



FITZROY NURSERY

## PHALAENOPSIS ORCHIDS / MOTH ORCHIDS

These spectacular orchids originating from Asia produce their gorgeous blooms over many months under the right conditions.

### **Position**

Phalaenopsis Orchids prefer to remain indoors to provide them with the warmth they require. They will do best in bright light near a window (an easterly window is ideal). Avoid cold rooms, particularly in winter; move to a sunny window. Consistency is the key – avoid fluctuations in temperature; keep away from heaters and air conditioners.

### **Watering**

Water thoroughly (wetting all the potting medium right through) and return it to its normal growing position. Do not allow the plant to sit in water. Ideally fill any saucer with pebbles to lift the plant away from excess water. When planted in bark, a water once a week is usually sufficient allowing the bark to dry out on top between waterings. When planted in sphagnum moss, wait until there is definite drying on the top and the moss is only slightly damp to the touch before re-watering.

### **Feeding**

Weak liquid fertiliser may be used monthly from September to March. Re-pot only when the plant becomes completely pot-bound. Use a specific orchid potting medium to ensure good drainage. Phalaenopsis can remain in the same container for several years.

After a long flowering period, Phalaenopsis will finish their flower spikes and have a rest period. Leave the plant in the same position. When new buds form as side branches, cut the old spike down just above the new buds.

Occasionally, moth orchids produce 'keikis' on the flowering stem. These have leaves and roots just like the parent plant. They are perfectly normal and are genetic clones of the plant. They can be potted into orchid mix and grown on like any moth orchid.