



INTERESTING ORCHID FACTS

- Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants.
- There are more than 25,000 documented orchid species throughout the world, and more are being discovered every day.
- Although generally thought of as a tropical plant, orchids grow on every continent, in every climate, from the Arctic Circle to the southernmost jungle (except Antarctica).
- The smallest orchid is the size of a dime, while the largest weigh several hundred pounds.
- The vanilla orchid (and its vanilla bean) is the only commercially grown orchid crop. (*Vanilla planifolia*)
- Orchids have the tiniest seeds in the world, making them a challenge to grow and cultivate, and there can be up to 3 million seeds in a single orchid seedpod.
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- It takes patience to grow an orchid – the plant's first flowers won't appear until at least 5 to 7 years after germination.
- Some orchid flowers bloom for mere hours, while others last up to half a year.
- Orchid flowers always grow upside down when mature.
- Orchid plants can live to be up to 100 years old.
- Orchids have become one of the most popular houseplants of all time, recently surpassing even the popularity of African Violets.

- The symbolic significance of the orchid in China is that of refinement, friendship, perfection, numerous progeny, all things feminine, noble and elegant.

Did you know...

- The name "orchid" comes from the Greek root orkhis, meaning "testicle."
- John Lindley is considered the father of orchid cultivation.
- In their natural environment, each orchid species is dependent upon a specific type of insect to carry out its pollination.
- There are two principal types of orchids: terrestrials, which feature extensive below-ground root systems, and epiphytes, characterized by their aerial or exposed root structure.
- Before their true nature was understood, epiphytic orchids were thought of as parasitic plants impossible to grow under controlled conditions.