

St. Augustine Orchid Society

Repotting Orchids



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Why Repot Orchids?

- Orchids LOVE being Under Potted
- Plant will Require Time to Recover its Vigor after You Repot
- Don't Repot Unless You Have a Reason to Repot. Here are Some Reasons:
 - You Want Mix to Match Your Normal Mix
 - Two Types Mix Used (Bark around Sphagnum)
 - Potting Mix Degraded
 - Orchid is Unstable from Growing Out of Pot



When is the Best Time to Repot?

- You Want to Repot Immediately Before the Plant's Growth Spurt Period
- For Spring Blooming Phalaenopsis:
 - Repot as Soon as Bloom is Finished
 - Cut Spike and Repot No Later than June 30
- For Cattleyas/Dendrobiums:
 - As New Roots are Emerging - Best
 - In Spring Before Growth Season - 2nd Best
 - After Flowering – 3rd Best



What Type of Pots, if Any?

- Orchids Can Be Grown in Pots, Baskets and on Mounts
- For Pots:
 - Use Shallow Azalea and Bulb Pots for Most Orchids, Deep Pots for Cymbidiums
 - Clay vs. Plastic
 - Clay Breathes, Is More Stable in Wind
 - Plastic Holds More Water
 - Baskets – With or Without Media
 - Mounts Mimic Nature, Daily Watering



How Big of a Pot?

- Orchids Like to be Underpotted
- For Phalaenopsis – Almost Never More than 6” Pot, Use 4” Pot if Few Roots
- For Cattleyas – Allow for at least 2 Year’s Growth, Must Decide Whether to Divide or Grow Large Specimen Plant
- For Dendrobiums – Grow Very Tight, 4” Pot until Unwieldy, then Drop into 6” Pot



What Potting Media is Best?

- There is No Best Potting Media, Match Your Mix to Your Time, Your Watering Habits and the Orchid's Preferences
- Less Organic Matter Means the Mix Will Be More Freely Draining
- More Organic Matter Means the Mix Will Be More Water Retentive



Less Organic Mixes

- Will Hold Less Water and Not Degrade Quickly
- If You Have the Time to Water When Mix is Dry, Could be Every 2 or 3 Days in Summer
- If You Can Control the Water During the Rainy Season
- Orchids with Canes and Pseudobulbs that Store Water (Cattleyas and Dendrobiums)



More Organic Matter

- Will Hold More Water and Degrade More Quickly
- If Plant Requires Frequent Repotting
- If You are Time Limited
- If You Can Control the Amount of Water Received During the Rainy Season
- If Plant Likes to Stay Wetter, Fleshy Leaf Type Orchids (Phals and Paphs)



Old vs. New Roots

- The New Roots Growing after Repotting are What Gives Your Plant Vitality
- Be Brutal Cutting Away Old Roots, Trim so the Old Roots Take Up No More than 2/3 of the Available Pot Space
- You Will Be Amazed at How Fast the Plant will Reestablish Itself if You Repot as the Plant is Entering its Growth Spurt



Repotting Phalaenopsis

- Phalaenopsis are Monopodial, Growing Up
- They Will Gain a Leaf or Two and Lose a Leaf or Two Each Year
- Cut Away Stem Until Vibrant Tissue
- Trim Roots to Fit into about 2/3 of Pot
- For Spring Blooming Phalaenopsis:
 - Repot as Soon as Bloom is Finished
 - Cut Spike and Repot No Later than June 30



Repotting Cattleyas and Dendrobiums

- Cattleyas and Dendrobiums Grow Horizontally along a Rhizome
- Measure the Distance Between New Growths to Choose Pot Size, the Plant Should Fill at Least Half of the New Pot
- Retain at Least 3 to 5 Pseudobulbs and 2 to 3 Canes
- Water Blast Plant to Remove Bugs and Their Hiding Places



Repotting Cattleyas and Dendrobiums

(cont'd)

- Trim Roots so Roots Fit into 2/3 of Pot
- Place Oldest Edge Against Pot Rim
Allowing Most Space for Plant to Grow
- Secure Plant with Rhizome Clip to Prevent
Wobbling While Plant Reestablishes
- Stake Vertical Part of Plant to Provide
Additional Stability, if Necessary

St. Augustine Orchid Society

You Are Welcome at Any of Our Events

- Lectures at Monthly Program Meetings
- Beginners: Keiki Club Meetings
- Repotting Clinics w/ Master Gardeners at US 1 Ace Hardware
- Orchid Auctions
- Field Trips to Orchid Growers & Shows

