orchid boxes keep them heavily misted).

**Temperature** – night 58-60° f day 70-95° f. Blue toned Vanda's, cooler at night to 48°f.

**Humidity** – 60%75% - higher on slabbed or basket plants with no media.

**Water** – if in a pot, water once a week in winter, and every 2-3 days in the summer, more in summer depending on location. If in a basket or on a slab, it must be misted heavily everyday (especially the exposed roots).

**Fertilizer** – every 2 weeks with a 30-10-10 fertilizer when not in bloom. Every 2 weeks, with 10-50-10 super blossom booster or 15-30-15 miracle-gro when in bloom. Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Dyna Bloom 3-12-6 can be used as an alternative.

**Repotting** – clay pots using medium bark. Vanda basket can be used – you will need to mist a lot more.

Vanda's prefer to be summered outside, this helps to induce flowering, but be careful that moisture does not sit in the crown or else rot will set in. Keep them misted or they will dehydrate in the heat.

