

Phalaenopsis

“Moth Orchid”

ABOUT

Phalaenopsis, commonly known as moth orchids, are one of the most popular and widely cultivated orchid genera. Native to tropical Asia and Australia, they are prized for their long-lasting, elegant blooms that resemble fluttering moths. These epiphytic orchids thrive in warm, humid environments with indirect light, making them ideal for indoor cultivation. With proper care, Phalaenopsis can bloom for several months, producing flowers in a variety of colors, including white, pink, yellow, and purple. Their resilience and beauty make them a favorite among orchid enthusiasts and beginners alike.

GROWING IN A POT

To plant a Phalaenopsis orchid in a pot, choose a container with good drainage, such as a plastic or clay orchid pot with holes. Use a well-draining orchid mix, typically made of bark, sphagnum moss, or a combination of both. Gently remove the orchid from its current pot, trim any dead or rotting roots, and place it in the new container, spreading the roots over the potting mix. Fill in around the roots with the orchid medium, ensuring the plant is stable but not buried too deep. Water lightly, allowing excess water to drain out, and place the orchid in a warm, humid environment with bright, indirect light. Avoid overwatering, as Phalaenopsis prefer their roots to dry slightly between waterings.

HOW TO ATTACH ON A TREE

To plant Phalaenopsis on a tree, choose a shaded spot with dappled light. Attach the orchid to the trunk or branch using twine or wire, securing the roots against the bark. Mist regularly and ensure good airflow, allowing the roots to grip naturally over time.

WHEN TO WATER

Water Phalaenopsis when the roots turn silvery-white, usually every 5–7 days in a pot and more frequently on a tree. In humid climates, mist tree-mounted orchids daily; in drier areas, water deeply 2–3 times a week. Always let roots dry slightly between waterings to prevent rot.

SHOULD I FERTILIZE

Fertilize Phalaenopsis every 1–2 weeks during active growth with a balanced orchid fertilizer (20-20-20) at half strength. Reduce to once a month in cooler months or when blooming. For tree-mounted orchids, use a diluted liquid fertilizer to mimic natural nutrient absorption.

