



Beauty  
that lasts

**ORCHID CARE GUIDE**  
*Keep your Orchid Happy!*



## INTRODUCTION

When taking care of your orchid, you'll be faced with many questions. Should I cut the flowers? How much should I water my orchid? Should my orchid be in direct sunlight? Be prepared, when taking care of an orchid you'll soon be faced with a barrage of contradictory advice, which leads people to believe that the orchid is difficult to take care of. But, this is not true!

With the right tips and tricks you can keep your orchid happy and healthy. To give you a hand, our orchid cultivators have developed three simple steps to help you take care of your orchid and even reinvigorate it.

*Have fun caring for  
your orchids!*

STEP 1

# WATERING

*How should i water  
my orchid?*



## BATHING

If your orchid is still in its (plastic) inner pot, it's best to bathe it. To do so, put the root ball of the orchid in a shallow bath for a short while (5-10 minutes). You can use a basin, a bucket or your sink. Leave the (plastic) inner pot in place to ensure that you don't damage the roots. It's also essential that the plant dries thoroughly after its bath, because orchids don't like wet feet!

## DISH OF WATER

If you don't have a good basin, bucket or sink, you can also use a dish filled with water. By putting the orchid with its (plastic) inner pot on the dish for 5-10 minutes, the roots will also absorb all the water they need. If you do this, make sure to let the orchid dry well.





## THE SHOT GLASS

If you don't have a lot of time and your orchid is in a pot without its (plastic) inner pot, the shot glass is the perfect tool for you! To give an orchid the exact amount of water it needs, you only need to pour one shot glass of water (around 60 ml) at the side of the root ball. Be careful to not pour the water in the centre as the leaves will rot!

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU WATER YOUR ORCHID?

How often you need to water an orchid depends on the season that you're in. In summer your orchid is a little thirstier and it's best to water it once per week. In winter, once per two weeks is plenty. But if you love to keep your heating on in the winter months, we'd advise you to keep watering your orchid once per week.



## STEP 2

# MAINTENANCE

Have you mastered watering your orchid? Then let's move on to taking care of your orchid, because you want to enjoy it for as long as possible. With the tips below, you can keep your orchid in perfect health for longer.



# ORCHID POTTING SOIL

When you buy an orchid, it will already be in the right type of soil. You can leave your orchid in that pot, or you can style it in your own pot, with multiple orchids or on its own. The type of soil you use when repotting orchids is very important.

Never use normal potting soil, because it doesn't have all the nutrition your orchid needs or the right structure for your plant. Garden centres sell special orchid soil that has the right composition.



# PUT YOUR ORCHID IN A BRIGHT SPOT

- Orchids like plenty of light, but they don't like direct sunlight. Fortunately, this doesn't mean that you can never put your orchid on a window sill, just make sure to pick a sill that's not in full sunlight all of the day.
- Orchids don't like draughts. A little fresh air now and then won't be a problem, but be wary of windows and doors that are often open.
- Another thing orchids don't like is being near a heater. In summer, when your heater is off, it's not a problem, but pay attention to this in winter.
- Orchids like a room temperature of at least 15 to at most 25 C. Most rooms in modern houses comfortably meet these demands.
- The kitchen is a fine place for orchids, but be wary of fruit and vegetables. Fruit and vegetables emit ethylene, which may cause your orchid to drop all its buds at once.



## CUT OFF DEAD FLOWERS

When the flowers of your orchid die, they dry out and eventually fall off. If this doesn't happen naturally, you can also cut off the dried flowers carefully yourself. Doing so allows the plant to focus all its energy on its blooming flowers and new buds. During the bloom period of your orchid you don't need to trim it. When your orchid has completely finished blooming, you may choose to trim it to stimulate the creation of new buds. How? Read more at step 3!

