



### Swiss Orchid Foundation

The Swiss Orchid Foundation is working on a world orchid iconography ([orchid.unibas.ch](http://orchid.unibas.ch)) and has slides, drawings and herbarium specimens from over 13,000 different orchid species, that you can find here: [orchid.unibas.ch/iconography.search.php](http://orchid.unibas.ch/iconography.search.php)



### BibliOrchidea

BibliOrchidea is with over 150,000 entries the largest orchid literature database worldwide.

[orchid.unibas.ch/bibliorchidea/pages/applet.php](http://orchid.unibas.ch/bibliorchidea/pages/applet.php)

Generally orchids require less fertiliser than most other plants. It is far more harmful to give an orchid too much orchid fertiliser than too little. In fact, orchids can go on living happily without any added nutrients. But feeding them the right amount of orchid fertiliser at the right time can lead to more brilliant flowers and stronger growth.

### Nutrients Needs

Orchids need 16 nutrients—nine macronutrients and seven micronutrients. Macronutrients are so called because they are needed in larger quantity. On the other hand, micronutrients, though equally critical to the health of orchid, are need in very small amount. These nutrients are:

### Macronutrients

Hydrogen (H) – food production  
Carbon (C) – food production  
Oxygen (O) – food production

Nitrogen (N) – leave and stem growth  
Phosphorus (P) – flower production

Potassium (K) – general good health and orchid issue building  
Calcium (Ca) – cell wall formation and cell activity regulation  
Sulfur (S) – combined with nitrogen and phosphorus to produce proteins

Magnesium (Mg) – part of chlorophyll molecule and thus for producing food

### Micronutrients – catalysts in vital chemical reactions

Iron (Fe)  
Manganese (Mn)  
Zinc (Zn)  
Copper (Cu)  
Boron (B)  
Molybdenum (Mo)  
Chlorine (Cl)

Hydrogen, carbon and oxygen are available from air and water, so you don't need a fertiliser that includes these elements. Most fertilisers also do not include any of the micronutrients because the trace amount can be found in the tap water and potting material. Always read the print on the label.

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