

Cultural Information- Phaius
 (FAY-ee-us)

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun, an eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Generally keep the humidity above 50%, although they will tolerate lower levels for short periods without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the surface of the soil to visual dryness between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the mix. As they are terrestrial orchids they will benefit from having some moisture left in the pots between waterings.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Fertilize bi-weekly or monthly with a dilute balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Old flower stems can be removed as well as older leaves that are yellowing or showing signs of wear.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with insects. Foliar diseases can be an issue if growing conditions are wet and cool with poor air movement. Root disease is usually not an issue as long as the potting mix is well drained. Sphagnum moss is a good medium for growing Phaius.
<u>Comments:</u>	Phaius are tropical ground orchids that are surprisingly easy to grow and bloom. If given good light and watered just as the potting mix begins to dry, they will thrive in a home or sunroom environment. Flowering occurs as the new growth is maturing. Be sure to apply fertilizer periodically during periods of growth.