



Westerlay also markets other types of orchids we refer to as “Exotics,” which feature fascinating, alluring blooms in a variety of flower shapes and colors. These exotic orchids add interest and color to your home or office for many weeks. They all have fairly similar care requirements.

PLACEMENT:

Exotics require more light than phalaenopsis and are also strictly indoor plants. The brightest areas of the home are usually best.

LIGHT:

Keep in bright but indirect indoor light.

WATER AND FERTILIZER:

Exotics do not have the same thick, water-retaining roots as phalaenopsis. However, they can be watered with similar frequency—just once per week when, and only if, the potting medium is dry. Follow the same watering technique and fertilizer as phalaenopsis (see above).

TEMPERATURE:

Best range is 65-80°F while blooming, the same as phalaenopsis.

CONTINUING CARE:

Exotics are more challenging to rebloom. Like cymbidiums, the entire flowering spike needs to be removed so the plant can recover. Changing location to a cooler area in the house will help. Remember to keep them in bright light with infrequent watering.

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Dendrobium

Dendrobium (den-DROH-bee-em) orchids include hundreds of hybrid species in a wide range of sizes and lush colors, such as white, cream, yellow, orange, pink, green, lavender and purple. Dendrobiums grow on trees and other plants, with up to 10 flowers—which last 8 to 10 weeks and typically develop in late winter or spring—on each reed-like stalk. As Dendrobium orchid blooms unfurl, they become twisted into an upright position around their stems.

Miltonia

The increasingly popular Miltonia (mil-TONE-ee-ya) orchids and their close relatives Miltoniopsis (mil-tone-ee-OP-sis) primarily come from Brazil and the intermediate climate region of South America. Also called pansy orchids for their resemblance to garden pansies, the fragrant flowers, which grow abundantly on slender, arching stems, feature bold, distinctive markings over deep, rich colors ranging from white to yellow to red and pink.

Oncidium

Oncidiums (on-SID-ee-um)—or the dancing lady orchid—are known for their smaller, but striking flower shape, and occur naturally throughout the American tropics from Florida to Argentina. While the blooms of undiluted Oncidiums only grow in yellow with brown markings, there are a wide diversity of hybrid colors available. As an epiphytic plant, their unusual “pseudobulbs” store water and nutrients, making these orchids exceptionally easy to care for.

Odontoglossum

Odontoglossum (o-don-toh-GLOSS-um) orchids have long-lasting sprays of small, distinct, fragrant flowers with jagged edges like tooth marks—hence their name from the Greek words *odon* (tooth) and *glossa* (tongue). The colors of Odontoglossum’s 100+ species include white, red, purple, brown, yellow and “blotched” in a variety of shades. They typically bloom once a year and can be kept inside or in a sheltered garden spot.