

## **Cymbidium Potting Mix – July 2017**

with Cypress Bark Mulch and Purely Organic Fertilizer

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This is my current cymbidium potting mix incorporating cypress bark mulch and Purely Organic fertilizer. Anytime Purely Organic (PO) Fertilizer is used and it is mixed wet, you are asking for real trouble. Warm wet PO not only smells bad, it smells horrible. A German friend once described a bad odor as one that would cause a dog, riding on a Gut wagon, to vomit so hard it would fall off the wagon. Wet PO falls into that category. It is so bad that you will probably want to dig a hole somewhere and bury your mistake.

### **Base Mix**

1 gal Perlite wet (damp not soggy)

½ gal Purely Organic Fertilizer

Mix the first two ingredients thoroughly and put the mix in a warm dry place to completely dry. After drying, stir the mix until it is granular. The PO cakes and coats the Perlite, very little residue remains on the bottom of the pan.

### **Dry Mix Finish Ingredients**

1 gal Coconut Coir. I use a brand called Complete COCO that contains Cal/Mag and gypsum

½ gal Pro Mix

1 cup Crushed Sea Shell (Optional but important if the Coir does not have Cal/Mag)

½ cup Dolomite Lime (Optional but important if the Coir does not have Cal/Mag)

Mix all ingredients listed until now thoroughly

*Warning: Do not add water to this mix. It should be dry.*

### **Final Mix**

The final mix is the Base mix mixed with the Dry Mix plus organic matter in the form of cypress mulch, which works for me, or Orchiata if you prefer. Mix the Base Mix with the Dry Mix and add dry cypress bark mulch until you get the right consistency, about a 3:1 Ratio of cypress mulch:base plus dry mix.

Put enough dry unmixed mulch in the bottom of the pot to cover drain holes and pack well. Pot the plants dry using the Base Mix/Dry Mix/cypress bark mulch. Pack well then water the potted plant thoroughly. Pack the wet mix around the plant as much as you can and add additional mix as needed and wet again. Add dry PO mixed with snail bait as a top dressing after watering. Use 1 tsp/gal pot, less for smaller pots more for larger. Work in the snail bait/PO into the top layer of the pot with the plant tag.

**Note:** You will find that the particle size of cypress bark mulch is not consistent. Blended mulch may be OK for Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis, but not Cymbidiums and Lady Slippers. Pure cypress bark mulch (not blended) works best for Cymbidiums. There will be some variation between bags of mulch even from the same supplier. For some potting you want chunks and for others you want mostly fiber. Most cypress mulch bags are clear and it is easy to see the average size of the particles.