

In yesterday's newsletter, we started talking about the topic of orchids & temperature, with a few tips included from our book:

<http://www.OrchidsMadeEasy.com/TheBook.html>

And today we'll continue the discussion...

So without further delay, let's get RIGHT to it!

Once you've determined the optimal temperature range for your orchid (as discussed in yesterday's newsletter), your next step is to evaluate the temperature conditions in your home.

And, when you do this, I have a few tips for you.

First, it's absolutely CRITICAL that you get an accurate reading of BOTH the high & low temperatures of your orchid's environment during the day and evening.

Worried this is gonna be too much work?

Well think again, because after all...

Haven't you learned by now that I've usually got a little "trick" up my sleeves to help keep things completely simple? :-)

Your "trick" when it comes to measuring temperature is going to be what's called a "maximum/minimum thermometer."

A "min/max thermometer" is a device that gives you both the current temperature, as well as the high and low temperature over a given period of time - like say 24 hours.

And for a little as under \$20, you can pick one up at your local hardware store.

If you're looking for a recommendation, here's the actual min/max thermometer I use at home (click on the link below):

<http://www.on2url.com/app/adtrack.asp?MerchantID=142030&AdID=436489>

Now, for our purposes today, let's assume that you've already got a min/max thermometer sitting at home.

Here's what to do:

Tomorrow morning when you wake up, set your thermometer to give you a min/max temperature reading over a *12 hour* period.

And then in the evening, when the 12 hours are up, record the results. This is gonna give you your min/max DAY-time temperatures.

Now, once you've finished doing that, set the thermometer again for 12 hours.

The next morning when you wake up, record the results. This is gonna give you your min/max NIGHT-time temperatures.

In total, you've only had to check the thermometer twice, and probably spend about 5 minutes of total work :-)

Not too hard, right?

Now the question is, what are you supposed to do with all this information?

Take a look at your temperature readings. You want to be watching out for the extremes. Your biggest concern is that the temperature in your orchid's environment might be getting too hot or too cold for your orchid - even if just briefly.

So, when you take these temperature readings, it's important that you place the thermometer in the EXACT location where you plan to place your plant.

It's not uncommon for the inside temperature of a home (or even a single room!) to vary by 20 degrees F or more depending on location of heat/air-conditioning vents, natural sunlight, airflow, and appliance use.

And here's another tip: Don't forget to account for temperature changes within your home from one

season to the next.

For this, (if you're a little obsessive like me), I like to take a temperature reading on the 1st & 15th of every month, and keep track of this in a little notebook or a calendar.

(And when you start keeping a little "temperature diary", it might benefit you in unexpected ways...

For example, since I started recording these temperature readings, we've managed to cut down on our air conditioning & heating bills by about 25% simply by eliminating waste. Pretty neat!)

Now, if you live in a part of the world that experiences extreme fluctuations in temperature from one day to the next, you may want to take your monthly readings more often.

Finally, if you find that your home isn't the ideal temperature for your particular variety - don't despair!

Sometimes all it takes is moving your plant to a warmer/cooler location within your home - e.g. closer to the heating vent or a south-facing window, and presto! Problem solved :)

Tomorrow, we switch gears a bit and cover something that has most growers mystified...

Until then, to healthy vibrant blooms! :-)

- Ryan "The Orchid Guy"

P.S. If you'd like to have all this information in a nicely organized, professionally bound book (which by the way goes WAY beyond what's covered in this newsletter, and includes EVERYTHING you need to know about orchids) please visit:

<http://www.OrchidsMadeEasy.com/TheBook.html#orderform>

You'll be in for a real treat! :-)

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