

Where Do Orchids Grow?

With over 30,000 different species of orchids around the world, you can expect to find them in every size, color, and shape imaginable. This diversity extends into their habitats as well. Orchids are defined as epiphytes, lithophytes, or terrestrial plants depending on where they grow. Color each orchid as you learn about them!

Phragmipedium Eric Young is a **terrestrial** orchid.

Terrestrial plants need soil to grow. The soil is where they find moisture and many of their essential nutrients.



Cattleya Love Knot is an **epiphytic** orchid.

Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants, but don't harm them while growing. Epiphytic orchids don't need soil to grow. They use their roots to anchor themselves to other plants in their environment, such as trees. These plants draw moisture from rain and mist.



Paphiopedilum annabellchen is a **lithophytic** orchid.

Lithophytes are plants that grow on rocks. Much like epiphytes, these plants find their nutrients and moisture in their air around them and on the surface they're anchored on. Lithophytes collect nutrients from the surface of rocks as well as in rock crevasses.

