

Orchids

Genus: Orchidaceae

Home: Tropical Climates

There are more than 35,000 types of orchids on our planet. Here are a few species suitable to be a house plant:

- Cattleya Hybrid, suited to be planted in a terrarium
- Cymbidium Hybrid is a popular houseplant. There are miniature or regular size blooms.
- Miltonia Hybrid also called Pansy Orchid. Not easy to grow under room conditions.
- Odontoglossum Hybrid, easy to grow in good light and high humidity. Needs a winter resting period.
- Paphilopediulum Hybrid, suitable for room cultivation, many hybrids available. Also called Cypripedium.
- Phalaenopsis Hybrid needs a steady temperature and high humidity. Numerous blooms on arching stalk.
- Vuylstekeara Hybrid, man-made hybrid, same requirements as Odontoglossum.

General care

Temperature: day above 70°F in summer, 60°F in winter and a drop at night of 10°F. Cool nights are important

Light: Good light, but shaded from direct sunlight (behind curtains or window blinds). Orchids need 10 to 15 hours light each day. In winter supplement with artificial light.

Water: Keep compost moist, reduce watering in winter. Use soft tepid water. Cattleya and Miltonia let surface dry between watering.

Air Humidity: Moist air is essential. Mist leaves occasionally.

Repotting: repot only when growth begins to suffer. Air Roots outside the pot are normal. Growing media commonly include fir bark, coconut husk, and sphagnum moss

Propagation: Division of plants

