

**Cultural Information – Phalaenopsis**  
*(fay-lay-NOP-sis)*

<b><u>Light:</u></b>	Phalaenopsis grow well in bright but indirect light. An east window is best. Avoid hot, direct sunlight, which would be found in a south-facing window. If the light is very bright in your window, place your Moth Orchids at a distance from the glass where the rays do not fall directly on the foliage. As a rule, 1,000 to 2,000 foot-candles of light is the recommended intensity for Phalaenopsis.
<b><u>Temperature:</u></b>	Phalaenopsis will tolerate minimum nighttime temperatures of 60°. However, they prefer temperatures above 65° at night with a 10-degree rise during the day. They will not suffer if temperatures rise above 95° as long as the heat is not excessive. Budding of the flowering size, Phalaenopsis is stimulated by a drop in temperature to 50-60° in September or October. Light levels can be simultaneously increased at that time.
<b><u>Humidity:</u></b>	Moth Orchids prefer a minimum of 50% humidity. You might find that the addition of a humidifier in your growing area is helpful if the atmosphere is very dry. However, most environments have sufficient humidity to support them. To increase humidity without the use of a humidifier, you might try misting the foliage daily, clustering the plants together, or setting the plants on a pebble tray with water in the bottom, making sure that the pots are not actually sitting in water.
<b><u>Watering:</u></b>	Regardless of your orchid's growing medium, the water requirements are generally the same. Bring the potting medium almost to dryness but do not allow it to become completely bone dry. Test the moisture in the medium by feeling down with your finger. When the medium is almost dry, water the plant thoroughly. Phalaenopsis do not like wet roots, nor do they tolerate severe dryness.
<b><u>Fertilizer:</u></b>	During their growing season, Phalaenopsis benefit from periodic fertilizing. We recommend ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every four weeks. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. Be careful not to over-fertilize, as orchid roots are sensitive to excessive fertilizing.
<b><u>Pruning:</u></b>	As your young plants grow larger, they will require larger pots or fresh growing medium. This process should be done when active root growth is visible. When repotting, clean the old medium off the healthy roots, removing dead or damaged roots and place the plant in another pot with fresh medium. Many different mediums are used for Phalaenopsis. Some growers prefer medium of straight perlite, stones, charcoal, sphagnum moss or fir bark. If fir bark is used, pot the plant firmly. If long-fibered sphagnum moss is used, tuck the plant into the moss so that the moss remains fluffy while the plant is held secure. After repotting, water sparingly for a few weeks until the roots have readjusted and are growing again. We recommended checking the root system periodically to make sure that you are watering correctly. Optimally, the roots should be plump and round; new growth is green and succulent.
<b><u>Comments</u></b>	We find that they benefit from gently moving air such as from a fan.

