

Orchid Care for Beginners

Introduction to Orchids

Orchids have a reputation for being difficult, but many varieties are surprisingly easy to grow. The moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis*) is perfect for beginners, thriving in typical home conditions and blooming for months at a time.

Light Requirements

Most orchids prefer bright, indirect light. An east-facing window is ideal. Direct sunlight can burn leaves, while too little light prevents blooming. Yellowing leaves may indicate too much light; dark green leaves suggest insufficient light.

Watering Wisdom

The number one killer of orchids is overwatering. Most orchids need water only when their potting medium is nearly dry. Water thoroughly, allowing excess to drain, then don't water again until the medium approaches dryness.

Reblooming Secrets

After flowers fade, cut the spike above a node to encourage a secondary spike, or cut it at the base for stronger regrowth. Cool night temperatures (55-65°F) for several weeks often trigger reblooming. With proper care, orchids will bloom repeatedly for years.