### *Did you know?*

**...that you can make your orchid truly shine by giving it a little extra food? Give your orchid a little orchid food once per month in summer, or once per two months in winter. Make sure you do not use normal plant nutrition, this is too strong for the orchid. Only use special orchid food!**

## STEP 3

# BLOOMING AGAIN

### FINISHED BLOOMING? DON'T WORRY!

If you followed the previous steps you probably enjoyed your blooming orchid for weeks. But if your orchid's finished blooming, don't worry! Most orchid types can have a second bloom. All you need is a little patience and the important steps.





## CUT OFF DEAD FLOWERS

It's a good idea to cut off dead flowers as far back to the base as possible for most orchid types (Cymbidium, Cattleya, Oncidium, Cambria, Miltonia, Paphiopedilum, Vanda, Zygopetalum and Dendrobium). For the Phalaenopsis, it's better to cut off the flower above the second node. The node is the little bump on the spike.

## MOVE THE ORCHID

If your orchid is finished blooming, you can move it to a cooler place (about 7 degrees cooler than during the bloom period). It is often said that this place also needs to be dark, but that's not true. An orchid can still use a lot of light during this period, but just like during the bloom period, don't expose it to full sunlight.





## WATER IT LESS

After the bloom period the orchid doesn't need as much water. In general, watering the flower once per two weeks would be suitable at this point. It is also important to give the plant a little orchid food once in a while. You can reduce the frequency of this as well after the bloom period: once per two months should be suitable.

## BLOOMING AGAIN

After a while the branches will grow again and new buds will appear. When you see this happen, you can move the orchid back to its special spot to pick up where you left off. You can enjoy a wonderful orchid again!

*Did you know*

**...that getting your orchid to bloom again is totally worth it? The famous Phalaenopsis variety is known to bloom two or even three times per year.**



# EXTRA TIP

# BUY A HEALTHY ORCHID

When you're looking for an orchid, check:



## THE ROOTS

Vermijd donkerbruine wortels, veel levende (groene) wortels zijn een must!



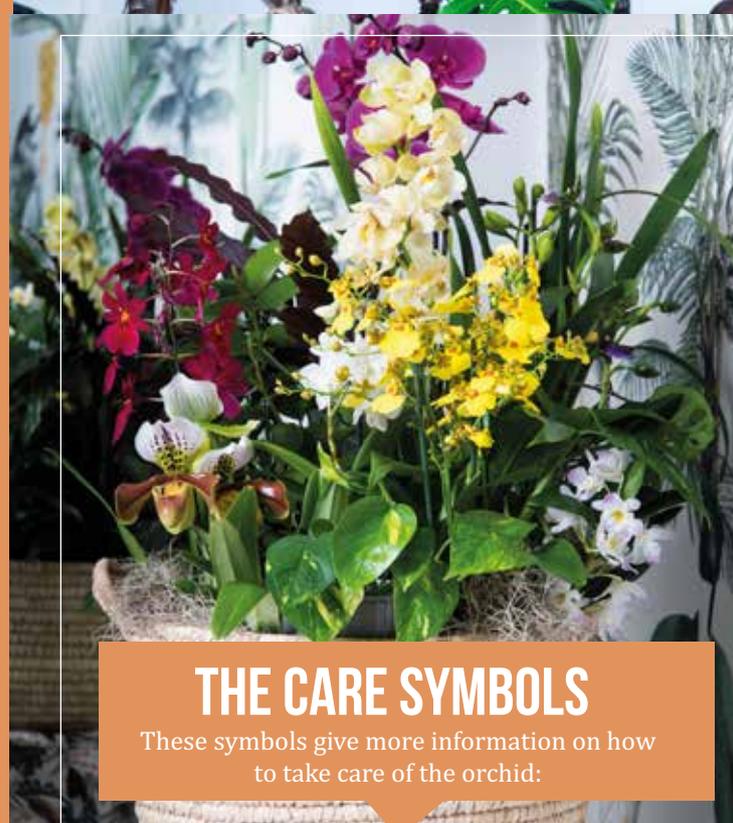
## THE LEAVES

Bij voorkeur zijn deze egaal van kleur en vertonen ze geen afwijkingen.



