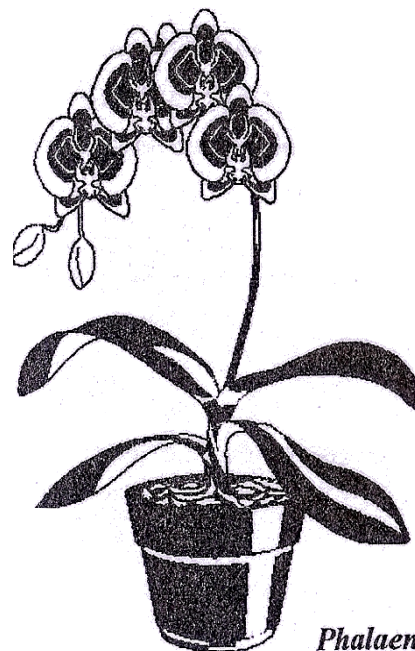


Orchid Culture

Trick of the Trade Tips

1. Buy plants with nametags and keep them with the plant.
2. Leaves should be a bright, grassy green color ~ not a dark green.
3. Active growing roots are white with bright green growing tips. Look for live eyes and new growth.
4. Choose a site for your orchid that is secure, close to a water source and generally has filtered light; such as under trees or screens.
5. Avoid keeping plants in closed areas like cars or you will cook them when the temperature is high.
6. Avoid placing blooming plants on top of TV's or other appliances ~ hot air is dehydrating. Or under air conditioning vents ~ cold, dry air can also cause dehydration.
7. Allow for good air circulation and avoid bright reflective walls that might build up heat in the summer.
8. Try to develop a regular water and fertilizer routine.
9. It is best to water in the morning rather than the afternoon.
10. Most orchids like to get wet and dry out. Don't kill them with kindness by overwatering. Some thrive on neglect.
11. Water temperature should be as close to air temperature as possible.
12. Avoid dunking plants in buckets when watering or fertilizing. This can lead to spreading of disease.



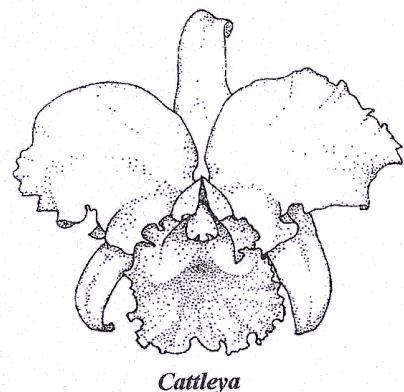
Phalaenopsis

13. Don't allow plants to sit in saucers of water.
14. Avoid water splashing up from ground onto orchids ~ it can spread disease.
15. A sign of dehydration is shriveled pseudobulbs ~ they should be turgid with each new growth larger than the previous growth.
16. Avoid using water that runs through a water softener due to the salts used in the softener.
17. Lighter concentrations of fertilizer are much better than heavier concentrations.
18. In coastal areas ~ rinse regularly with fresh water to keep salt spray from collecting on plants.
19. Stagger hanging orchids so they don't hang directly over other orchids. This too helps reduce the spread of disease.
20. When repotting ~ don't overpot ~ only allow for 2 years growth. Too much potting material may keep plants too wet.
21. A newly repotted plant will root faster if it is held tight and secure in the pot.

*Remember ~ Orchids are Tough
You can grow them very easily in Florida.*

Good Luck and Happy Growing !

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Cattleya