

All About Orchids

ORCHIDS ARE COLORFUL, EXOTIC, and maybe just a little mysterious. These beautiful flowers are one of the largest flowering plant families, with over 21,000 different species. While orchids can be found all over the world, the highest natural concentration of orchids grow in tropical locations such as Asia, South America, and Central America.

Orchids also make wonderful indoor and outdoor plants in the right conditions. These tropical beauties can be cultivated using a variety of methods, and can be grown in pots, trees, terrariums, and with or without soil. You should have few problems growing your plant if you match the proper method of growing with your type of orchid.

Orchids are divided into three basic types, each containing thousands of species. The two most popular types of orchids are Epiphytic orchids, which grow on trees, and Terrestrial orchids, which grow on the ground. Both types will grow in containers in the right circumstances. A less common type of orchid, and grow without much soil these orchids tend to cling to rocks for support.

Most types of orchids will bloom once a year if healthy. However, an orchid's normal bloom cycle is approximately every three months. In order to coax your plant to bloom more frequently, you can prune or cut back your orchid. Once the last flower drops, cut the flower spike halfway down the stem. By removing the spike, the plant's energy will increase and likely produce a new flower spike in three to four months.

Orchids are not known for their hardiness, and do not like to be disturbed or uprooted. However, if you notice your plant outgrowing its container or the soil breaking down, it may be time to repot your orchid. Repotting orchids is a delicate process and requires a little time and effort. The ideal time to repot an orchid is just after new growth forms and right before roots are established.

