

Phalaenopsis Re-Potting

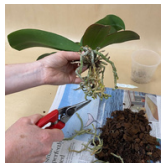
1. Re-pot your Phalaenopsis when it is climbing out of its pot. Choose a time when its flowering has finished and when the roots are actively growing. Cut the old stem right back to the base and if still in flower, the blooms can be placed in water.



2. Remove the plant from its pot and shake off the majority of the old bark compost. If it has been several years since it was last potted then the compost may have started to break down. Keep this old bark separate from the new media about to be used.



3. Using clean, sharp secateurs or scissors, trim back the roots to a length of about 10cm minimum. Healthy roots should be white or green and plump. Over-watered roots are brown and shrivelled. Take this opportunity to remove any dead leaves and completely dead roots.



4. Position the plant in a clean pot, slightly bigger if necessary and hold in place, centrally with one hand, whilst filling up with fresh bark compost with the other. They grow well in clear pots, but these are not essential. Choose any container that has plenty of drainage holes.



5. Making sure the bark is pressed down firmly to anchor the plant, top it up to just below the rim of the pot. Make a note of the potting date on the label. Use the clear pot to your advantage, keep an eye on the roots and you will see if they are keeping healthy



6. Water about once every 1-2 weeks and spray the surface of the compost to encourage the new roots to grow. Soon it will make a new leaf and the next flower spike will shortly follow. At the nursery we stock clear pots in a range of sizes.



Cymbidium Re-Potting

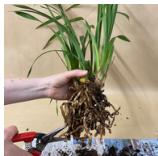
1. Repot your Cymbidium, or other bulbous orchid, when the plant has no more room in the pot. Prepare some bark-based compost, peat, perlite, moss or charcoal can be added if you wish. You will also need some crocking material such as polystyrene chips for drainage and a sharp knife or pair of secateurs.



2. Once out of its pot, the plant should have a system of clean, white roots. If they are soft and brown then it may have been over-watered. If the plant is large, you may wish to divide it. To do this, cut through the rhizome that connects the pseudobulbs, dividing the plant in half.



3. Prepare the plant for potting by trimming back some of the roots and remove any old, broken-down compost. Leave a few centimetres of roots as an anchor for the plant in its new pot. Take this opportunity to tidy the plant by removing old bracts and dead pseudobulbs.



4. Choose a new clean pot in which the plant will have enough room to grow for another 2-3 years, usually 2-3 sizes larger.

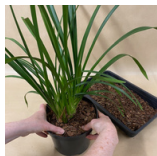
In the base, place a layer of crocking material for drainage. This can be polystyrene chips or stones, but these can make the pot very heavy.



5. Position the plant in the pot so there is plenty of room in the front of the new shoots to develop and grow into pseudobulbs. Start to fill in with fresh bark, holding the plant steady in the correct position with the other hand until it is supported by the compost.



6. Firm the bark compost down with your thumbs or a potting stick, a wobbly plant will not root in easily. The compost should be just below the rim of the pot with the base of the new growths sitting on the surface of the bark. Now give the plant a thorough watering, flushing through from the top.



This method of re-potting can be used on any orchids with bulbs.



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