

Growing Phalaenopsis Orchids

There are about 80 species found in nature. They are either saprophytic, (grow on trees), or lithophytic, (grow on rocks). They are found principally in South East Asia through the Philippines, Indonesia and through Northern Australia.

Phalaenopsis is the most widely grown orchid in cultivation because of:

1. Ease of culture.
2. Floriferous.
3. Fast growing.
4. Colourful and excellent presentation.
5. Can be compact and easily transported.
6. Flowers can last for 3 months or longer.



Phal Nobby's Amy 'Warrigal'

Plants should be grown under covered 70% shade or generally less light. In winter, preferably sheltered cover or ideally hot house not less than 15°.

When watering plants in winter it must be definitely ensured that plants, particularly the central crown, be dry before night time when the temperature drops.

Therefore it is best to water on warm mornings, sunny days and possibly use fans to dry.

Air movement is important, (fans or convection), and humidity should not be less than about 70%

I am currently trialling growing in the following medium:

1. Coconut Husk (already PH adjusted).
2. Coconut Husk 2: Foam 1.
3. Coconut Husk 2: Bark 2: Foam 1.

All 3 medium will have the added benefit of less watering and appear to be doing well. I will re-pot all plants each year.

Fertilizer: Peters General Purpose *full strength* all year round.

Temperature: Up to 28° and no less than 15° but these can be exceeded for short periods, (a few days), provided high humidity and plants dry out after watering respectively.

Colours available include: White, pink, purples, red, orange, yellow, brownish and to a lesser extent, blues, greens and combination of colours.

By Dr Graham McKay – Director I.P.A.

These notes have been used at our Cultural and New Grower's Meetings. They are from various sources and we thank the authors. All articles are supplied in good faith and the Bribie Island Orchid Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.