



How much do I earn from producing orchids?

The main source of income from this enterprise is the sale of fresh flowers.

Business	Investments	Product	Market	Profitability Indicator
Sale of fresh vanda flowers	Top cuts Concrete plots Garden tools and equipment Chemicals	Fresh orchid (vanda) flowers Total initial investment: ₱220,980	Flower shops Wedding coordinators Church Flower traders	Average annual net income: ₱53,851 Payback period: after 4 years ROI: 24.36%

Note: Figures used in this material are based on 2006 data.

Before investing on the enterprise, we advise that you visit an actual orchid farm near you.

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For more information, please contact:

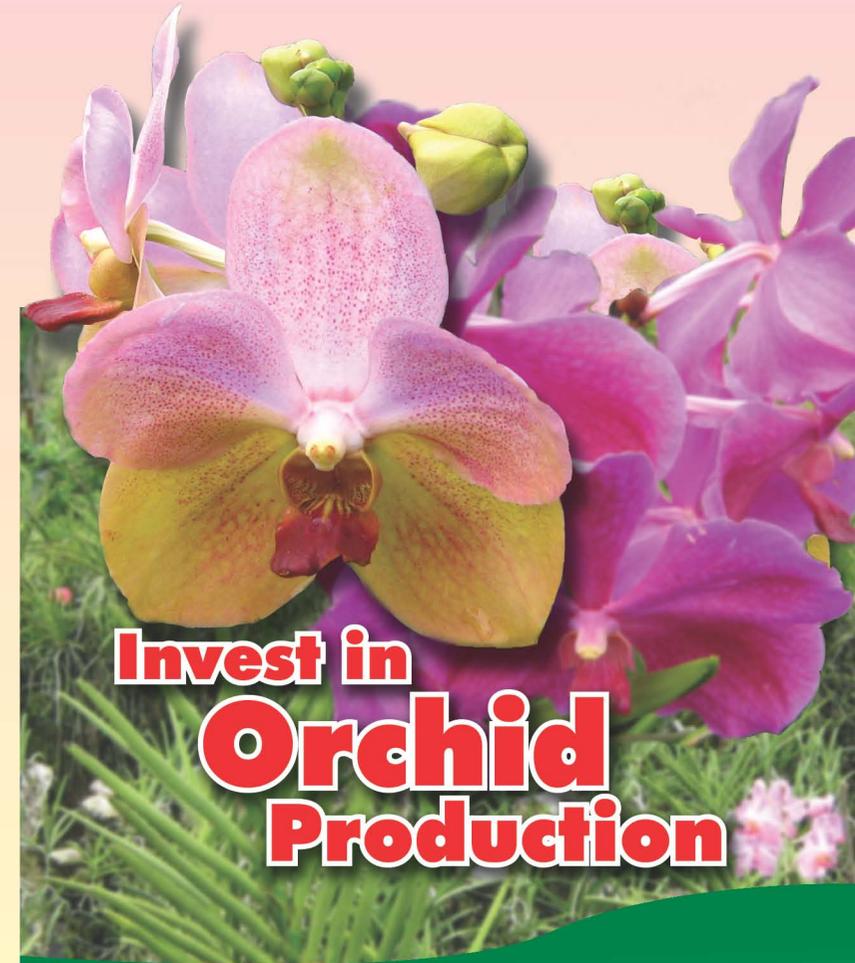
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Why invest in orchids (Semiterete Vandas)?

Filipinos are known for their keen appreciation and exquisite taste for beauty. That is probably why we also have that natural affinity for gardens. No Filipino home, no matter how humble and simple, is without a simple garden. One will find one, two or a group of flowering or foliage plants around the house even in the remotest areas of the country. Filipinos have always been fascinated by flowering plants particularly orchids. Phalaenopsis (butterfly orchids), dendrobiums (relative of 'Sanggumay') and vandas (relative of 'waling-waling') both native and hybrids, adorn many homes and gardens. This is not surprising considering that there are many attractive orchids that can only be found in the Philippines.

Some orchids are difficult to grow and quite exacting in their cultural requirements. Thus, growers are on the look-out for easy-to-grow types. The Semiterete Vandas readily fit in this category. Aside from having a 'no fuss' character, they are popular and flower profusely all year round. Their flowers which come in different shapes and colors such as red, pink, blue, green, yellow, and white are in great demand locally. Records also show that world demand for orchid products continue to grow. In addition, demand for vanda flowers, just like other flowers picks

up tremendously during special months of February (month of the hearts), May ('fiesta' and 'Santacruzian' month), June (wedding month), November (month for remembering the dead) and December (Holiday season and gift-giving month). During these special months, increased demand and price go hand-in-hand thus, ensuring good income for growers. Flowers are made into corsages, bouquets, or placed in vases as cut flowers. On the other hand, plants in twigs or driftwood are used as landscape material.

Unlike other cut flowers that require expensive structure for their production to protect them from the sun and rain, semiterete vandas are happy under the sun and flower best in full sunlight. These are also more resistant to diseases compared with other vandas and can withstand open culture without protection from the heavy monsoon rains in June to October.

Cut flower production does not require a big area to be profitable. A 100-m² lot is enough to generate good income. An unused piece of land around the house can be used for this purpose. Aside from beautifying the home, cut flower production can also be a source of additional income.

What do I need to prepare to go into orchid (vanda) production?

- Prepare the plot or area**
 You must have at least 100-m² lot located in an area where there is plenty of sunlight, good ventilation and an assured supply of water. It could be a backyard lot or front lot of your house. Seven plots measuring 1 x 10 m each, with a pathway of 0.5 m between plots would be enough.
- Purchase top cuts and plant**
 Buy at least 840 top cuts from a reliable source and plant in pots. Each plot can accommodate 60 pots (#8) planted with two top cuts.
- Buy materials for maintenance and good management of your plants**
 You only need few basic materials such as rubber hose, pruning shears, sprayer, and chemicals.

- Build up your knowledge on the basics of orchid growing**
 There are many publications on orchid culture. Some of them are available at the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) at Los Baños, Laguna. You can start reading them. You can also consult private growers where you plan to buy your top cuts. Usually, the private growers are very generous with information specially if you are a prospective buyer.

Investment requirements

Initial capital investment for producing orchids on a 100-m² lot (2006).

Item	Cost (P)
A. Construction of Plots	
Hollow blocks (770 at P5/block)	3,850
Volcanic cinder (6 m ³)	3,360
Pipes ½ schedule 40 (5 at P1,500/pipe)	7,500
Cement (2 bags at P175/bag)	350
Sand (1/2 m ³)	700
Gravel (1/2 m ³)	1,050
Wires (10 kg, P56/kg)	560
Used nets (100 m ²)	500
Labor	3,000
Water system (faucets, elbows, etc.)	500
Sub-total	21,370
B. Materials and Tools	
Top cuts (840 at P90/top cut)	75,600
#8 pots (420 at P10/pot)	4,200
Growing media	
Charcoal (40 sacks at P80/sack)	3,200
Tree fern sticks	3,000
Fertilizer (18 boxes of 20-20-20)	3,600
Fungicide (6 kg Dithane)	2,160
Insecticides (4 liters)	5,520
Sprayer	1,500
Rubber hose	360
Pruning shears	470
Sub-total	99,610
C. Land (100 m ²) at P1,000/m ²	100,000
Total	P220,980