

PHALAENOPSIS:



Light - A Phalaenopsis should get about **2 hours of weak sun directly on its leaves** - such as early morning or filtered mid-day sun. To check a location, put the plant there when the sunlight is strongest and, after a few minutes, feel the leaves. If they are warm, the light is too strong.

Water - Let only the top of the mix dry to about an inch down before watering. Then water thoroughly. Fertilize once a month with any balanced soluble plant food such as Peter's or Miracle Gro 20-20-20 at 1/2 strength.

Temperature - Phalaenopsis like minimum night temperatures of 65 degrees F or higher. Day temperatures up to 105 degrees F are tolerated. **Note:** To flower Phals, they need a night temperature drop to between 58 and 62 degrees.

Repotting - Repot Phalaenopsis once a year into plastic pots. Use a mix that retains some water.

Pests - Phals don't have many pest problems, but on occasion mealy bugs can get into the flowers and under the leaves and in the crown of the plant. If this should happen, spray all of the leaves and the flowers and spike with a mixture of 2 Tbs dormant oil to 1 quart isopropyl alcohol. After spraying, wipe off the dead insects. Also, watch for scale insects on the plant and treat in the same way.

Note: If you use sphagnum moss, do not water until the top is just dry but still soft to the touch. It can take up to ten days to dry.

PAPHIOPEDILUM:



Light - The mottled foliated Paphs and some green foliage Paphs can do well with just over 2 hours of weak sun. The larger green leaf multi-floral Paphs can use as much as 4 or 5 hours of sun on the leaves.

Water - Water Paphs about twice a week. When the weather is dry, you may need to water 3 or more times a week. Paphs should **never** dry out completely. [SEP]

Temperature - Day temperature can go as high as 100 degrees and night temperature as low as 55 degrees.

Repotting - Repot every year or even more often using a mix with good water retention. Plastic pots are a good idea. Annual potting is important; although with Orchidata bark, you can go 2 years plus before repotting

Feeding - Monthly fertilizing with half strength houseplant fertilizer. Many Paphs benefit from oyster shell as another source of calcium.

Pests - Paphs don't have many pest problems, but on occasion mealy bugs can get in the bract of the flower. If this should happen, spray all of the leaves and any flower stem with a mixture of 2 Tbs dormant oil to 1 quart isopropyl alcohol off. Another problem is a tan colored rot at the base of the plant. Take these leaves off and dust the plant with cinnamon or sulfur.