



# ENDLESS FLOWERS

FRESH CUT FLOWER OF THE MONTH CLUB

## KEY INGREDIENT IN LOVE POTIONS

This month, your bouquet celebrates the exotic beauty of two different orchid varieties. Orchids are grown in Thailand where there are many hybrid and wild orchid species. Israeli Ruscus, the greens accompanying your orchids, are grown in California and they will try very hard to outlast your orchids!

These orchids bloom in alternating sequences and under the proper conditions, they take quite a long time to wither. In fact, the last time we sent out similar hybrid orchids, we had several customers call to tell us that theirs had lasted more than 4 weeks! They must have had excellent care, and perhaps the location of the vase was just right to sustain them. For any cut flower to last four weeks is very unusual! On the other end of the spectrum, some wild orchid species bloom and wither all at once... needless to say we won't be sending you those!

### The Greeks used orchids as an aphrodisiac.

I used to think that orchids were very fragile and all very similar, but no plant family is more diverse. Actually, the orchid family is the largest plant family we know about, and orchids can be grown in almost all possible environments! They actually grow wild on every continent except Antarctica. (No surprise to me... does anything grow there other than algae?)

Orchids have some unbelievably unique characteristics. The mere fact that their roots can live on air is enough to make us wonder how they can sustain themselves. Their roots are actually quite different from those of any other plants. A special sponge-like layer of tissue called "velamen" completely covers each root. This special sheathing acts as a moisture collecting device while protecting the roots from direct sunlight. Wild orchids often find bizarre places to grow. It's not uncommon to find them in the crevices of rocks on the side of a cliff!

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*We can trace orchids back to the Early Greeks who regarded their delicately constructed blossoms as an icon representing beauty and love.*