



How to Make an Orchid Bloom - Quick Checklist

Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

Factor	What to do	Why it triggers bloom
Light	Bright, indirect light. For Phalaenopsis, east or bright north window; add sheer curtain for south/west.	Adequate light is the main signal for spike initiation.
Temperature	Give a 5 to 8 C night drop for 2 to 4 weeks (e.g., 23 C day / 15-18 C night). Keep days mild.	Cooler nights induce flower spikes in many orchids.
Watering	Water when roots turn silvery and mix is almost dry; then soak through and drain fully.	Moisture cycles keep roots healthy and prevent bud blast.
Humidity & air	Target 40 to 60 percent humidity with gentle airflow; use tray with pebbles, not leaf-wetting mists.	Stable humidity prevents buds from drying and dropping.
Feeding	Feed weakly, weekly: 1 g per L balanced fertilizer (e.g., 20-20-20) during growth; flush plain water monthly.	Steady nutrients support spike growth and long-lasting blooms.
Pot and medium	Use clear pot with holes and fresh bark mix; repot every 1 to 2 years after bloom.	Fresh, airy media prevent root rot and encourage healthy growth.
Light direction	Once a spike appears, turn the pot slightly each week to keep spike straight and balanced.	Even light prevents lopsided spikes.
Resting plants	If leaves are fine but no spike, give brighter light and a 2 to 4 week night drop.	Combines key triggers without stress.

Feeding schedule	Spike care and after-bloom	Troubleshooting - quick IDs
Spring to early autumn: weakly weekly 0.1 percent (1 g per L).	Stake gently as spike elongates; avoid cracking brittle sections.	Buds yellow and drop: check drafts, low humidity, big temp swings, or very dry roots.
First spike visible: continue feeding until buds swell, then pause until flowers open.	When flowers fade, cut the spike above the second node for a possible side-branch, or remove fully to let plant rest.	Dark floppy roots: overwatering or stale mix - repot into fresh bark and reduce watering.
After bloom: resume at half rate for 2 to 3 weeks, then regular.	Repot after bloom if media has broken down or roots are crowded.	Leaves very dark green and no spike: increase light gradually.