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Orchid Overview and Tips

Blooms: only after 5-6 years of age; delayed by 1-2 years with each repot. Blooms last longer if kept dry and protected from wind.

Temperature: require 15-20 degrees F difference between night and day to flourish. Also, ensure good air circulation around roots and leaves.

Soil: almost any “orchid mix” will do if it is porous enough to allow water to drain quickly and air to reach roots.

Fertilizer: Weakly-Weekly. Use low strength of common fertilizers. Typically use $\frac{1}{4}$ strength every 3 or 4 weeks during fall and winter; can use $\frac{1}{2}$ strength every 3 or 4 waterings during late spring and summer. **Do not feed for 1 month after repot!**

Humidity: Maintain high humidity but do not allow water to remain in leaf joints. Best methods: 1) use distilled or tap water in a spray bottle and mist foliage only; 2) place a humidifier near the plant; or 3) place water in a saucer of pebbles under or near the plant so evaporation provides humidity.

Repotting: every 2 years or when soil decomposes. Repot during active growth but no bloom (e.g., summer). Thoroughly soak roots before removing from old pot to make more malleable. Clean roots under running water to remove old soil. Prune dry or mushy roots or leaves. Replant at the same depth as original plant (e.g., crown at the top of the pot and soil surface about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below top of pot). **Mist daily but do not feed for 1 month!**