

# Orchid



## Light Requirements

**Best Placement:** Orchids thrive in bright, indirect light—an east-facing window is ideal. Avoid direct sun, which can burn their delicate leaves. A sheer curtain can help diffuse intense sunlight.

- **Signs of too much light:** Leaves turn yellow or develop scorched patches.
- **Signs of too little light:** Leaves become dark green, and flowering slows or stops.
- **Artificial light:** If natural light is insufficient, use a full-spectrum grow light placed 12–18 inches away for 10–12 hours daily.

## Watering Guidelines

Orchids do not like constantly wet soil—their roots need periods of drying to stay healthy.

- **When to Water:** Water when roots turn silver-white—typically once a week, but adjust based on humidity and temperature.
- **Best Method:**
  - Place the pot in a sink or bowl and let room-temperature water run through the pot for 30–60 seconds.
  - Allow all excess water to drain completely before returning the plant to its spot.
- **Avoid:**
  - Letting the plant sit in standing water (causes root rot).
  - Watering with cold water (shocks the plant).

## Feeding for Blooms

Orchids require consistent but gentle feeding to sustain healthy growth and encourage flowering.

- **Best Fertilizer:** A balanced orchid fertilizer (e.g., 20-20-20 or 30-10-10) diluted to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength.
- **When to Fertilize:** Every 2–4 weeks during active growth (spring and summer). Reduce feeding in fall and winter.
- **Avoid:** Over-fertilizing, which can burn roots and lead to weak growth.