

## Orchid Genera Growing Requirements

GENUS	TEMP	H2O	FOOD	LIGHT	COMMENTS
Brassia	I-W	M	L	M-L	Drier in winter
Bulbophyllum	W	H	M	M-H	Keep moist grow on slab
Catasetum	I	M	M	M-H	Cool & dry in winter
Cattleya	I	M	M	M-H	
Cirrhopetalum	I-W	M	L	L	Slab
Cymbidium	C-I	H	M	VH	Feb-Sep uses 30-10-10 Sep- Feb use 10-30-30
Dendrobium					
(Evergreen type)	W	M	M	M	Increase food and water when new roots appear
(Deciduous type)	M	M	M	M	Winter rest no food, cool nights, little or no water
Encyclia	I	M	L	M	Drier after new growth appears
Epidendrum	I	M	M	M	
Miltonia	I-W	M	L	M	Keep moist
Oncidium	I	M	L	M	
Paphiopedilum	I-W	H	M	M	Repot annually large clumps smallest Possible pot
Phaius	I	M	L	M	Drier after new growth appears
Phalaenopsis	W-I	M	L	L	Baskets or pots
Pleurothallis	C-I	M-H	L	L	Keep damp
Vanda	I-W	H	M	H	Baskets
Vanilla	V-W	M	M	H	3 weeks rest after flowering

NOTE: These ranges are based on the genus as a whole, many species have different tolerances. Hybrids produced by crossing cool-growing genera with intermediate Growing genera. May grow well in either temperature range.

### Temperature range

**C** - cool 50-60 F night time, 70-75 F daytime

**I** - intermediate- 55-65 F night time, 75-80 F daytime

**W** - warm- 60-70 F night time 80-90 F daytime

### Water

**H** - heavy- never allow to dry out, always slightly moist

**M** - normal - allow to dry before next watering

**L** - lite- allow to dry well before next watering

### Food

**H** - heavy feeder - 1 teaspoon/ per gal, every two weeks, during growth cycle

**M** - medium feeder- ½ teaspoon per gallon, every two weeks, during growth cycle

**L** - lite- 1/4 teaspoon per gallon, every two weeks during growth cycle

**N** - none

The fertilizer analysis (N-P-K) depends upon the type of medium being used. For coconut chips, and general inorganic medias, we recommend 20-10-20, for routine fertilizing, 6-30-30, for bloom boosting, with 30-10-10 for bark. We recommend no feeding during the non growth cycle or hardening off period. The above recommendations are for water soluble **non urea** based fertilizers. For urea based fertilizers double the amount , as 50% of your nitrogen is not readily available to the potted or mounted orchids.

### **Light**

VL - dim - 750 foot candles (90% shade) no direct sun

L - low - 1500 foot candles (80% shade)

M - 3000 foot candles (60% shade) “bright shade” able to read a newspaper comfortably

H - high, morning sun until noon, with light shade after noon

VH - full, unobstructed sun, all day, unable to read a newspaper because of bright glare.

As with all plants, orchids can stand a higher level of sun, once adapted to higher level. Adjustments in light levels must be done in steps to avoid burning the plants. Orchid leaves should be lime green, not lemon yellow (too much sun), or cucumber green (too little), to bloom well.

### **Comments - Cultural Comments**

BASKETS - best grown in a wooden or plastic, slatted basket, usually without media

COOL/DRY/MATURE TO BLOOM- grow cool and dry after new growth matures until bloom

COOL/MATURE - when new growth matures, grow cooler until new growth begins

DRY/LEAF FALL - stop water and fertilizer when the leaves begin to fall. Start normal watering

And fertilizing when new growth or new roots emerge.

DRIER/LEAF/FALL - reduce but do not stop, water and fertilizer after the leaves fall. Start normal watering and fertilizing when new growth or new roots emerge.

DRIER/MATURE - when new growth mature. Reduce, but do not stop, water and fertilizer after

The leaves fall. Start watering and fertilizing when new growth or new roots emerge

MOIST - keep damp , not wet, at all times, mist the plant daily if necessary to keep moist

POT ONLY - plants should be grown in pots for best results

REST/FLOWER,RAF - needs several weeks of dry rest after flowering

SLAB/RAFT - grow mounted on a cork or tree fern raft with a moss pad around the roots

TERRESTRIAL - prefers a terrestrial media. Such as **PRO MIX** or **AFRICAN VIOLET MIX**

WB - use an open wire basket, lined with moss and media

BLOOM - peak blooming period for north america

[www.tacomaorchidsociety.com](http://www.tacomaorchidsociety.com)

Monthly meetings in the basement

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