

PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

LIGHT:- These orchids probably like more shade than most & 50% to 70% shade is needed. A glasshouse is really essential in colder areas to maintain the right light & temperature for these orchids. They can be also grown very well in the house so long as they get good light & the heat can be provided in a bathroom or on top of a refrigerator.

AIR:- As with all orchids air movement is essential as it helps the leaves keep a good steady temperature, The temperature that they need is really a min of say 11c & a max of around 35c. They will tolerate lower temperatures for small periods but this is not recommended.

WATERING:- These plants because they do not have bulbs require watering more often than others at least twice a week during the summer & once a week during the winter. Good humidity should be maintained at all times & if you are growing inside the house then a tray of stones filled with water will assist in providing the humidity.

FOOD:- A good fertilizer used every watering is the best with these orchids, use at half strength. Any normal fertilizer can be used i.e. Thrive or Aquasol.

COMPOST:- The best compost to be used is a medium bark & fine bark in equal proportions with approx a fifth of charcoal to sweeten the mix. You could also try adding styrene foam. Some sphagnum moss can assist the roots especially on smaller plants.

REPOTTING:- This must be done every two years otherwise the mix will sour. It is best done after flowering but when the plant has produced new roots of approx one inch in length as this will assist in the plant re-establishing into the new mix a lot quicker.