

Know What You Grow - Orchid Names and Pronunciations

Yes, it is beautiful, but learn to know what you are looking at.

Before you can determine how to care for your orchid, you must first be able to identify what kind of orchid you have. Most people who have just a few orchids will have a "moth orchid" or *Phalaenopsis* (fail-eh-NOP-sis)

If you have *Phalaenopsis* orchids, they probably came as a gift to someone and are either finished blooming, or the flowers are close to fading. Where to cut a *Phalaenopsis* inflorescence, or flower spike, is the #1 most frequently asked question.

Dendrobium (den-DROH-bee-um) is a very large and wide-spread genus, several types have impacted the pot plant market. These are popular because they are very flowery, and blooms can last several weeks.

Plants in the *Oncidium* family often have flowers that resemble dancing ladies. Many plants in this have very complex intergeneric backgrounds and a wide range of colors and shapes, blooms are usually smaller than other but can have numerous flowers on a spike/inflorescence/stem.

The *Cattleya* (CAT-lee-ah) family may very well have caught your eye - or nose! Many of these plants have delightful fragrances and can be irresistible. Cattleyas come in many sizes, shapes and colors on both big and small plants but can be recognized by their symmetrical flowers.

In Florida *Vanda* (VAN-duh) orchids and hybrids made from vandas are very popular because of their rainbow of colors and frequency of flowering.

Another popular house-plant genus is *Paphiopedilum* (paff-ee-oh-PED-ih-lum) or lady slipper orchid. Like *Phalaenopsis*, *Paphiopedilum* plants have long-lived flowers. They are characterized by a slipper-like pouch.

Becoming comfortable and familiar with the Orchids listed is your foundation for buying, growing, and communicating with others in the orchid world.

January Reference List: We will be covering basic information needed to get you going, but please review the references listed to expand your knowledge and comfort level with orchids.

1. This Handout - [List of Orchid Names and Pronunciations](#)
2. Handout - [Selecting Plants](https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/BeginClass202001-SelectingPlants.pdf) - (https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/BeginClass202001-SelectingPlants.pdf)
3. Handout - [AOS Culture Sheets](https://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets.aspx) - (https://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets.aspx)
4. [Beginner Culture Class Notes](https://www.staugorchidsociety.org/culture-begin.htm) - (https://www.staugorchidsociety.org/culture-begin.htm)
5. [AOS Beginners Newsletters](https://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/beginners-newsletter.aspx) - (https://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/beginners-newsletter.aspx)
6. [International Listing of Orchid Resources](https://www.orchidwire.com/) - (https://www.orchidwire.com/)
7. [Online Orchid Resources](http://www.orchidmall.com/) - (http://www.orchidmall.com/)