

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Welcoming Orchids into Your Life</i>	7
Chapter 1: Getting the Lowdown on Orchids	9
Chapter 2: Choosing the Right Orchid for You	23
Chapter 3: Having the Right Tools on Hand	33
Chapter 4: How I Love Thy Orchid: Enjoying the Orchid's Beauty	47
<i>Part II: The Basics of Orchid Parenthood</i>	57
Chapter 5: Providing the Right Growing Environment	59
Chapter 6: Watering and Fertilizing Orchids	77
Chapter 7: The ABCs of Potting Materials, Containers, and Repotting	91
Chapter 8: Two, Four, Six, Eight, Let Your Orchids Propagate: Multiplying Your Orchids	103
Chapter 9: Keeping Your Orchids Pest- and Disease-Free	111
<i>Part III: The Best Orchids for Rookies</i>	123
Chapter 10: Moth Orchids and Their Relatives: The Best Choice for Beginners	125
Chapter 11: The Quintessential Orchids: Cattleyas and Their Relatives	147
Chapter 12: Slipper Orchids	169
Chapter 13: Dancing Ladies: Oncidiums and Their Relatives	191
Chapter 14: Significant Others	213
<i>Part IV: The Part of Tens</i>	227
Chapter 15: The Ten (or So) Easiest Orchids to Grow	229
Chapter 16: The Ten Most Common Ways Orchids Are Killed	233
Chapter 17: The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions about Orchids	237
Chapter 18: The Ten Most Common Reasons Why Orchids Don't Bloom	243
<i>Appendix: Resources</i>	247
<i>Index</i>	253

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: Welcoming Orchids into Your Life	3
Part II: The Basics of Orchid Parenthood	3
Part III: The Best Orchids for Rookies	3
Part IV: The Part of Tens	4
Appendix	4
Icons Used in This Book	5
Where to Go from Here	5
<i>Part I: Welcoming Orchids into Your Life</i>	7
Chapter 1: Getting the Lowdown on Orchids	9
Understanding What Makes an Orchid an Orchid	9
Knowing Where Orchids Come From	11
Seeing Why You Should Grow Orchids	12
Deciding Which Orchids to Bring into Your Home	13
Getting to Know Your Orchids by Name	14
Species orchid names	15
Hybrid orchid names	16
Growing Orchids Easy As One, Two, Three	17
January	18
February	18
March	19
April	19
May	20
June, July, and August	20
September	21
October	21
November and December	22



Chapter 2: Choosing the Right Orchid for You 23

- Figuring Out Where to Shop23
 - Specialist orchid growers or suppliers23
 - Your local garden center24
 - Orchid shows24
 - Online orchid suppliers24
 - Home centers and discount stores25
- Considering Your Environment25
 - Taking temperature readings26
 - Measuring your light intensity27
 - Other questions to ask yourself30
- Knowing What to Look for in an Orchid30
 - Choosing a healthy plant30
 - Deciding between a blooming plant and a young plant31
 - Choosing seed-grown orchids or orchid clones32
- Caring for Your New Orchid32

Chapter 3: Having the Right Tools on Hand 33

- Cutting and Pruning Tools33
 - Pruners33
 - Knives and blades34
- Potting Tools and Supplies35
 - Potting tools35
 - Potting supplies36
- Watering Accessories39
 - Water breakers39
 - Water-flow regulators40
 - Hoses41
 - Watering cans41
 - Sprayers and misters41
 - Fertilizer injectors42
 - Deionization and reverse osmosis units43
- Humidifiers, Heaters, and Ventilation Equipment44
 - Humidifiers44
 - Ventilation45
 - Heating46
 - Thermometers and hygrometers46

Chapter 4: How I Love Thy Orchid: Enjoying the Orchid's Beauty 47

- Caring for Orchids in Their New Home47
 - If the plant is in bloom48
 - If the plant is not in bloom48

Staking and Grooming Your Blooming Orchids49
 Figuring out how to stake49
 Helping your orchids look their best51
 Displaying orchid plants in your home52
 Arranging orchid flowers53

Part II: The Basics of Orchid Parenthood57

Chapter 5: Providing the Right Growing Environment 59

Let There Be Light!59
 The ins and outs of light60
 Listening to your orchids62
 No natural light? No problem!65
 Humidity: Orchids' Favorite Condition68
 Fresh Air, Please!71
 Ceiling fans71
 Oscillating fans71
 Muffin fans72
 Some Like It Hot, Some Like It Cold: Orchid Temperature Requirements72
 Too-low temperatures73
 Too-high temperatures73
 Giving Your Orchids a Summer Vacation73
 A shade house74
 A portable greenhouse75
 Some orchids enjoy hanging out76

Chapter 6: Watering and Fertilizing Orchids 77

Water Water Everywhere: Understanding the Art of Watering Orchids77
 The type of pot78
 The type of potting material78
 The age of the potting material78
 Whether the orchid is pot-bound79
 The growing environment79
 The temperature79
 The amount of ventilation79
 Whether the orchids are growing or dormant79
 The type of orchid80
 Proven Watering Techniques80
 Over- or Underwatering: Roots Tell the Story82
 Figuring out whether watering is the problem82
 Mission: Orchid rescue and resuscitation83