## THE FLOWERS

Kies een orchidee waar de bloemen voor 50% in de knop zijn, dan heb je er langer plezier van.



## THE CARE SYMBOLS

These symbols give more information on how to take care of the orchid:



Be mindful of full sunlight



Bathe once per week



Moderate water once per week



Feed once per month



Max. 25° C  
Min 15° C



Trim  
Cut after blooming



Not suitable for consumption

A cluster of bright red Cambria orchid flowers with yellow centers.

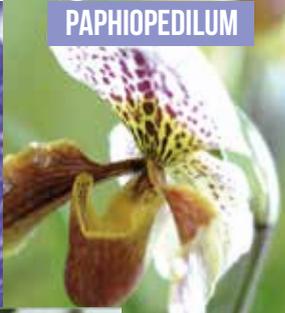
CAMBRIA

A cluster of pale yellow Cymbidium orchid flowers with dark brown spots on the petals.

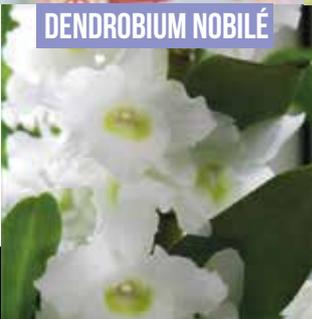
CYMBIDIUM

A cluster of deep purple Vanda orchid flowers with intricate patterns on the petals.

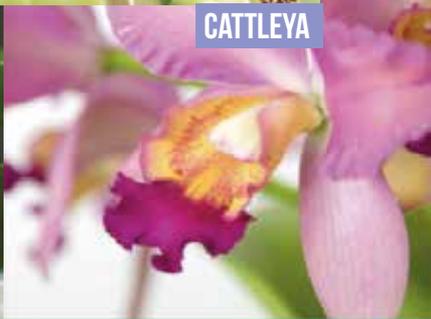
VANDA

A single Paphiopedilum orchid flower with a white and yellow spotted lip and a brown pouch.

PAPHIOPEDILUM

A cluster of white Dendrobium nobilé orchid flowers with yellow centers.

DENDROBIUM NOBILÉ

A single Cattleya orchid flower with pink and yellow petals and a dark purple lip.

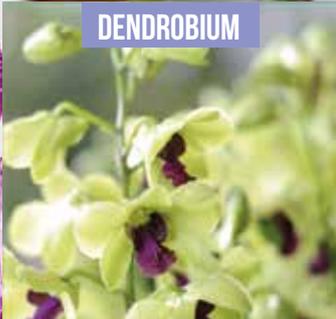
CATLEYA

A single white Miltonia orchid flower with a yellow center and a dark purple lip.

MILTONIA

A cluster of white orchid flowers with dark brown centers, labeled as 'Uitzonderlijke orchideeën' (exceptional orchids).

UITZONDERLIJKE ORCHIDEEËN

A cluster of yellow Dendrobium orchid flowers with dark purple centers.

DENDROBIUM

A single yellow Oncidium orchid flower with a dark center.

ONCIDIUM

A cluster of purple Zygopetalum orchid flowers with intricate patterns on the petals.

ZYGOPETALUM

A cluster of purple Phalaenopsis orchid flowers with intricate patterns on the petals.

PHALAENOPSIS

## TYPES OF ORCHIDS

Did you know that there are over 25,000 different types of orchids? All these types can be sorted into the twelve groups you see below. The three steps for taking care of your orchid apply to every type, but because we understand that you want to give your own orchid more than just the basics, we also have a golden tip per type.



## CAMBRIA

Cambria orchids are enormously varied when it comes to size and shape: from a centimetre and a half to more than ten centimetres in length, from star-shaped to spherical. The colours brown, red and purple are the most prominent, but there are also pink and orange Cambria orchids.

