

# 6 *Orchids for Every Gardener*

**1.** *EPIDENDRUM* are used as landscaping plants in tropical climates. In recent years, many new dwarf varieties have been developed in Japan. These flowers come in bright pinks, reds, yellows, and oranges. Epidendrums prefer bright light, and will bloom for months if healthy.

**2.** *VANDA* orchids have been bred to grow in a variety of shapes and colors. Originally from Southeast Asia, Vandas are require extra attention to grow indoors. These orchids do well in warmer climates, and need high humidity and lots of air movement to thrive.

**3.** *PAPHIOPEDILUMS* are one of the most popular types of orchids, paphiopedilums are tropical lady's slipper orchids from Southeast Asia. These flower are easy to grow indoors, and will thrive in lower light. With the right conditions, Paphiopedilums have a long lifespan and should be fertilized twice a month.

**4.** *BULBOPHYLLUM ECHINOLABIUM* orchids have a pungent, if not off-putting fragrance, similar to the smell of rotting meat. The name Echinolabium translates to "spiny lip," so it's no wonder these orchids are shaped with spiky petals.

**5.** *DENDROBIUM* prefer cooler climates and will produce a multitude of blooms in bright colors. These orchids flower for weeks, and cut flowers can last up to ten days. Cutting back on watering will encourage blooming, as Dendrobiums need a dry period before they produce flowers. There are many different species of these Old World orchids.

**6.** *ZYGOPETALUM* orchids are originally from South America. Their blooms are blues and violets, and have a strong fragrance similar to hyacinths. Zygopetalum need bright light and warm conditions. These flowers need lots of air movement to prevent the plant from spotting, which is a common problem.

