



Behind the Scenes in the Orchid Growing Houses

Our collection of more than 6200 orchids are cultivated in five greenhouses to provide a constant source of blooms for our orchid display.



This greenhouse is home to orchids such as *Disas*, *Masdevallias*, and *Lycastes* which require cool temperatures as part of their culture. Air conditioning units cool the space when needed, allowing us to grow orchids that are difficult to cultivate in other places.



This small greenhouse was built in 1921 as part of the original construction.

Peek into the window of this cool greenhouse from the long hallway near our Potting Shed for a look at some of the unusual orchids inside.



Disa uniflora are grown and bred from seed every year at Longwood.
They take 2 ½ years to flower from seed.
Here they have been started in constantly moist sphagnum moss.



The historic 1926 *Cattleya* House holds over 3000 orchids. Growing these plants with more light promotes showy blooms which are larger and more prolific. This causes the foliage to be a light, lime green color which is perfectly healthy.



Cymbidiums grow in a high light house with cool temperatures.
They are moved outside to grow in our Nursery from May through October.
This house has held *Cymbidiums* since 1926.



The Intermediate House, built in 1926, is full of a wide range of orchids, which thrive in temperatures ranging from 50–85 F with medium light. It is home to *Paphiopedilums*, *Dendrobiums*, and *Oncidium*.



The *Phalaenopsis* house provides low light and warm temperatures. Small windows under the benches are opened in the fall so the cool fall temperatures can trigger flower spike formation.