



your free guide to
FERTILIZING ORCHIDS
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1st number = NITROGEN

- Promotes healthy leaves.
- Use when you see new leaves begin to grow.
- Recommendation is 9-3-6
- Especially important if using a wood based



2nd number = PHOSPHOROUS

- Encourages flowers
- Use before the flower buds appear. For example to fertilize for a late winter blooming moth orchid, begin fertilizing in the early winter, before the flower spike has emerged.
- Note: once the orchid is prepared to bloom return to a balanced fertilizer.



3rd number = POTASSIUM

- Supports a strong root system, and overall health. Potassium also helps to fight pests and disease and bounce back from unfavorable conditions such as cold and drought conditions.
- Use when roots are forming.
- Recommendation: 0-0-3

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A NOTE ON FERTILIZER CONCENTRATIONS

The numbers on fertilizer labels are written as a concentration percentage. The higher the numbers, the higher the concentration of the fertilizer. A 20-20-20 fertilizer has higher levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium than a 7-7-7 fertilizer.

When fertilizing orchids keep in mind the weekly weakly mantra. The idea behind this saying is that orchid should be fertilized weekly with a weak fertilizer. A highly concentrated fertilizer needs to be diluted $\frac{1}{4}$ the strength that is recommended on the label.

Even fertilizing weekly is too often. Because the nutrients in fertilizers are carried by salts they need to be regularly flushed. That is why it is recommended to fertilize only once or twice a month.



NOW YOU KNOW

Congratulations!

By understanding how to fertilize properly you have unlocked a critical element that is essential to getting the most out of your orchids: promote their optimal health. By observing your orchids' growth patterns and understanding how fertilizers work, you know which essential nutrients your orchids need and when they need it.

You got this!