

Phallaenopsis  
“Moth Orchid”

Phallaenopsis orchids form flowers on long spikes that some say resemble a moth. The blooms come in a variety of colors; however the whites tend to be the largest. Lavenders and pink are common also. The blooms can last up to two months. If you look closely at the flowering stem, you will see nodes (usually three to four) up and down it. After the initial bloom, the very tip of the bloom spike wither, do not remove the stem, cut it back to just above the next node down and it should send out another bloom spike from the node.

When this one is finished, cut just above the next one down and it will bloom. Do not remove the flower stem until all promising nodes have developed.

Native to the tropics, the ideal temperature for Moth Orchids is 60 to 80 degrees. Humidity should be around 60%-70%, making them very popular houseplants.

Place the plant in a bright indirect light (a northern window is great) as direct sunlight may burn the leaves.

Recommended planting requires coarse orchid bark to allow excess water to run through. Some growers are using a ceramic media, which looks like \_” “volcanic” balls. Either one works well, the bark is usually less expensive but the ceramic material will last longer. Do not let the orchid stand in water for extended lengths of time. Repotting is only necessary when the bark starts to break down or the plant outgrows the pot. Water when slightly dry. Do not over or under water. Careful watering keeps the leaves dry, thereby warding off diseases such as moss or fungi.

Recommended feeding is every two weeks with Grow More 20-20-20.