



Surrey, BC, Canada  
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## ***Sarcochilus* (cool growing)**



This relative of *Phalaenopsis* is a favorite in Australia, where many of the species are native. Much of its popularity stems from its floriferousness and compactness. *Sarcochilus* can be challenging but is also rewarding.

*Sarcochilus* are vigorous growers, re-blooming on the same growth from year to year as well as on new growth. *Sarcochilus* are monopodial orchids, like *Phalaenopsis*, but also form clumps which results in many flower stems on a compact plant, under 15 cm (6 inches). Some of the species and hybrids have a sequential blooming habit and mature plants will produce blooms for 8 weeks or more. The small 1.5 to 2 cm blooms are available mostly in white and white with red markings.

**Temperature:** Average household temperature of 18 to 22°C (65 to 72°F) during the day and 14 to 18°C (60 to 65°F) at night.

**Light:** *Sarcochilus* like moderate to bright light and can go in any window but north.

**Watering:** *Sarcochilus* prefer medium to high humidity. Water every 10 to 14 days. They should dry out between watering in fall. Do not let stand in water.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize at half strength every watering. Use high nitrogen when new growth appears, and high phosphorous to enhance blooming when growths are nearly mature.

**Re-blooming:** Cut down on watering in the fall after new growth matures and move to a bright location.

**Repotting and potting medium type:** Repot every 2 years into a pot large enough for 2 more years of growth. Do not overpot. Use fine bark, charcoal, perlite mix.