'Moth Orchid' Phalaenopsis

Phalaenopsis come from eastern Asia and the Philippines. They grow naturally as epiphytes on trees in the warm, tropical forests, so need warmth all year round. They grow fleshy leaves, which store food and water. They also produce a lot of aerial roots that come over the side of the pot as well as into the bark compost.

Sunlight: An east or west facing windowsill is very good. Do not put plants in direct sunlight.

Water: Water sparingly, don't let the roots sit in water, as this can cause root rot. Use rainwater if possible, bring to room temperature.

Humidity: They benefit from good humidity. Spray plants to keep humidity up. Or place in a bathroom for humidity, provided the light is adequate.

Temperature: Household conditions with a minimum temperature of 16°C, but not higher than 26°C, is desirable.

Feed: Use an orchid feed, which is specially formulated for the best results.

Repotting: Repot annually into a slightly larger pot when flowering is finished. Always use bark or coir-based medium. Use a clear pot to promote photosynthesis by the roots.



Flower Care: If there are no flowers, cut back to a node on the flower stem. This hopefully will shoot and produce a new flower. If not, repeat the process to a lower node.

Top Tip: Anthurium leaves are naturally glossy. Just wipe them with a damp cloth to keep them dust-free.





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