General Tips

Lukewarm water • Pull the plant tag out of the pot & touch it to your wrist to feel if the plant is still wet, or use a bamboo skewer • Orchids like humidity & moving air • Use orchid mix, not potting soil • Fertilize weakly weekly

Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid)

• Don’t use an ice cube for watering! Lukewarm water.
• If planted in moss, wait until it is completely dry before watering.
• Avoid getting the base of the plant wet.
• Light levels: An east window, or near a window where the shadows are pale & fuzzy.
• After flowering, if the stem stays green, let it be. If the stem goes brown, you can cut it off.
• 75°-85° day & 60°-65°night.

Paphiopedilum (Lady Slipper)

• Keep moist - not soggy and not dry.
• Light levels: An east window, or near a window where the shadows are pale & fuzzy.
• Can tolerate cooler temperatures, but avoid getting the leaves and the base of the plant wet.

Cymbidium

• Summer: sunlight, lots of water & fertilizer.
• Highest light possible without burning.
• Leaves should be yellow-green, not dark green.
• Heavy feeders compared to most other orchids.
• In September: keep outside as long as possible and reduce water & fertilizer.
• Needs 40°-50° temperatures to trigger flowering.

Oncidium

• East, south or west windows are ideal.
• 55°- 60 ° at night, and 80°- 85° during the day.
• Large fleshy roots /leaves need watering less often than thin-leaved /thin-rooted plants.

Cattleya

• Leaves should be a medium green color.
• 55° to 60° at night and 70° to 85° during the day.
• Bright light, but not direct sun.
• Needs to dry out thoroughly before being watered.

Dendrobium

• Water your orchids in the morning so that the leaves are dry before night.
• Likes to be almost dry before re-watering.
• Lots of light, but not direct sun
• 65°-75° day & 55°-60°night.
• This is a huge & varied group of orchids! Stop by one of our meetings with your plant to learn more.

Join the Maine Orchid Society, we'll help you out!