

Phalaenopsis**&****Paphiopedilum****care instructions**

These are 'low light' plants. East or West facing windows are best, ideally the plants should be placed a few feet away from the window. From November to February plants can tolerate being in a southern exposure, but the rest of the year the mid day sun is too strong.

Enhance relative humidity by placing plants on a humidity tray (tray or large saucer with pebbles and water standing 1/2 way up the pebbles). Evaporation will maintain higher humidity around the plants.

Plants can go outside from Memorial Day through September, if placed in a shaded area. Early morning or very late afternoon sun is OK, but midday sun is too strong. Extra watering is required outside.

Water:

Paphs & Phals do not like to go dry, so they should be watered **when still barely moist**.

How quickly you need to water again depends in part upon the growing medium (bark dries out fast, sphagnum moss holds moisture longer), and in part upon the relative humidity & temperature in your house.

Water by drenching with tepid water over kitchen sink, then return to normal location (*the ice cube method is a dirty trick, intended to kill the plants slowly, so you can buy another one*).

Watering weekly may or may not be sufficient in winter. Spring/Summer/Fall more frequent watering is likely required.

Fertilizer:

Add a very light dose of fertilizer every 3rd watering.

Use only 1/3-1/2 of the dosage recommended by the fertilizer manufacturer.

Repotting:

These orchids should be repotted every 2 years.

They can be grown in either: Pure sphagnum moss

Mix of sphagnum & bark (about 3:1 ratio)

Bark/charcoal/perlite or similar mix

Plastic pots maintain moisture longer than clay pots, but either can be used, as long as you water accordingly.

Phalaenopsis should simply be seated as deep as possible in the new pot. Soak the plant so roots get soft, and try to get as many as possible into the new pot.

Paphiopedilum must be repotted, so the root crown (**A**) is 3/8" below the surface (**B**) of the potting mix.

Phalaenopsis do well in pure sphagnum.

