

## ORCHIDS

Orchids are members of the Orchidaceae Family, and are cultivated primarily for their flower appeal. They are reputed to be the largest family of angiosperms (flowering plants), accounting for more than 10% of all flowering plants. Morphologically, they are very diverse in vegetative stature and in size and color of flowers.

The history of orchid collection and cultivation is one of the most interesting of all houseplants and will be briefly highlighted during this lecture.

### General Growth Characteristics

Epiphytic – growing on tree branches and tree trunks, but not parasitic

Terrestrial – growing directly in soil or loose organic matter on the ground

### \*Stem Growth Habits

Monopodial – growing continuously from the stem tip and sending out flowers near the tip; plants exhibiting this growth habit should not be pinched.

Sympodial – developing horizontal stems (rhizomes) which send up vertical stems at set intervals. Food stored in enlarged stem base called “**pseudobulbs**”.

### General Cultural Requirements

Temperature –

Light –

- Natural
- Artificial

Relative Humidity -

Air Quality -

Media

- Epiphytes
- Terrestrials

Watering

- Epiphytes
- Terrestrials

**Propagation Techniques**

- Sexual
- Asexual
  - \*Sympodial
  - \*Monopodial