

It is possible to grow and bloom almost any variety of orchid or flower with the vast array of lighting equipment and bulbs available commercially. Sources of information that discuss the amount and quality of light needed for orchid growing is provided below along with a brief statement regarding content.

"Growing Orchids Under Lights" by Charles Marden Fitch. This is a short book available through AOS but sometimes can be found on eBay/Amazon sites. It has been kept current.

- ★ [Fluorescent Plant Lighting](#) This is just one of many interesting experiments that Wayne Schmidt has written about and it is very complete and helpful.
- ★ [Gardening under Lights](#). A how-to article from Garden Supply Company.
- ★ [Light Levels for Orchids](#) from the Venamy Orchids Comprehensive Culture Guide. A very thorough and helpful guide on light levels required by orchids, the light available to orchids in different locations of the home and the different types of lamps
<http://www.orchidsusa.com/3Lightlevels.htm>
- ★ [Artificial Lighting Systems](#) and [Orchids in a Basement](#) are articles on the members only section of the AOS website. Google "growing under lights" on the [AOS website](#)
- ★ [Light Measurement](#)..The LED Light Co discusses terminology.
- ★ [Suppliers of light bulbs/tubes](#) Durotest Lighting – Vita Light

Growing Vegetable and Flower Garden Plants from Seed, by Bob Martin. This works!!!
Fill small (2" square) pots with fine vermiculite to the brim (dry). Set the pot in a tray of water so that the rim is about 1/4" above the water level. Sprinkle a pack of seeds on top after vermiculite swells from water absorption. Use a different pot for each variety you wish to start. After you have all your pots filled, cover the tray by laying a clear piece of plastic film over it. Suspend a 60 watt bare bulb 14-16" above the tray connected to a timer with light on 16 hours per day. Some seeds will germinate in as little as 2-3 days. Others (mostly flowers) may take 8-10 days. When the first two leaves appear (cotyledons), you can lift the baby plant out of the vermiculite and plant in soil. You will need to use a toothpick or an awl to poke a hole in the soil, then thread the root down and gently compress the soil around it. Water every day and keep under Cool White fluorescent lights on 14 -15 hours per day. I can show you pictures but no longer have negatives to enable uploading. It works great---I used to grow as many as 1000 seedlings every spring in my midwestern basement.

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