

Five to Thrive

Beginner's Tips to Make the Most of Your Orchids

1. Plan your orchid collection based on both your interests and the types of orchids which do well with your available growing conditions. Consider light, temperature, air circulation and watering requirements.
2. Carefully select each new plant, checking its leaves, canes, roots and any keiki.
3. Look for disease or insects before bringing your orchid home: consider isolating new orchids for a couple of weeks before placing them with the rest of your collection.
4. Research whether to mount or pot your orchid. If mounting the orchid, choose a spot that offers the right light and water conditions. When potting your orchid, select the most appropriate container (clay or plastic) with enough holes for good drainage. Use a potting mix that allows enough drainage.
5. Spend time with your orchids each week, examining them while watering. Look at the roots, feel the leaves top & bottom, check for pests. Note any problems and take immediate steps to correct the issues. Thrips or mites can multiply quickly, spreading from plant to plant.