











Orchid Fascination

-  Orchids comprise the largest of all plant families. There are more than 30,000 naturally occurring species.
-  Since the introduction of tropical species to Europe in the 19th century, about 100,000 hybrids and cultivars have been produced.
-  Orchids occur on every continent except Antarctica, even within the Arctic Circle
-  The flowers range in size from 1/25th of an inch to flower spikes growing up to 10 feet long.
-  The wholesale value of potted orchids produced in the United States in 2006 was almost \$123 million, second only to poinsettias.
-  While sales of other flowering plants are increasing by 4% per year, orchid sales are increasing 22%.
-  *Phragmipedium kovachii* was discovered in 2002 in Peru with flowers almost 10 inches across. It is thought to be one of the most important orchid discoveries in the last 100 years.
-  Scientists believe orchids have been on Earth for 80 million years.
-  The most expensive orchid sold for 1.68 million yuan (\$202,000) in 2005. It was cultivated by Shenzhem Nongke Group in Guangdong, China.
-  *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* from Borneo has the longest petals of any orchid reaching over 3 ft long. This is grown in hanging pots to allow room for the petals to grow.