

# How to get your orchids to rebloom



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**Q**uestion: How do I get my orchids to rebloom?

**A**nswer: That is a great question. Many people struggle with that same issue. With a little patience and consistent care, you will be able to get them to rebloom.

There are some 30,000 known orchids worldwide. Since you did not specify which type you have, I will be very general but that should work because most orchids sold in the U.S. are Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilum or Cymbidiums. I don't think it is a coincidence that these are also fairly easy to grow. The Phalaenopsis is perfect for beginner growers as they are one of the most sturdy and resilient orchids and are easy to grow. I will address both how to care for an orchid you just purchases and how to handle the orchid after it's bloomed.

1. Enough light. This you may think is a no-brainer but there is a caveat. Orchids want a lot of light but not direct sun. East- or west-facing windows are best. If this does not give them enough light you can purchase full-spectrum, artificial lights.

2. Proper plant medium. You may purchase a potting soil made for orchids or you can make your own by mixing a little regular potting soil, orchid bark and sphagnum moss.

3. Watering and humidity. Some growers say to never let



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**Black and red orchids will rebloom successfully with a few easy steps.**

orchids dry out and some say let them get slightly dry. This is probably species specific. Once or twice a week is good to start. You will adjust as you see fit. I prefer not to let them get dry. Also, never let the roots sit in water because they are susceptible to rot. As you progress, you will see what works best for you and the type of orchid you are growing. For humidity, place about an inch of pebbles in a tray under the plant. This also helps combat the dryness of homes in the winter.

4. Fertilization. This is very important. Some people fertilize every time they water, with a weakened dilution. Some fertilize weekly or monthly. There is no need to fertilize while the plant is blooming. The fertilizer is for when the plant is in the resting phase after it has bloomed. This could be from 6-9 months.

5. Temperature. The temperature range most orchids prefer is from 55-95 degrees. Orchids like cool nights, but unfortunately, most people

do not. Optimally, they like at least a 10- to 15-degree drop in temperature at night. To accommodate the people and the plant, place the plant close to a window where the temperature, especially in the fall and winter, will be cooler.

When the blooms are spent, remove any stakes or clips. Check the health of the stems. If they are still looking healthy and green you will want to cut the spike an inch above the best node – usually the one closest to the blooms. If the

spike is dried up, cut it down to the base. Continue to water and fertilize the plant throughout this resting period. During this time the plant is not very pretty but it is resting and storing energy to give you beautiful blooms in a few months.

*Do you have a gardening question? Please e-mail, call, or visit the Douglas County Master Gardeners Plant Clinic at [douglasmg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:douglasmg@oregonstate.edu), 541-236-3052, or 1134 S.E. Douglas Ave., Roseburg.*