


Growth Technology products for healthy orchids and long-lasting flower displays

Orchid Focus

Orchid Focus BLOOM is ideal for *Phalaenopsis* at all stages and for the flowering stage of *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, Cambrias and others.

Orchid Focus GROW is a great fertiliser for the vegetative periods of *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, Cambria-type orchids and others.



The **Eric Young Orchid Foundation** recommends the **Orchid Focus GROW** and **BLOOM** feeding programme.

Orchid Focus Drip Feeders

Orchid Focus Drip Feeders will support healthy growth and abundant, prolonged flowering. They are a simple, convenient way to ensure that orchids receive a constant supply of the nutrients they need.



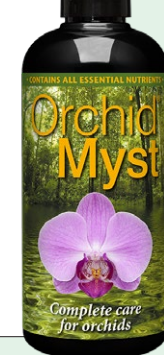
Orchid pots

Our pots are specifically designed for orchids, with large holes to assist drainage and a bottom dome for excellent aeration.



Orchid Myst

The most convenient and ideal way to look after orchids. **Orchid Myst** is the revolutionary way to provide orchids with all the necessary nutrients – both mineral and organic. A nutrient solution, pest repellent and growth enhancer all in one spray. Specifically formulated to support and prolong flowering. Simply spray the leaves, roots and bark regularly.




Orchid Focus Repotting Mix

The best medium for your orchids. Supplied in convenient 3 litre and 8 litre bags, this is specifically formulated for orchids. Orchid Focus Repotting Mix is pure bark – it does not contain any peat or soil.



SB Plant Invigorator


A unique 3-in-one pesticide, mildewcide and foliar feed for all plants. Controls mealybug, spider mite, aphids, whitefly. Suitable for use throughout the year – no harvest interval. Safe to use in the home.

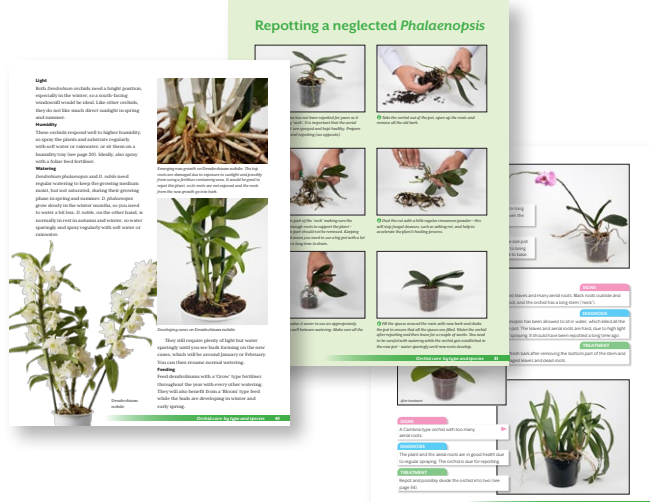


Further reading

Growing Orchids at Home is an authoritative and detailed guide to caring for orchids in the home – the result of experience, continuous experimentation and extensive research by expert authors. All common types of orchids are covered. This book communicates all the necessary information in a way which is easy to understand, with over 100 unique, purpose-taken pictures. It includes a section with answers to the most common questions, and a photographic guide to signs, diagnosis and treatment for bringing ailing orchids back to health. The only book you need when growing orchids in the home environment.

72 pages, with over 150 colour photographs to demonstrate key information.





Other products from Growth Technology



The Growth Technology Promise

We are a British family business, making advanced, specialist products for thriving houseplants. We use the best quality ingredients to ensure the best results every time – no short cuts, no compromises. For all our products we consider first and foremost the plant's needs, sustainability for our environment, and value and convenience for the customer.

If you love your plants, give them everything. Give them Focus.




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Making the Most of Your Orchids

By **Dr Manos Kanellos**, plant physiologist and author

Practical advice and products for healthy plants and stunning, longer-lasting flower displays

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Buying orchids

Orchids can thrive in the home environment and flower year after year if they are given the right environment to flourish. If you bear in mind the conditions in your house and where you want to keep the orchid before you buy it, you have done most of the work.

There is a variety of orchids to suit different indoor environments and you can, of course, change the position of the plant from time to time. For example, you can sit an orchid on a south-facing windowsill in the winter to maximise the light it receives, but move it to a west-facing windowsill in the summer to avoid direct sunlight damage.

When buying an orchid, you need to check its roots, leaves (and pseudobulbs), as well as the flower buds. If the plant is in a plastic sleeve, carefully lift it out of the sleeve (or ask the seller to do it for you) and inspect the plant. A good plant to buy will have plenty of green healthy leaves, many buds and vigorous roots.

Fresh air at night



Dendrobium phalaenopsis

Most plants give off oxygen during the day and carbon dioxide at night, but orchids do the reverse so they are ideal for bedrooms where fresh air is needed mostly at night, especially *Phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium* which are super night oxygenators. Other good night oxygenators include cacti, especially Christmas cactus and Easter cactus, bromeliads, Swiss cheese plant (*Monstera deliciosa*) and *Aloe vera*.

