



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

PHALAENOPSIS CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Moth orchids (Phalaenopsis) prefer bright, indirect light. An east window is ideal; filter strong sun from south or west windows. Protect leaves from hot midday sun. This guide is for Phalaenopsis orchids; other orchid genera may need different conditions.

WATERING

Water thoroughly when the potting medium is nearly dry, then drain completely. Bark dries faster than tightly packed moss, so check inside the pot and its weight. Use room-temperature water in the morning. Keep water out of the leaf crown and empty the decorative outer pot.

SOIL

Use a porous orchid mix, not ordinary garden or houseplant soil. Bark-based orchid mix works well indoors. Repot after flowering when the medium breaks down, usually every 1-3 years. Remove soft, rotten roots with clean tools; leave firm, healthy roots intact.

TEMPERATURE

Keep nights above 60 degrees F and provide warm days, about 70-85 degrees F. Avoid sudden temperature changes, drafts and hot vents, which can cause buds to drop. Moderate to high humidity is helpful, together with gentle air circulation.

FERTILIZING

Apply a diluted orchid fertilizer regularly during active growth, following label directions for the potting medium. Feed less in cool, cloudy conditions and flush the pot periodically with plain water. After flowering, remove a completely brown flower spike with clean scissors.

PESTS

Check leaves, flower spikes and leaf joints for mealybugs or scale. Separate affected plants and ask us about treatment. Soggy medium and water trapped in the crown can cause rot. Keep roots aerated and never leave a conventional orchid pot soaking in standing water.