Fertilizers: Not Magic Potions	85
What to look for in orchid fertilizers	86
Types of fertilizers and how to use them	88
Chapter 7: The ABCs of Potting Materials, Containers, and Repotting	91
Choosing Potting Materials	91
Knowing your potting material options	92
Figuring out which potting materials are best	93
Psst! Getting your hands on some not-so-secret recipes	94
If mixing your own is not your thing	95
Getting your potting material ready to use	95
Giving Your Orchids a Home: Potting Containers	96
Repotting Orchids without Fear	97
Knowing when you should repot	99
Orchid potting — step by step	100
Chapter 8: Two, Four, Six, Eight, Let Your Orchids Propagate: Multiplying Your Orchids	103
Dividing Your Orchids	103
Giving Babies a New Home	105
Producing New Plants from Cuttings	107
Growing Orchids from Back Bulbs	108
Chapter 9: Keeping Your Orchids Pest- and Disease-Free	111
Preventing Problems Before They Start	112
Besting the Bugs	113
Identifying common orchid pests	113
Finding safe pest-control measures	117
Is There a Fungus Among Us?	120
<i>Part III: The Best Orchids for Rookies</i>	<i>123</i>
Chapter 10: Moth Orchids and Their Relatives: The Best Choice for Beginners	125
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: The Beauty of Moth Orchids	126
Leaves	126
Flower shapes	127
Flower colors	127
Scents	131
Size	134
Answering the call of the wild	136

Oh, Give Me a Home . . . : Cultural Requirements138
 Relatives of Moth Orchids138
 Africa's gift to orchid lovers: The Angraecoids139
 Vandas and some of their close cousins142

**Chapter 11: The Quintessential Orchids: Cattleyas
 and Their Relatives 147**

From the Jungles to Your Home148
 Some selected cattleya species149
 Some selected laelia species151
 Other cattleya relatives152
 The Queens of the Ball: Cattleya Hybrids157
 Pristine whites158
 Purples, pinks, lavenders, and blues158
 Hot reds and oranges159
 Sunny yellows160
 Cool greens161
 Bring out the clowns: Splash petals and flares162
 Fashionable art shades163
 Minicatts164
 The key players164
 Some of their prized children166

Chapter 12: Slipper Orchids 169

Slipping into a Lady's Slipper170
 Seeing what lady's slippers have to offer170
 Giving your lady's slipper a good home171
 Getting lady's slippers to bloom171
 Straight from Nature: Bumps, Warts, Hairs, and All171
 Paphiopedilum bellatulum172
 Paphiopedilum callosum172
 Paphiopedilum delenatii173
 Paphiopedilum dianthum173
 Paphiopedilum fairrieanum173
 Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum176
 Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum177
 Paphiopedilum spicerianum177
 Paphiopedilum sukhakulii177
 Paphiopedilum venustum178
 One Step Removed from Nature: Primary Hybrids179
 Some superior primary hybrids180
 Marvelous Maudiaes183
 Huge and round: Modern hybrid lady's slippers186
 A different kind of slipper orchid187

Chapter 13: Dancing Ladies: Oncidiums and Their Relatives 191

Taking a Closer Look at the Ladies191
Oncidiums from the wild191
Hybrid oncidiums194
Miniature oncidiums or tolumnia195
Pansy Orchids: Miltonias and Miltoniopsis197
Miltonias198
Miltoniopsis199
Other Members of the Club: The Oncidium Alliance202
Orchid spiders: Brassias202
Butterfly orchids: Psychopsis202
Sigmatostalix204
Trichopilia204
Mixing It Up205

Chapter 14: Significant Others 213

A Huge and Interesting Lot: Dendrobiums213
The most popular dendrobiums213
Some other Dendrobiums worth considering217
Weird and Wonderful Relatives: Bulbophyllum219
Orchid Miscellanea: All the Rest222
Catasetum222
Cochleanthes222
Coelogyne224
Cymbidiums224
Lycaste226
Zygopetalum226

Part IV: The Part of Tens 227

Chapter 15: The Ten (or So) Easiest Orchids to Grow 229

Twinkle Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis Twinkle)229
Lady of the Night (Brassavola nodosa)230
Maudiae Lady's Slipper Orchid (Paphiopedilum Maudiae)230
Cockleshell Orchid (Epidendrum cochleatum)230
Sharry Baby Oncidium (Oncidium 'Sharry Baby')231
Bird-Beak Orchid (Oncidium ornithorhynchum)231
Mari's Song (Laeliocattleya 'Mari's Song')232
Fan-Shape Orchid (Cochleanthes amazonica)232
Pansy Orchid (Miltoniopsis santanei)232

Chapter 16: The Ten Most Common Ways Orchids Are Killed	233
Overwatering	233
Underwatering	233
Too Much Light or Heat	234
Leaving Orchid Foliage Wet Overnight	234
Too Much Fertilizer	235
Improper Use of Pesticides	235
Insects	235
Purchase of Sick Plants	235
Poor Water Quality	236
Inadequate Ventilation	236
Chapter 17: The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions about Orchids	237
Are Orchids Difficult to Grow?	237
Why Should I Grow Orchids?	237
Do I Need a Greenhouse to Grow Orchids?	238
Are Orchids Expensive?	238
How Long and How Often Will Orchids Bloom?	238
What Makes an Orchid an Orchid?	239
Are Orchids Fragrant?	239
Where Can I See the Best Collections of Orchids?	239
Are Any Orchids Hardy?	240
Are Orchids Parasites?	241
Chapter 18: The Ten Most Common Reasons Why Orchids Don't Bloom	243
Not Enough Difference between Day and Night	
Temperatures	243
Too Moist during the Winter	244
Too Little Light	244
Excessively High or Low Temperatures	244
Not Using a Fertilizer or Using One with Too Much	
Nitrogen	245
Immature Plants	245
Too Low Humidity	245
Disease, Insects, or Mice	245
Not Enough Water	246
Recently Transplanted and Divided	246
Appendix: Resources	247
Plant Suppliers	247
Growing Supplies	250
Orchid Societies	251
Index	253

