



How to Take Care Of An **ORCHID**

Although some gardeners assume orchids are fussy plants that are difficult to care for, caring for an orchid can be quite simple. Provided your orchid receives the right amount of water, has access to sunlight, is potted in a mineral-rich potting mix, and is nourished with a gentle orchid [fertilizer](#), your plant is sure to thrive year-round.

Below, we'll cover exactly how to take care of your orchid so you can easily nurture your plants—whether you're welcoming your very first orchid into your home or you have a collection of orchids already—and watch them burst into bloom and brighten up your home.



Orchid Care: **POTTING NEEDS**

Like all epiphytic plants, orchids thrive in pots that allow for good drainage and plenty of aeration. Plastic pots, glass pots with plenty of pre-drilled holes, and clay pots are amongst the most popular choices for promoting healthy orchid growth.

Keep in mind that an orchid's pot shouldn't be too big. The bigger the pot, the more potting mix you'll need to fill it, and since orchids' roots need fresh air to survive, you may accidentally suffocate your plant under the weight of too much potting media.

Professional Tip: If your orchid comes in a decorative pot without drainage holes, which is common if you purchase your plant from a big-box store, you'll want to buy a new pot for it and repot it within a few days of welcoming it into your home.



Orchid Care:

POTTING MIX

Because tropical orchids are epiphytes, they don't grow in regular ground soil. Instead, tropical and subtropical orchids grow high up off the ground in the canopies of tropical rainforests. They cling to the branches of trees and absorb vital nutrients from the rainforest's mineral-rich environment.

Most orchid species require special potting mix in order to thrive indoors. To keep your tropical orchids happy and healthy, use a [potting mix](#) designed for tropical orchids.

Terrestrial orchids, on the other hand, do grow in regular soil. These orchids are typically native to the Americas and thrive in [potting mix designed specifically for terrestrial orchids](#).

Typically, an orchid's root system needs access to air and sunlight. Thick dirt or traditional soil can suffocate the delicate root systems of many orchid species, which will eventually suffocate your plant.

You can buy commercial orchid potting mix or create your own.

If you opt to create your own potting mix, a good starting point is a mixture of fir bark, peat moss, sphagnum moss, stones, or rock wool.

Of course, the ideal potting mix for your plant will largely depend on its species, but a general rule of thumb is that orchid potting mix should allow excellent drainage and good airflow to the orchid's roots.



Orchid Care:

POTTING MIX

Professional Tip: If you'd prefer to make your own tropical orchid potting mix, combine three parts fir bark, one part perlite, and one part sphagnum moss. These organic materials are perfect for supplying your orchid with nutrients and allowing water to drain from the pot quickly.

To get the most out of your growing mix, consider using a reliable orchid fertilizer. With the right potting *mix* and the right orchid food, your orchids are sure to deliver vibrant, beautiful blooms year after year.

If you're looking for the perfect orchid fertilizer to grow beautiful orchids with ease, try our one-of-a-kind Premium Orchid Food. Our unique formula is a ready-to-use spray that won't harm your orchid or damage its delicate root system—a common problem with other fertilizers.

Simply spray the Orchid Food on your orchid's leaves, roots, and potting mix every time you water. Then sit back and watch your plant bloom.

[Click here to buy our Premium Orchid Food and start nourishing your orchid today.](#)



Orchid Care:

WATER REQUIREMENTS

One of the key steps in keeping your orchid thriving for years to come is to dial in a proper watering routine. Because orchids have highly unique root systems, they are susceptible to root rot and shouldn't be overwatered. The key to watering your orchid is to make sure the potting mix is allowed to fully dry between waterings.

An easy way to know if your orchid needs water is to insert the tip of your finger into the growing mix to check if the mix is dry. If the mix feels damp (or if you're not sure), then don't water your orchid.

One of the basic steps to mastering orchid care is learning to provide your plant with the right amount of water. Over-watering is the most common way to decay your orchid's root system and accidentally kill your plant.

Orchids have delicate and complex root networks that are prone to root rot in wet conditions. When the root system suffers damage, the orchid can no longer absorb nutrients. Without a healthy root system, your orchid will droop, wilt, and eventually die.

The best way to gauge if your orchid needs water is to stick your finger an inch into the potting mix. If the mix feels wet (or even damp), your orchid doesn't need water. If the potting mix is thoroughly dry, you should give your orchid a hearty drink.

When in doubt, always air on the side of under-watering, since this won't kill your orchid as easily as over-watering will.



Orchid Care:

WATER REQUIREMENTS

Professional Tip: A good rule of thumb is to water your orchid no more than once a week, though different orchid types will require adjustments in watering. For most orchid types, you should reduce watering during the winter months. To make reading the moisture levels in your orchid's potting mix easy, consider purchasing a [moisture meter](#).

Water your orchid in the morning. This will allow the growing mix to dry quickly and thoroughly since daytime temperatures are generally warmer than nighttime temperatures.



Orchid Care:

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

When choosing a spot for your orchid, keep in mind that temperature requirements may vary by orchid type. Tropical orchids typically thrive in an environment between 60-75°F (16-24°C), while terrestrial orchids can tolerate much lower temperatures.

