

Caring for Phalaenopsis Orchids:

Phalaenopsis orchids are natives of South East Asia and ideally like warm, moist conditions to grow at their best. However, with a little care and attention, these plants will still grow and flower well in our colder Melbourne climate.

The plants generally need to be left indoors except for those relatively rare moderately warm and still days when they could be placed in the shade in an outside fernery.

When inside, avoid placing them in rooms which are hot and drying as the dry air will quickly dehydrate the plant and the flower will wilt.

A position free of draughts suits them best. Never expose them to direct sunlight; filtered, shady conditions are best.

Water thoroughly with tepid water once or twice a week depending on the dryness of the plant. Make sure the plant is then allowed to drain completely to avoid waterlogging which would most definitely ruin it. Fertilise about once every fortnight with a weak half strength fertiliser such as Aquasol.

After the flowers have finally dropped, cut the stem off just above the second node or two notches from the bottom of the stem. The plant may flower again from this position.

Normally the plants bloom in the Spring and Autumn, and with care you should be able to achieve this.