

## **Phalaenopsis sp Orchid Care**

### **About The Phalaenopsis**

Phalaenopsis orchids are becoming more and more popular as houseplants due to their ease of culture and to their beautiful, long-lasting flowers. The name phalaenopsis means "moth-like", and in their native Philippines the wild species are said to resemble flights of moths in the jungle.

### **Placement**

Phalaenopsis are epiphytic (tree dwelling) species that do not tolerate direct sun. Their broad leaves are prone to sunburn in direct light, so indirect light is preferable. Phals prefer temperatures in the 60-80 degree range with humidity in the 50% to 70% range.

### **Watering**

Mounted orchids are impossible to overwater and contain their own "water gauge". When moss surrounding the roots appears dry, soak the mount well under a hose or faucet. **AVOID GETTING WATER INTO THE CENTER OF THE LEAVES (THE CROWN) TO AVOID CROWN ROT!**

### **Fertilizing**

Fertilize monthly with balanced liquid fertilizer. Special orchid blended fertilizers may be freely used during blooming season (spring/fall)

### **Pruning & Trimming**

Once spikes/flower stalks turn yellow and dry up, prune them off close to the leaf base. Leave green, live flower spikes on the plant: they can often rebloom from the same spike or create “keiki” or baby orchids.

### **Repotting**

Remove from mount and re-attach with fresh moss when the plant grows too large for the mount or moss breaks down significantly.

### **Diseases, Insects & Other Pests**

Phals are susceptible to mealybugs, aphids and other pests. Use insecticidal soap as necessary. Pay specific attention to keeping the space in between the leaves as dry as possible to prevent crown rot.

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