Humidity preferences will also vary by plant type, though it's generally safe to assume tropical orchids will thrive in humid conditions. Most homes are far too dry for tropical orchid species, so placing your plant on top of a humidity tray goes a long way to keep your plant healthy. As water evaporates from the [humidity tray](#), your orchid will bask in the moist air.

Your orchid doesn't like to sit in wet growing mix. But it *does* like humidity. Depending on your orchid species, its natural habitat is likely a tropical or subtropical setting. (Though orchid species are also found in semi-desert regions, coastal regions, and tundra environments.)

Orchids can be successfully grown indoors, though you likely won't have natural humid conditions in your house. But don't let your cool, dry home conditions deter you. You can easily create humid conditions for your orchid so your plant is as happy as if it were blooming in the jungle.



Orchid Care:

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

To create humid conditions for your orchid, place a humidity tray beneath your plant. A humidity tray is a rimmed dish that allows water to collect beneath your orchid. It's separate from your orchid pot to ensure the water doesn't seep into the potting mix through the pot's drainage holes.

You can [buy a humidity tray](#) or make one yourself. All you'll need is a pan or saucer and some pebbles. Fill the pan with the pebbles and place your orchid pot on top.

Keep your humidity tray filled with water. When the water evaporates, your orchid will bask in the humid air.

Professional Tip: To trigger blooms and help the plant maintain a healthy growth cycle, some orchid species prefer a drop in temperature by at least 10°F at night. This is best achieved by moving your orchid to a cooler location overnight, typically a basement room.

If you have more than one orchid plant, try placing them close together. This will help increase the humid conditions between plants.



Orchid Care:

OPTIMAL LIGHT CONDITIONS

More often than not, orchids require bright, indirect light to maintain hearty roots and encourage plant growth. For orchids that enjoy bright light, try placing them in a south- or west-facing window. Keep in mind that direct sunlight can easily burn your orchid. Some growers choose to put a sheer curtain between the orchid and its light source to diffuse direct sun rays.

For orchids that enjoy low light conditions, try positioning them in an east- or north-facing window.

Inconsistent and inadequate light conditions are probably the number-one factor preventing your orchid from blooming. If you're wondering why your orchid isn't producing new blooms, you'll want to investigate the light conditions necessary for your orchid species.

Orchids that require high light conditions will enjoy spending summers outdoors. But keep in mind that many orchid species grow in dappled light conditions, so your orchid likely can't withstand the all-day-long direct sunlight required to grow other common plants like tomatoes. If your orchid is grown indoors, placing your plant behind a sheer curtain in a west- or south-facing window is best.



Orchid Care:

OPTIMAL LIGHT CONDITIONS

Orchids that enjoy low light conditions will do well in north- or east-facing windows. You can set your plant a few feet away from the window to ensure it's not exposed to direct sunlight.

Keep in mind that a healthy plant will have strong, light- or medium-green leaves. Orchids with deep green leaves are likely in need of more light. Orchids with bleached or reddish leaves are likely receiving too much light.

Professional Tip: If you're considering moving your orchid outdoors for the summer months, keep in mind that in the wild, orchids live under thick rainforest canopies. They enjoy dappled light conditions, so a shaded area is best.

If you make changes to your orchid's light conditions, do so *gradually*. Orchids can easily burn if exposed to too much light, so the more cautious you are, the better.



Orchid Care:

PREMIUM ORCHID FOOD

Whether you're new to orchid care or a seasoned professional, using a reliable orchid fertilizer to nourish your plant is essential. The right orchid food will support all of your efforts to provide the best conditions for your orchid.

[Premium Orchid Food](#) lets you grow beautiful, exotic orchids with ease. This product checks all the boxes. It's gentle, easy to apply, and won't burn your orchid's roots.

Here are a few of the features that make Premium Orchid Food the go-to fertilizer for supporting your orchid plants:

- **Easy application:** The pre-mixed spray acts as a root stimulator for plants to improve their ability to use nutrients. This is especially important for young plants.
- **Special formula:** Sea kelp extract and humic acids address the unique needs of your orchid. With regular use, you'll see healthy and vibrant orchids that grow larger year after year.
- **Safe to use at every watering:** The standard orchid fertilizer ratio is diluted, so it's gentle enough to use at every watering without burning your orchid's roots.
- **It works with many orchid varieties:** Premium Orchid Food is compatible with many indoor varieties, including phalaenopsis, epidendrum, Miltonia, cattleya, vanda, cymbidium, and oncidium.

Professional Tip: For best results, simply use [Premium Orchid Food](#) every time you water. Then sit back and watch your orchid's blooms explode.





JOIN OUR ORCHID CARE FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

In our Facebook group of orchid lovers, we're dedicated to creating a rich and engaging environment where plant lovers can come together and share tips, tricks, and experiences.

If you're an orchid lover, come join our [Facebook community](#)! We can't wait to celebrate your successes and help you troubleshoot your care routine.

For continued success, you can explore our [other articles](#) or visit our [online shop](#) for plant care products that are sure to keep your plants boasting rich green leaves and big, bountiful blooms year-round.