

**Botanical name:**  
**Genus: Phalaenopsis**  
**Species: orchid**

**Common Name(s):**  
Moth orchid  
**Latin Family Name:**  
Orchidaceae  
**English Family Name:** Orchid

#### The plant

**Origin; country or region:** Native to Tropical Asia

**Growth habit:** They are a tropical epiphytic orchid, meaning that in nature they grow on the branches and trunks of trees, but are not parasitic

**Flower description:** Showy

A few to many, small to large, long-lasting, flat, often fragrant flowers are arranged on erect to hanging racemes or panicles

Flowers usually in white, pink, and purple in various patterns

**Blooming period/availability:** Annual/once a year

**Leaf/Foliage Description:** The leaves are usually arranged in two rows, relatively large, glossy, fleshy and leathery, oblong to elliptic and sometimes succulent

**Usage:** A prized and elegant houseplant

**STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES:**

Longest blooming orchids

Beautiful colours of hybrids are available

Adds sophistication and elegance to any corner/space

A group of similar plants of the Phalaenopsis in large container looks absolutely stunning

Mini or tea cup varieties make great table decor pieces

An elegant and thoughtful plant gift for house warming , anniversaries etc

(Longer lasting than cut flowers)

**WEAKNESS:**

Expensive

Blooms annually

Bud blast (buds may not bloom)

Sensitive to temperature & humidity



#### Care & Handling

**Longevity:** Phalaenopsis orchids are one of the longest blooming orchid genera, with blooms lasting 2 to 6 months from late winter to spring  
Cut off the old flower spike near its base, this encourages the plant to rebloom within a year

**Water requirements:** Place the plant in the sink and flood for a minute or so with lukewarm (never cold) water, allow the plant to drain completely  
Assure that there is good pot drainage , as soggy roots will rot

**Light:** Phalaenopsis prefer low light, warm temperatures, and high humidity

**Soil/Nutrition requirements:** Coco peat & orchid soil work best  
Charcoal and pine wood are newer ways of growing Orchids

**Special care/remarks:** My secret to a long lasting Phals & Dens is to give them a nice water bath once a week, set the pot into a sink or shower, let it bath nicely, then let the water drain (keep a towel so the water drains out completely) and then keep it back in its space

They last for several weeks or even up to 2 months!