✗ AVOID: Plants with shrivelled pseudobulbs or yellowish buds (they are not likely to open).

Caring for your orchids

Orchids have the potential to flower repeatedly giving many years of pleasure. They are easy to look after if you follow a few simple guidelines. The advice below covers most common orchids.

Light

Orchids require good light but no direct sunlight in the summer months. Most orchids will do well on an east or west-facing windowsill (or on a south-facing windowsill in the winter and change their position from March to September). Good light is the key for *Phalaenopsis* to re-flower. *Paphiopedilums* and *Miltonias* will do well in a bright room rather than a windowsill.

Temperature

If it is comfortable for humans, it is good for *Phalaenopsis* as they with thrive at 18–23°C. *Cambrias* require a lower range of 12°C to 20°C so offices, spare rooms or windowsills away from radiators are ideal for them. *Cymbidiums* need to be moved outside the house in the summer and brought in before the first frosts to receive the necessary cool temperatures. Cool temperatures are the key for *Cambrias* and *Cymbidiums* to reflower.

Humidity

A simple way to increase humidity around your orchids is to spray them regularly, two to three times per week. The best time of day to spray is in the morning. Take care not to leave any water sitting in the core of the plant right where the top two leaves meet. Spray the leaves, and especially the aerial roots and the top of the growing medium. Spray orchids with soft water, rainwater or ideally use a foliar feed such as **Orchid Myst**.

Orchids will not thrive in low humidity environments. Their leaves will tend to be smaller, twisted and more brittle, and in cases of very low humidity the leaves will start splitting.

Another good way to increase humidity is to sit your orchid on a humidity tray. It can be used in combination with spraying or

on its own. Sit your orchids on top making sure the bottoms of the pots do not touch the water – the water will increase the humidity around the plant as it evaporates. Keep an eye on the water level and top up as necessary.

A humidity tray positioned out of direct sunlight is a good way to look after your orchids, especially if you go away on holiday. Give the plants a good watering before you go, sit them on a humidity tray away from direct sunlight and go on holiday for two to three weeks with peace of mind.

Feeding

Orchids, like all plants, need regular feeding to support growth and flowering. Use an orchid-specific fertiliser that has the correct N:P:K ratio, contains all the nutrients plants need, and does not contain any urea (or ureic nitrogen) as that is harmful to orchids. Whether you have one orchid or many, the most convenient way to feed them (and give them humidity at the same time) is to use a good foliar feed such as **Orchid Myst**.

Mist the leaves, exposed roots and bark – not the flowers – with Orchid Myst two to three times per week for best results. For ideal feeding, additionally use **Orchid Focus BLOOM** and **Orchid Focus GROW** with every other watering.



Watering

If you live in an area with very hard water it is best to use either clean rainwater or filtered tap water, at least every so often. Ideally use tepid water. Water as needed to keep orchids moist but not wet and allow them to dry a bit more in the mid-winter. *Phalaenopsis* requires some drying between waterings so water when roots turn silver white and you notice the weight of the pot become lighter. Orchids will need less watering in winter and more in the summer. We highly recommend the watering of orchids from the top and giving a good amount of water (about twice the volume of the pot). Only *Cymbidiums* will benefit from ‘dunking’ in water for 10–15 minutes as it is difficult to water them from the top.

Shrivelled roots and leaves are the sign of lack of water. A black pot without many visible roots is caused by overwatering.



Healthy, turgid, green roots. The root system is in great health and the orchid does not need watering.



Healthy root system turning silver-white. Time to consider watering. Water the orchid if the pot feels light, too.

Pests

The most common pests are scaly insects and mealy bugs. A good tip for prevention is to wipe the leaves regularly with a damp cloth. If you notice any insects, remove as many as you can mechanically and treat the plant with the environmentally friendly, non-toxic **SB Plant Invigorator**. Spray at least four times at four day intervals.



For more information on houseplant care, visit www.focus-on-plants.com



Cymbidium

Repotting

Orchids should be repotted every 18–24 months, usually into pots of the next size up, after careful pruning of any dead roots. If you buy an orchid in moss or coir (a soil-like medium made from ground coconut), it is best to repot in bark after the end of flowering. Most tropical orchids (the ones normally sold in the UK) do not grow in soil, so never use soil or peat to repot them. The coarse, open texture of bark is ideal for almost all popular orchids as it ensures good drainage and aeration. Orchids should be repotted in the spring after flowering. *Phalaenopsis* can also be repotted in the autumn when not in flower.



Orchid Focus Repotting Mix

✗ NEVER USE: ‘Orchid composts’ or ‘bark-based’ media that contain peat, soil or dust of bark.

✓ ALWAYS: Use graded bark to repot your orchids.

It is best to use a transparent pot for all orchids, especially for *Phalaenopsis* (which are usually sold in clear pots anyway) as these enable the roots to photosynthesize and you can keep an eye on them as a guide for watering or to check for any problems. As orchids tend to be top-heavy when in flower, it is a good idea to sit the clear pot in a larger, heavier ornamental pot. The roots should still get enough light. Only *Cymbidiums* are normally potted in special tall pots as they tend to be large plants.

