

Orchid Production Program

Media

Orchids require coarse, high porosity media, such as bark, to allow air movement through the media. It is recommended that this be used in combination with a water absorptive material, such as sphagnum peat moss, perlite or coconut husk chips, to ensure a well-balanced medium for growth. One of the best absorptive materials for growth in warm climates is sphagnum moss due to its low pH and high holding capacity of nutrients and minerals.

Fertilization and Watering

To prevent accumulation of salts, plants should be watered until 20% of applied water begins to leach out of the bottom of the pots. The recommended EC level of this water being added to plants is 0.5 mS, while the EC level of leachate should be between 1-1.5 mS. If the leachate is higher than 2 mS, plants should be flushed with clear water.

The appropriate fertilizer should be applied every watering at 200 ppm N, and with adequate levels of calcium and magnesium. It is recommended that fertilization continues as spikes emerge. Eliminating fertilizer at this stage will result in reduced flower count. Alternating between **Plantex® 12-2-14 Cal Mag + P** and **Plantex 24-8-16 Foliar** will ensure high flower count and maximum flower size.

Plantex® 12-2-14 Cal Mag + P

Contains 6% calcium and 3% magnesium and is an all-in-one formula. Over 97% of N is in nitrate form. Contains a full micronutrient package.

Plantex® 24-8-16 Foliar

Contains forms of nitrogen most readily absorbed and used by plants for vegetative growth. Contains a full micronutrient package.

Vegetative Cultivation and Growth

This stage lasts for 20-25 weeks. During this time, maintain plants at high temperatures, between 82-90° F.

Cooling and Spike Induction

This stage occurs when plants have 5-7 leaves and lasts for 4-6 weeks. During this time, reduce temperature to 63-77° F.

Finishing and Post-Harvest

Finishing occurs once spikes emerge and lasts for 20-25 weeks. During this time, maintain plants at 63-77° F.

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