

M A G A Z I N E

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# ORCHIDS

2022

## PAGES

2-3: Editor's Note

4-5: Orchids Explained

6-7: Orchid Choices

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8-9: Anatomy  
Phalaenopsis's

10-11: Flower Anatomy

12-13: Colors and Symbols

---

14-15: Death

16: Thank you!

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## ISSUE01

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"The most important part of a garden is the one who enjoys it."



# EDITORS NOTE

"Where flowers bloom, so too does love"

Hello everyone! Thank you for turning your attention to my orchid magazine. Here I am ready to share my love, determination, and information about these extravagant plants.

My name is Kailyn Reynolds. My life began on the southeastern part of New York state on Long Island, and I longed till I was 18. In August 2019, I started my freshmen year at The State University of New York at Fredonia in Western New York. I traveled nine hours away from home mainly because I wanted to experience a change of pace and meet new people who were not on Long Island.

I am indebted to my lovely mother for providing me with such knowledge to fall in love with these beautiful plants. When I returned to Long Island, I noticed I was a bit nosy while glancing over my mother's shoulder, watching her take care of her orchids. I began with only asking one quick question, then the quick question turned into two questions and followed three, and so forth. These questions led me to buy my first orchid. To this day, my mini orchid continues to live in its terrarium and thrive.

When I was younger, I was the child that would kill every plant I touched. I always believed that I had a "bad touch" regarding plants. I either watered the plants too much or even

too little. I put the plant in direct over indirect sunlight. If I am being honest, most of the time, I would completely forget about the plants, and by the time I remembered I had them, it was too late to try and save the rotting roots.

As I look back on that time of my life, I realize that I had never felt more passionate about plants than the way I feel now. When I discover new information about orchids from fellow orchid lovers, a smile rises on my face. There is a sense of happiness and growth because I quickly think about how far I have come, from the little girl killing every plant she touches

"Many eyes go through the meadow, but few see the flowers in it."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

to the woman who owns close to 15 orchids with more on the way.

Despite myself putting in all of the work, dedication, and time into my orchids. The only person who I have to thank for believing in me through this orchid journey is my beautiful



# ORCHIDS EXPLAINED

Orchid plants tend to get a bad reputation for being difficult plants to take care of. With the right information and environmental conditions, most orchids will grow successfully in your home or greenhouse.

"Orchid" is a short name that comes from the Orchidaceae family. These exotic plants are found all over the world, especially in the wet tropics.

## What exactly are orchids?

The word *orchid* is derived from the Greek word *orchis*, testicle, because of the shape of the root tubers in some species of the genus *Orchis*.

Orchids are typically terrestrial or epiphytic herbs, meaning that they tend to grow on other plants or trees rather than rooted in soil. They cling to trees with thick aerial roots.

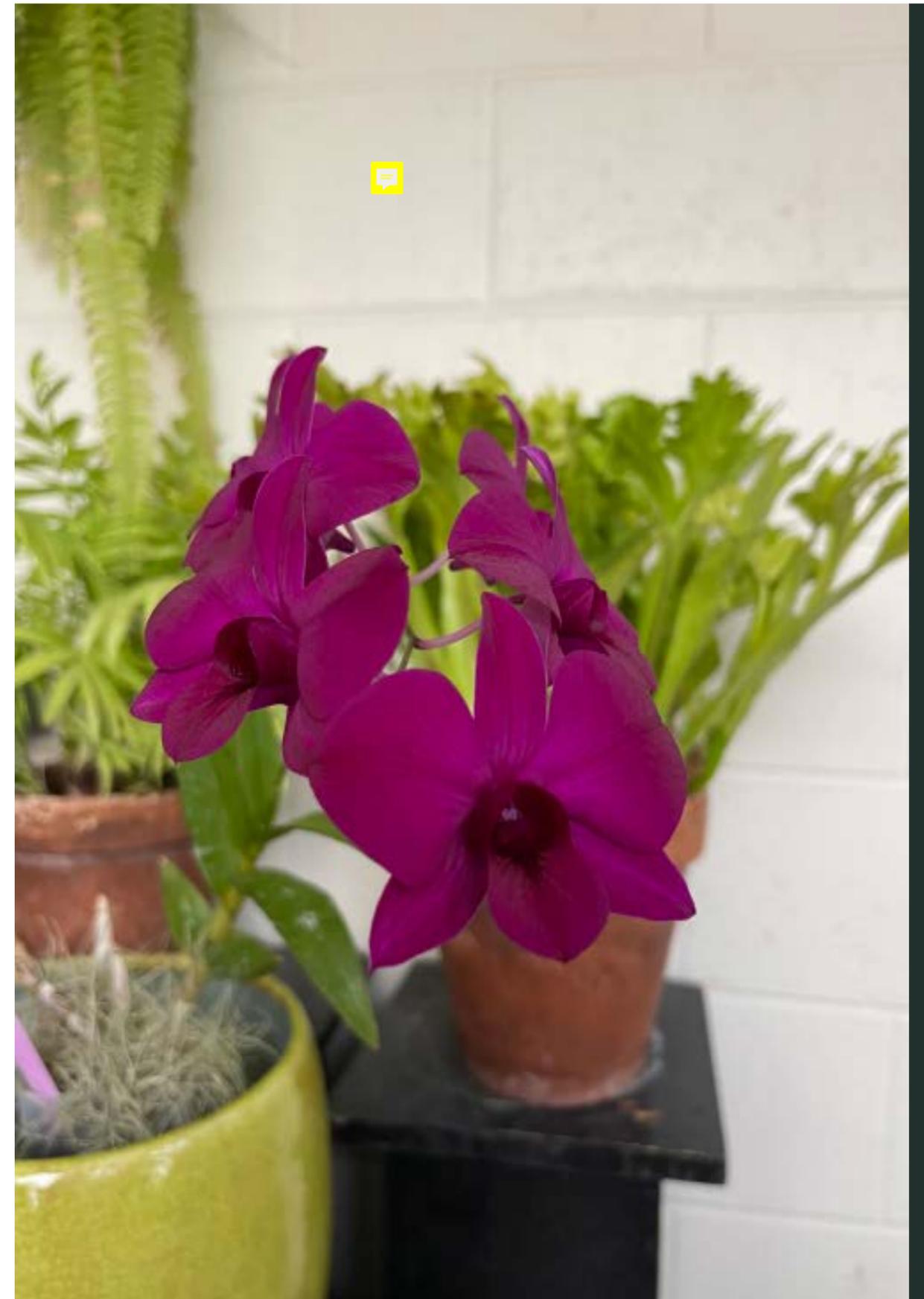
The highest number of orchids grow in rainforest climates. These plants love the humidity and shade depending on the

