



Caring for Orchids

The common belief that orchids are difficult to grow is a fallacy. By following these simple guidelines your orchids will reflower and perform well each season.

1. Plenty of light

Orchids will only flower well if grown in a bright position for most of the year. The very hot afternoon sun during the summer months can burn the leaves. At this time plants must be positioned under trees where they receive shade protection. Many people place their orchids in a shaded position and forget them. Do not do this.

NB. Remember to reposition your orchids in a bright sunny position at the end of summer if you want them to flower well.

2. Good air circulation

Ensure that your orchids are grown in a spot where they receive good air circulation to prevent any black spot or fungal problems.

3. Watering

Even though orchids are very hardy and don't require much watering during winter, they do need daily watering over summer.

4. Fertilising

Feed your orchids with a slow release fertiliser such as nine month Osmocote when they finish flowering. This will encourage the formation of the blooms.

5. Repotting of orchids

Only repot your orchids in spring if required. When the orchid has filled its current pot it should be repotted into the next size pot.

Use a coarse orchid mix. The orchid should only be divided as a last option - as the division of the corms will retard the formation and reproduction of flower spikes until the orchid fills out again to a reasonable size.

6. Conclusion

Place your orchid in a well lit position, provide it with a good ventilation, water regularly during summer and fertilise with a slow release fertiliser.. Supplement this with a liquid fertiliser high in potash and your orchid should flower well.