

National Orchid Garden

The **National Orchid Garden** (NOG) was opened by former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on 20 October 1995. Boasting the most comprehensive collection of tropical orchids in the world, the National Orchid Garden has **over 60,000 dazzling orchid plants**, and is the crown jewel of Singapore Botanic Gardens.

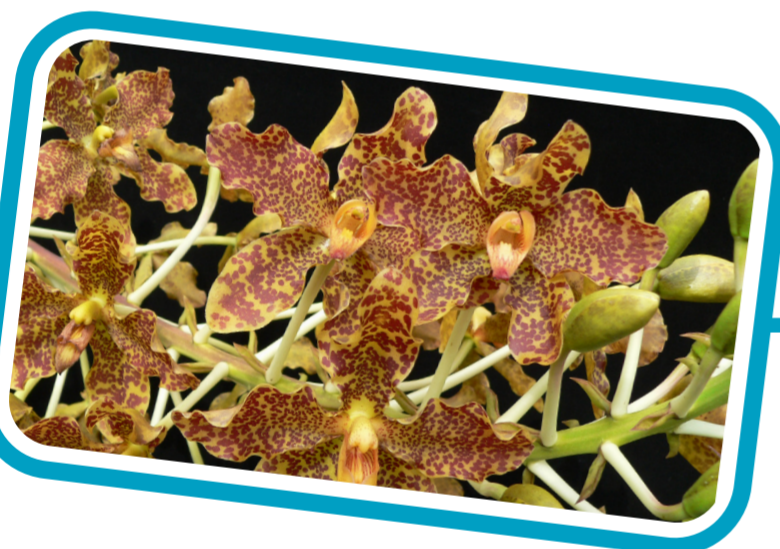
NOG is divided into zones using **four distinct sets of colours**, each representing one of the four seasons. Each zone allows the visitor to experience the magic and splendour of thousands of orchids in their blooming glory.

One of the well-known features of NOG is the **VIP Orchid Garden** which is reserved for the crème-de-la-crème of the Garden's hybrids. These orchids are named after visiting heads of state and international dignitaries. More than 60 orchid hybrids have been named after VIPs — a unique bilateral diplomatic initiative of Singapore.

Some of the more interesting orchids to spot in NOG are:

Vanda Miss Joaquim

Vanda Miss Joaquim was designated Singapore's national flower in 1981, as part of an overall effort to foster national pride and identity. The first director of Singapore Botanic Gardens, Mr H. N. Ridley, described the orchid as hardy and free-flowering and had it named after Agnes Joaquim, the person he attributed the hybrid to.



Tiger Orchid

Also known as the Giant Orchid, this plant is said to be the world's largest orchid. Its huge cluster of leaves can weigh up to a ton or more. Its yellow coloured flowers with dark red patterned spots resemble tiger prints, hence its name — Tiger Orchid.

Golden Shower Orchid, Dancing Lady Orchid

This dainty orchid, flowered by the Gardens in 1939, is commonly known as the "Golden Shower" or "Dancing Lady" orchid because the shape of its flowers resembles dancing ladies.



Bamboo Orchid

The Bamboo Orchid is so called because of its slender bamboo-like leaves. It is a hardy, free-flowering plant and although its individual flowers last only a day, its sequential flowering habit allows flowers to be seen everyday.



Vanilla Orchid

Vanilla is one of the most widely distributed orchid genera in the world. It is the only orchid species that is grown commercially as a food crop. The vanilla essence that we use for baking cakes and desserts is derived from its seed pods. This species does not usually flower until it has reached a large size.

