

Regal Orchids Ltd

43 Church Street, Alloa
Clackmannanshire
Scotland, FK10 1DH
Tel/Fax: 01259 210569
info@regalorchids.co.uk
[Http://www.regalorchids.co.uk](http://www.regalorchids.co.uk)

Regal Orchids Culture Sheet For Phalaenopsis



The Phalaenopsis, or 'Moth Orchid' was first discovered in the Philippines and took its name from the Greek meaning 'resembling a moth' as its large arching sprays of elegant flowers, waving in the breeze resembled moths in flight.

Phalaenopsis are by far the most well known pot plant orchids, gaining wide ranging popularity over the past decade as an easy to grow home loving plant. Nowadays, most Phalaenopsis are hybrids developed from species originating from tropical Asia. Naturally, they are epiphytic plants, found clinging to trees with their thick roots and capturing moisture as it runs down the bark of the host.

Unlike other orchids, Phalaenopsis are monopodial, that is, they have a single growth of large fleshy leaves that drape

downwards to shed excess water. They have no pseudobulbs for water storage, instead taking what they need through their fleshy roots. These vessels are highly adapted to the environment and also help the plant to absorb light for photosynthesis.

Indoor Cultivation

LIGHT

Low to Medium. A north or east facing window is ideal. Keep shadier in the summer and give more light in the winter to compensate.

TEMPERATURE

Night-time temps should range from 62 - 66°F (17 - 19). Daytime temps should range from 70-80°F (21-28°C) year-round. Household temperatures are just fine.

HUMIDITY

50% or higher is ideal. Standing plants on a gravel tray will greatly increase local humidity. Make sure that the base of the plant pot is above the water level.

WATER

Use a 50:50 mix of rain and tap water for best results. (Allow the tap water

to stand open in its container preferably for 24hrs indoors to release any chlorines and to warm up the water – cold water can shock plants and roots sometimes leading to loss of foliage). Water thoroughly being sure water pours from the drainage holes at the base of the pot then let the compost dry out before next watering. Check by lifting the pot. If it feels surprisingly light then watering is probably required. Then check compost - Phalaenopsis often come in clear pots to help you check this.

FERTILIZER

Moth orchids are very weak feeders and don't require much fertilizer to survive. Feed at every other watering in the summer and every third watering in winter. Any orchid food is ideal for use at the manufacturers recommended dosage or use normal household plant fertilizer at ¼ the recommended dosage. Many growers don't add anything to their watering regime and the plants flower superbly!

Ideal formula Orchid Food is readily available from Regal Orchids.

FLOWERING

This plant can flower more than once per

year. Generally after a flower spike finishes, the plant will grow a new leaf. Once mature, the plant will be ready to flower again.

Once the flowers die back it is possible to cut the flower stem 1.5cm (1/2") above the second junction (node) below the first flowers. From this node it is possible to get a second flowering stem although this will fatigue the plant and it may not flower so well the next year.

REPOTTING

Repot this plant in the early summer months every second year. Use a typical mix of medium grade fir bark, charcoal, perlite, possibly with the addition of coconut husk chips. Keep dry for the first week to 10 days after repotting to stimulate the plant to send out new roots.

Regal Orchids Compost mixes are ideal for these plants and can be bought in varying weight sizes.

HINTS & TIPS

- Never stand the plant in a draught or too near to a source of heat.
- Let the temperature drop a little more in winter at night to initiate flower spike formation.
- Leaves will occasionally turn yellow and die off without worry but if the

plant loses several at once, root problems caused by over-watering are the most likely cause.

- If the plant suffers dramatically, cut back watering for 4wks or more to encourage new roots to be produced.