

# CARING FOR ORCHIDS

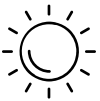
Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants. With more than 25,000 species, there are more orchids on the planet than mammals and birds! They can live up to 100 years and take 5-7 years to bloom once germinated. Those sold in stores are already decades old. At home, they grow easily and can re-bloom several times a year.

## Watering



NEVER let them sit in water. Water your orchid in the morning ever 7-10 days. Water deeply under the faucet and let the extra water run before placing back into a decorative pot.

## Sunlight



**Medium light** is best; near a North-facing window or slightly away from a bright window

## Fertilizer



Because these plants grow on the sides of trees in their native habitat, they do not need much fertilizer. Only fertilize once a month during the growing season (April-July) with a highly diluted orchid fertilizer.

## Repotting



- Never repot your orchid while it is blooming
- Use a repotting mix of orchid bark, 1/4 charcoal, 1/4 sphagnum moss, 1/3 perlite
- Repot your orchid after its last bloom stock dies back and every year after that
- Refresh potting mixture yearly but only up-pot every 3 years (orchids like a TIGHT pot)
- Plant the orchid low enough so that the base of the first leaf set is in line with the top of the pot