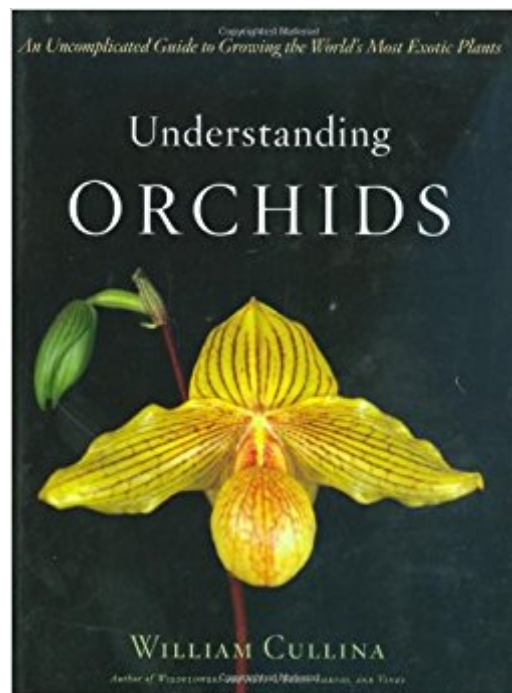




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# Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide To Growing The World's Most Exotic Plants



## Synopsis

Orchids are the largest family of plants in the world. With 30,000 known species, you could acquire a different orchid every day for eighty years and still not grow them all. Back in the realm of reality, readers of this beautiful book can quickly and easily find the orchids that are right for them -- which ones will thrive on a windowsill, which prefer artificial lights, and which need a greenhouse; which are for beginners, which for experts. And you can pinpoint the species within a particular genus that are the best ones to start with. Once you select your orchid, William Cullina's authoritative guide explains what to do to keep it alive and healthy. Featuring more than two hundred color photographs, *Understanding Orchids* covers everything you need to know to grow orchids successfully, whatever your level of interest or experience. With improved tissue-culture techniques making orchids more affordable, and the Internet making them readily available to consumers, growing orchids is more popular than ever: membership in the American Orchid Society has more than doubled in the last fifteen years. This is the book orchid fans have been waiting for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cullina has maintained a personal collection of orchids for decades, and still gets "that spine tingling, toe-tickling feeling of WOW" from an unfamiliar or outstanding specimen. It's a feeling he's eager to share with "orchid lovers at every level of expertise, from absolute beginner to experienced grower to expert." He succeeds in addressing such a broad audience by organizing his work into independent modules that can be consulted as needed. The first portion covers basic orchid information: detailed guides to growing them on a windowsill, under lights, in a greenhouse or outdoors, and practical advice on meeting their requirements for light, temperature, humidity and air

movement in each of those settings. Cullina then systematically examines orchid culture, with in-depth discussions of watering, fertilization, potting and mounting, and pests and diseases. A brief but fascinating overview of orchid reproduction follows, with directions for hand pollinating, propagating and hybridizing. Finally, Cullina meticulously examines more than 100 of the most popular genera. Happily, a good number of these seductively described plants are rated for beginners (the other skill level ratings are experienced and expert). Cullina, who directs the New England Wild Flower Society, is extremely well versed in his subject and a skilled writer. His lively text, with its clear instructions, will make orchid growing as irresistible to readers as it is to Cullina. 300 color photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

With 30,000 species, orchids compose the largest plant family in the world. Cullina's informative guide, with 300 color photographs, tells what to look for in buying your first orchid. Much of the book is devoted to a list of common orchid genera, detailing more than 100 of the most popular ones. Each entry contains information on where the plant can be grown (at a window, under lights, or in a greenhouse), the level of skill it requires to grow the plant (beginner, experienced, or expert), and lists a good introductory species that would be easy to grow. Cullina, the author of *Wildflowers* (2000) and *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (2002), also gives instructions on watering, light, potting, and fertilizing. This extensive guide includes a section on taxonomy and nomenclature and a glossary. George Cohen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is the only book that has taught me every single thing I was needing to know. Questions answered and more advanced answers for in the future as I hope to dig more in depth. Fantastic index I think this book has a great lay out .Great price. Nice pictures. I keep it in my near reach ,it will not collect any dust or be placed in a crowded bookshelf ! Under lined , highlighted , dog-eared , well read .Thankful I found it

This is my favorite orchid book. I refer to it frequently, mainly for the large section that describes a wide selection of different orchids. If you're trying to decide whether a particular orchid is right for you, this section tells you what conditions the orchid needs to thrive and how demanding or easy it is to grow, along with suggesting a few good types to try. In addition, the sections on different potting media and general discussions about light, water, and fertilizer requirements are very well-written and thorough. And it's obvious that he's a big fan of orchids. I've bought other orchid

guides and borrowed some from the library, but this is the one I turn to time and again. The photos are nice, too.

This is a good book and is well written. It is mainly focused on the needs of someone who has to grow orchids inside. As I live in the tropics, that all got a bit heavy.

GOOD BOOK, BUT CURRENT, NEW INFO IN A BOOK WOULD BE GREAT, I DO USE IT FOR QUICK REFERENCE!

This book is a must for all those enthusiasts out there who value actual scientific guidance on the subject. Everything written in this book is factual and needs attention. The book gives in detail idea on the subject of orchid cultivation. The most suitable orchids for all experience levels is already given in this book. For those who want to increase their collection and do not want to be limited with their collections I would recommend "Flora's Orchids" and "Botanicas's Pocket orchids" along with this book, and "Four seasons of orchids" and "Orchid whisperer" as manuals. All these books are a part of my own collection along with many others books on the subject. Believe me as a grower myself I would only recommend only above books of all of my own collection along with the website [...] and AOS website that's all one would require. For those who want further reference one can visit [...].

Very detailed and exhaustive guide to growing and managing orchids. I live in Costa Rica and am starting to grow and take care of orchids, so this was a good book to start.

I have looked through at least 20 different orchid guides, and I'm still glad my dad bought me this one. It's packed full of useful information, all written in an understandable, entertaining way, with gorgeous color pictures throughout the book showing you what to expect to see, etc. Quite a few of my orchids owe their lives to the troubleshooting guide, and the detail with which he goes into every topic is extremely helpful. He also makes sure to address various situations of various growers--those with greenhouses, those with windowsills, etc. I haven't hit an issue yet that I haven't found a discussion on in this book.

I have several Orchid books and this is my favorite. It's a great book for the beginner, or even the amateur orchid grower. The book breaks down each aspect of orchid care: lighting, humidity,

watering, potting & mounting, diseases, and even reproduction. There is also a wonderful listing of common orchid genera and their care requirements. They're listed with ratings of beginner-experienced-expert for their ease of care. The pictures are absolutely stunning. The book is an easy read and I come back to it regularly for reference.

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