environment they are growing in. Although, not all types of orchids like hot conditions, some attend more to cooler climates as they grow on higher altitudes in mountains where the temperature tends to drop at night.

As some of these forest dwelling plants attach themselves to trees, others grow in the ground that are called 'terrestrials' and others that grow on rocks are called 'lithophytes'.

## Diversity among its family.

The orchid family is a diverse group of plants with various shapes, sizes, colors and patterns. There are stunning and often extraordinary blooms tend to catch a hold of every person's eyes. Depending on what type of plants you enjoy to look at or take care of, I am most certain that there is something in the orchid kingdom that you may just fall in love with.





# Choices

"An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if no one is around to appreciate it"  
- Confucius

Beginning orchid growers may have a hard time identifying what the important features or faults may look like on an orchid.

I by no means, **call** myself an orchid expert. From personal experience, I have dealt with dying orchids and orchids that were happy and healthy. All have their own reasons for responding to their new **enviornemnt**.

I have talked to several orchid specialists, who have been dealing with this plant species for over 20 years. As I talked to them, they all told me the same thing, "as confident as you may seem, I do not recommend buying an orchid that is knocking on heaven's door". **Thus** this being said, I took a lot of time to do some research and ask around about what to look for.

Before you choose an orchid to bring home, I would take a look at your surrounding **enviornment**. See how much sun shines through your windows and how hot or cool it is in the room where you will be placing your orchid. Some orchids need a bright, south-facing window; others may thrive in a more shaded east- or north-facing one. During the winter time, the temperature you set your **thermastate** at will have an affect on how well your orchid does.

Many people **recieve** an orchid as a gift or present from someone who bought it from a large **named** **com**pany who may of had it in their **geer** house. Orchids from The

Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart or Tops are inexpensive, plastic-sleeved plants that may or may not survive off of the directions given to the purchaser.

The **ecessities** to look for **at any** orchid you may purchase should consist of four easy questions. Are the stems, leaves and pseudobulbs (stems that store water) plump and unwrinkled? Do the stems the orchid has have a good complement of leaves? Are the roots a visible greenish or white color? And is the plant sturdy with no wobble?

It is very tempting to buy an orchid when it is in full bloom. Trust me, there is nothing I would like more than to buy a gorgeous, blooming orchid. But this may be dangerous. Moving the plant from an enviornment it is happy in could cause stress when aclimenting it to a new **enviornment**. This amount of stress may cause the opened and unopened flowers to drop prematurely.

There may also be a delay in the developing flower spikes that grow at a rapid pace. The largest difference between mature and immature leaves on an orchid is that, **in** **mature** **leaves** can adapt to a new **enviornment's** light and numidity much quicker than mature leaves. If you have done some research and bought a plant that will fit well in your **homes** **envio**ment, then it will better cope with the stress of flowering when its time comes along.

# The Anatomy of a Phalaenopsis

# 01.

The anatomy of any orchid is complex. People may look at the flower and only see the extravagant coloring or the size of the leaves or roots. Behind the flowers, the anatomy of an orchid has two distinct patterns of growth: sympodial and monopodial. Orchids with pseudobulbs and some without are considered sympodial growers, sending up successive leafy growths or vertical stems along a creeping horizontal stem called a rhizome. Some examples of sympodial species are Cattleya, Oncidium, Dendrobium, Cymbidium and Paphiopedilum.

