

Cattleya

KAT-lee-ah



The Corsage Orchid

Cattleyas are among the most commonly grown orchids, and their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids. Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well developed water storage organs (called pseudobulbs) and large, fleshy roots. Keep out of cold, dry air while in bloom.

LIGHT. Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production. Provide bright light, some sun. In the home an east, west or lightly shaded south window. In a greenhouse, about 30 to 50 percent full sun. Plants should be of a medium olive-green color. Dark green, limp foliage indicates too little light.

TEMPERATURE. Provide nights of 55 to 60 F; days of 70 to 85 F. Cattleyas can tolerate temperatures up to 95 to 100 F if shading, humidity and air circulation are increased.

WATER. Mature plants must dry out between waterings. Seedlings need more constant moisture.

HUMIDITY. Cattleyas like 50 to 60 percent. In the home, place on trays over moistened pebbles, or set a bowl of water next to your plants and allow the water to evaporate. In the greenhouse, use a humidifier if conditions are too dry.

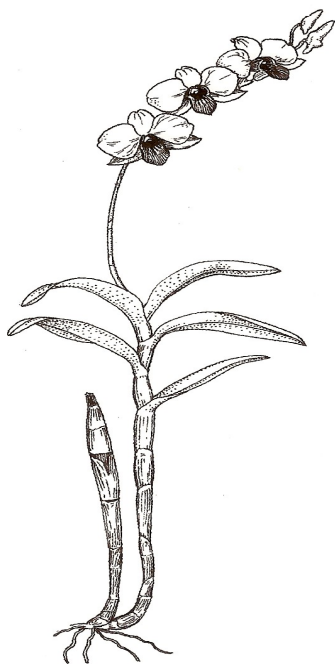
FERTILIZER should be provided on a regular basis. A good general rule is to apply a balanced (such as 20-20-20) water soluble fertilizer "weakly, weekly". That is, fertilize every week at one half of the recommended dilution.

POTTING should be done every two to three years before mix loses consistency (breaks down). Pot firmly in a porous medium grade mix, giving aeration and ample drainage, allowing enough room for two years' growth.

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Dendrobium

den-DROH-bee-um



Dendrobiums are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the retail trade. Like most other cultivated orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well-developed water-storage organs (pseudobulbs), often called "canes" for their upright, leafy appearance. They should be potted in porous, free-draining media. There are many different types of dendrobiums available to the specialist grower.

LIGHT. Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production. Provide bright light. In the home, an east, west or lightly shaded south window. Leaves should be medium olive-green color. Many varieties' leaves turn yellow and fall off, a natural process.

TEMPERATURE. Provide nights of 60 to 65 F; days of 80 to 90 F. Temperatures up to 95 to 100 F are beneficial if humidity and air circulation are increased. Low temperatures (below 50 F) may cause leaf drop.

WATER. Keep evenly moist while in active growth. Allow to dry between waterings after growth is mature.

HUMIDITY. In the home, place the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the pots never sit in water, or set a bowl of water next to your plants and allow the water to evaporate. In the greenhouse, use a humidifier if conditions are too dry.

FERTILIZER should be provided on a regular basis. A good general rule is to apply a balanced (such as 20-20-20) water soluble fertilizer "weakly, weekly". That is, fertilize every week at one half of the recommended dilution.

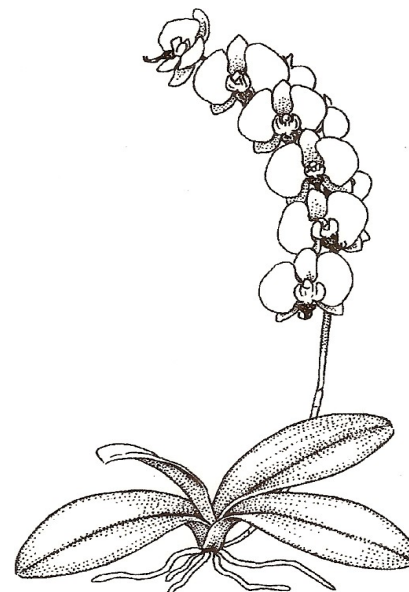
POTTING should be done every two to three years before mix loses consistency (breaks down). Pot firmly in a porous medium grade mix, giving aeration and ample drainage, allowing enough room for two years' growth. Dendrobiums grow best in pots small for the size of the plant.

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Phalaenopsis

fayl-eh-NOP-siss

Phalaenopsis, the moth orchid, is perhaps the best orchid for growing in the home, and is also a favorite with greenhouse growers. Well-grown plants can flower often, sometimes throughout the year. Average home temperatures and conditions are usually sufficient. Flower stems on certain hybrids can be forced to rebloom by cutting the tip off after the initial flowering. Only healthy plants should be induced to flower repeatedly. Culture for *Doritis*, a related genus, thought by some to be conspecific with *Phalaenopsis*, and *Doritaenopsis*, a hybrid between the two genera, is the same as for pure *Phalaenopsis*.



LIGHT is easy to provide for *Phalaenopsis*. They grow easily in a bright window, with little or no sun. In overcast, northern winter climates, a full south exposure may be needed. Artificial lighting can easily be provided.

TEMPERATURES for *phalaenopsis* should usually be above 60 F at night, and range between 75 and 85 F or more during the day. Although higher temperatures force faster vegetative growth, higher humidity and air movement must accompany higher temperatures, the recommended maximum being 90 to 95 F. Night temperatures to 55 F are desirable for several weeks in the autumn to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

WATER is especially critical for *phalaenopsis*. Because they have no major water-storage organs other than their leaves, they must never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered and not watered again until nearly dry. In the heat of summer in a dry climate, this may be every other day; in the winter in a cool northern greenhouse, it may be every 10 days. Water only in the morning, so that the leaves dry by nightfall, to prevent rot.

HUMIDITY. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the pots never sit in water, or set a bowl of water next to your plants and allow the water to evaporate.

FERTILIZE on a regular schedule, especially if the weather is warm, when the plants are most often growing. A good general rule is to apply a balanced (such as 20-20-20) water soluble fertilizer "weakly weekly". That is, fertilize every week at one half of the recommended dilution.

POTTING is usually done every one to three years. *Phalaenopsis* plants must be potted in a porous medium grade mix. Mature plants can grow in the same container until the potting medium starts to decompose, usually in two years. Root rot occurs if plants are left in a soggy medium.

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