### GOLDEN TIP

In het voorjaar kan deze orchidee ook buiten staan. Let wel op: de plant mag niet in de volle zon staan (net als binnen) en de temperatuur mag niet onder de 9 C komen.

## CYMBIDIUM

With its happy, grass-like leaves, this orchid is just a little different from others. It originally comes from the forests of the Himalaya, where it lives between 1,200 and 2,800 metres high

### GOLDEN TIP

It's best to bathe a Cymbidium right after buying.



## DENDROBIUM

The Dendrobium owes its name to the way it grows in the wild. Dendron is Greek for tree and bios means life. In the wild, this orchid grows on the side of trees and rocks.

### GOLDEN TIP

Use lukewarm water when bathing, as the Dendrobium has sensitive roots.



## DENDROBIUM NOBILÉ

The Dendrobium Nobile has a distinctive way of blooming: this orchid will create a bunch of flowers right underneath each leaf. You can enjoy a blooming Dendrobium Nobile for up to eight weeks!

### GOLDEN TIP

The Dendrobium Nobile can deal better with lots of light than most orchids, but you still shouldn't put it in direct sunlight.

## CATTLEYA

Of all orchids, the Cattleya has the most varied appearance. There are Cattleyas with big and with small flowers. This orchid is striking because of its spectacular colours and often smells good, especially when exposed to daylight.

### GOLDEN TIP

The perfect temperature for the Cattleya is nice and warm: 18 to 22°C.



## MILTONIA

The Miltonia has joyful flowers that resemble violets in shape, which explains its nickname, violet orchid.

### GOLDEN TIP

Compared to other orchids, the Miltonia needs a little more water, ideally twice per week.



## ONCIDIUM

This orchid's colours and patterns remind people of a tiger, which is why it's also called a tiger orchid.

### GOLDEN TIP

The Oncidium fares best when you bathe it.

## PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paphiopedilums is also called Venus slippers, because the flower has a sort of shoe-shaped lip. They use it to catch insects!

### GOLDEN TIP

Don't give the Paphiopedilum too much food, they only need a little bit of fertiliser. Use only half the amount indicated on the bottle.



## PHALAENOPSIS

By far the most common type of orchid: the Phalaenopsis. The name Phalaenopsis means "like a butterfly or moth" and comes from the Greek "Phalaina" (moth) and "opsis" (resembling). The discoverer of this flower first thought it was a butterfly.

### GOLDEN TIP

It is fairly easy to let the Phalaenopsis bloom again. Simply cut off the stem above the second node and the plant will start producing new, blooming spikes.



## VANDA

In 1613 the Vanda was discovered by Alvin Semedo, who called it 'tiao hua', or 'air plant'. The aerial roots work like sponges and can take in a lot of moisture quickly.

### GOLDEN TIP

A Vanda is perfect to hang on a wall or ceiling, so you don't need soil. It's best to spray the aerial roots.

## ZYGOPETALUM

The Zygopetalum originates in South America and has beautiful shades of blue, red, purple and white. Some types of Zygopetalum give off a very nice fragrance when blooming.

### GOLDEN TIP

The Zygopetalum could use a little more water than most orchids. During both summer and winter, water the Zygopetalum at least once or twice per week.



## SPECIAL ORCHIDS

Sometimes your search for orchids brings you across something special. These special orchids are cultivated in small batches and have a limited availability. Examples of such special orchids include Epidendrum, Ludisia, Masdevallia, Erythraeum, Promenaea, Spathoglottis, Psychopsis, Angraecum, Encyclia cochleata (Octopussy orchid), Macodes and Maxillaria.

### GOLDEN TIP

When taking care of these orchids, it would still be a good idea to follow our three steps. If you want more tips for these specific flowers, you can ask at a sales point or check the plant label.



MORE INFORMATION

**WWW.ORCHIDSINFO.EU**



/ORCHIDSINFO



/ORCHIDSINFO



/ORCHIDSINFO