Monopodial orchids lack pseudobulbs and rhizomes. Instead, its stems are vertical with alternating leaves and lowered down roots. Phalaenopsis and Vanda are the two most common monopodials. Unless a large company such as The Home Depot specializes in receiving special exotic orchids, the only orchids you can buy currently are phalaenopsis's. They are known to be the most common orchid any person can buy and not kill quickly. Monopodial orchids produce new leaves continually, therefore, when the oldest or youngest leaf lacks the light green tones and darker colors it could mean that the plant is going into dormancy.



# ORCHIDS

# O



**The most popular orchid in the world**

Phalaenopsis's have a well-known history in its native lands of Southeast Asia and northern Australia. The word "phalaenopsis" means "mothlike" in the Greek language and it refers to the enlarged flowers that are similar to hovering moths. They are also referred to as "phals". Phalaenopsis's have a large production of colors. They range from yellow, brown, white, pink, gold, red and even silver. These colors make the plant stand out more when they are not in full bloom. Phals can last anywhere from two to seven years from seedlings to their full bloom times. Currently, I hold about 14 phalaenopsis's in my home with a total of 16 orchids all together. Even when not in bloom, they are gorgeous flowers and I do not think you guys will be disappointed with one.



01

**Petals**

The innermost flower parts are the petals, there are two petals on either side of the flower.



03

**Column**

The column is a structure that is in the middle of the flower. This part consists of fused reproductive parts, the male "anther" that bears the pollen pellets and the female receptive organ, the "stigma", a shiny depression filled with sticky fluid.



02

**Sepal**

The Sepals are the three outermost flowers on a phalaenopsis orchid. There is the dorsal sepal at the top of the flower and the two lateral sepals at the bottom of the flower.



04

**Lip**

The lip or otherwise known as the "labellum", is a modified petal and sometimes the most striking part of the flower. It shows the deeper colors. This part of the flower plays an important role in pollination, where insects tend to use the lip as a landing platform.



# COLOR

Each color of the rainbow is linked to a unique meaning and feeling to various colored orchids.



## Orchid symbols linked to color

1. Even though blue orchids are technically an artificial food coloring, they still hold meaning. Blue orchids symbolize a feeling of beauty for someone. Meaning its a uncommon yet naturally beautiful feeling for people one might hold near to their heart.

2. Red orchids enhance power and strength. These orchids represent determination, courage, perseverance, desire, passion and course, love. Send a red orchid to someone you love.

3. Pink orchids are a symbol of grace, gentleness, innocence, happiness, playfulness and fertility. Pink flowers help growing families.

4. White orchids link its color to purity. Where purity also symbolizes humility, safety, elegance, innocence and beauty.

5. The Victorian Ages link its time purple orchids. These colors symbolize authority, dignity and royalty. Sending these flowers shows admiration and respect.



# DEATH



## How to easily kill your orchid.

As gorgeous as orchids are they are still prone to death. Here I am going to explain a few ways about how to kill your newly bought plant.

Ice Cubes. A much as you might like reading directions and quickly following them, never use ice cubes to water any of your plants, especially your orchids. Orchids are known as tropical plants, the rain water that hits these plants is not freezing cold. It is on the warmer side. Throwing ice cubes on top of your moss or wood-chuck like soil, will quickly freeze the roots and possibly cause root-rot.

When you water your plant, never soak its roots in water. If you do, it should only be for a short period of time and afterwards you should make sure to drain all of the water from its draining holes on the bottom or side of the plastic container. Here is a little secret, water your orchids once every two weeks.

If you place your orchid in a dark place, expect it to die.

## Growth + Experience

At fist you will probably kill them by accident, not knowing why or what you did. Trust me, it happens to the best of us. You might of repotted something at the wrong time, you will under and over water it, you will fertilize an orchid that is salt-intolerant or you may even give it too much light. These problems are unavoidable. You might of followed all of the right directions, but you did not think of the conditions your plant needs.

Orchid growing depends on experience and experience does not come overnight. You will not get everything you need to know from only reading. Reading about orchids is important but the experiences you deal with are much more important to the learning process. Until problems of root rot and crinkly leaves happen to you, you might not know the dangers you are putting your plant in when first starting out.

Reading and talking to other growing experts in certainly important. Learning about what has worked for other people is one of several benefits. This exposes you to the different considerations you might have when placing your orchids around your home or under a heat lamp. It is difficult to predict every environment condition your orchid might need or encounter to survive. Most of the time, you might not remember much about past conditions that may of worked for your plant before you moved it. Despite your little experience, it always tends to have a downside. If you kill fewer plants, your collection of orchids will grow and you might see a change in attitude toward them.

My orchid collection grew rapidly from changing my attitude and doing as much research as I could. Orchids are flowers that I consider family.



