

# Orchid Programs

## Pre-finished Orchid Programs from ForemostCo®



At the current time we have two options for your consideration in growing pre-finished orchids at your location for this coming year; Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums.

### Phalaenopsis – 2.5 inch pre-finished to grow on and flower

With Phalaenopsis, we offer 2.5 inch pre-certified plants from USDA inspected greenhouses in Taiwan. These are 18-22cm across with a minimum of 4 leaves and are ready to transplant directly into either 4 or 6 inch pots. Finish growing times to market a 4 inch would require 16-20 weeks and a six inch pot would require an additional 4-8 weeks depending on how large you want the final product.

#### You need the following light and temperature conditions to grow and flower the crop:

**Light:** At 1000 – 1200 foot candles for the growing stage and increased to 1500 foot-candles during the cooling flower inducement stage. Can be grown under 1500 foot-candles continuously in a wet pad and fan house if the leaf does not get hot to touch. Adequate air movement with appropriate fertilizer and temperatures keep the plant from stressing under the higher light.

**Temperature:** Phalaenopsis prefer 60-85°F range. For fast root and leaf growth the day and night temperature should be maintained in the 78-82°F range. This is called the vegetative stage and these temperatures should be maintained to keep the plant growing until the desired market size and then the plants can be cooled to initiate spikes.

**Cooling stage:** Once plants reach maturity (usually 4 plus leaves with a minimum leaf span of 25-30cm) they can be cooled for 2-4 weeks to induce flower spikes. A drop in night temperature to below 70°F (20°C) will initiate spikes that then require an additional 10-12 weeks to develop and flower.

**Spike development stage:** Flower spikes will continue to develop with an optimum flower bud count if finished off with temperatures in the 70-75°F range. They can be grown warmer to speed up or cooled down to slow down to meet market shipping dates. For more buds, larger flowers and brighter colors this slightly cooler range of 70-75°F is best.

**Planting medium:** These Taiwan plants arrive rooted in Chilean Sphagnum Moss and can be simply wrapped in additional moss and placed in the next bigger size pot. A few Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot for drainage are good. Other bark, coco-fiber and bark based planting mediums can be used and we can discuss this with your grower.

**Spacing:** Newly up-potted plants can be spaced bench tight. Once cooled and spiked initiated they can be spaced to a final spacing of 6 – 4inch per sq-ft and 3- 6 inch per square foot to finish for the final 10-12 weeks. This would allow you to produce approximately 649,000 - 4 inch (allowing 20 weeks to finish) in a one acre house per year based on a rolling bench efficiency of 90% of the space. **(Approximately 234,000 per acre six inch requiring 28 weeks to finish).**

**Crop timing:** You can receive plants any week of the year. If you receive plants week 48/49 2007 after Poinsettia shipping you could time the following flowering schedule. Grow vegetative to root into the new pot and grow 1- 2 new leaves –for a period of 6-8 weeks. Cool to initiate spiking week for a minimum of 2 weeks (calendar weeks 4-6), grow on for 10-12 weeks to finish development of flowers and buds.

**Sell and ship week 16-18 for Mother’s Day 2008.** Similar timing sequence can be used year-round if adequate light is available and temperature routines can be maintained. Monthly deliveries could result in monthly flowering product available 16-20 weeks later.



2.5 inch Pre-certified Phalaenopsis from USDA certified growers in Taiwan.

### Pre-finished 4 inch Phalaenopsis ready to cool and spike

We also are currently offer our first 4 inch plants rooted in Coco-fiber. These plants are mature and ready to cool, spike, flower and sell in your market. Plants have 4-5 leaves with a 25-30cm leaf span and should produce a flower spike with a minimum of 5 flowers and buds. (5-7 flowers and buds).

*From Follaje Ornamentales, Costa Rica:*

**Crop timing:** 2-4 weeks for cooling and 10-12 weeks to finish the spike. Total 12-16 weeks.



4 inch Phalaenopsis (25-30cm).  
*From Follaje Ornamentales, Costa Rica*

Shipped from Costa Rica packed in boxes on a pallet via Ocean Container.

**Retail pricing at the mass market level throughout the USA in various regions is as follows:**

4 inch Phalaenopsis	\$ 9.95 - \$14.95
6 inch Phalaenopsis	\$19.95 - \$29.95
4 inch Dendrobium	\$ 9.95 - \$14.95
6 inch Dendrobium	\$14.95 - \$24.95

## Dendrobiums for Next Year – Future Availability 2008

We are producing a pre-finished Dendrobium for 4 inch pot production described as follows.

*From our farm, Ornamentales Sapo Verde, Costa Rica.*

- We will deliver a 2.5 inch pot with a plant that has 3 stems. The next growth will reach flowering size.
- Packed and shipped rooted in the 2.5 inch pot ready to transplant and grow with no lag phase and minimal loss of leaves. (Rooted in coco-fiber)
- Variety selections are mostly standard pot plant types that will finish as blooming size 4 inch Dendrobiums with an overall height from the bottom of the pot to the top of the flower spike within the 24-30 inch range.
- Growing conditions required: Covered plastic or glass house, light levels of 2500 fc, and temperature within the 70-90°F range.
- Plants flower as growth matures and plants will produce a new growth about every 20 weeks. You can expect to finish the crop 20-24 weeks.
- The plants we are shipping will be 6-9 inches tall above the pot ready to replot into a four inch pot.



2.5 inch Dendrobium. (15-20cm). One year old.

2.5 inch Dendrobium pot (15-20cm tall).  
Trial shipping box. 50/box.

*From Ornamentales Sapo Verde, Costa Rica*

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