

Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

John Laurenson, johnlaurenson@me.com
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Got this idea after attending one of Sue's orchid mounting classes at her home. I'm basically lazy and look for an easy way to do everything.

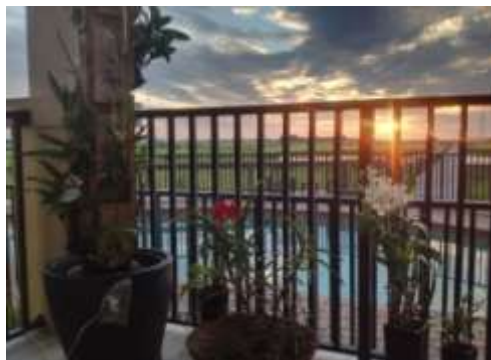


While at Sue's I mounted two orchids onto a couple of pieces of wood. As she said you don't find orchids growing in pots in the wild. They did better than any of my potted ones. So I came up with this idea for an orchid tree that I can attach a couple of dozen orchid plants easily and make it super easy to take care of them. Thought I would pass it on.

I took four 8 ft long by 6 inch wide cedar boards and made a hollow post. The post was set into a 5 gal. bucket which was with a bag of concrete, so it can stand by itself. I found a larger planter at Tuesday Morning and set the 5 gal bucket into it. I filled the outer planter with water, added a small water aquarium pump into it so it can periodically pump the water from the planter up to a bowl mounted on the top of the post used to distribute water and drip down all four sides of the post, watering all the

boards with the orchids mounted on them.

I mounted the two orchids from Sue's class on to boards. I made a couple dozen more similar to what I learned at Sue's class, but used plastic cable ties instead of wire, to hold them on the boards so they can root. I then mounted all the planter boards onto the wood post with a single screw. That way they are easy to remove when they bloom and can be brought into the house for display.



I have an electric timer that turns the water pump on for 15 minutes twice a day to wet the growing boards and orchids. I add a little water soluble fertilizer every month to the base water reservoir.

I'm happy to say virtually all the orchids are now rooted well onto the boards after about 4 months and throwing out new growth. I figure this time next year I will have a solid 8 foot column of orchids in bloom at the rate they are growing.

Editors Note: Salts will tend to concentrate when water evaporates from the system, so the water well should be flushed periodically. Any pests or diseases will be spread between plants by the recirculating water so periodic applications of pesticides and fungicides should be added to the water.