

Repotting Cymbidiums



Cymbidiums, both standard and miniatures, should be repotted every two to three years or when the plant's pseudobulbs are bulging against the sides of the pot. Ideally, the best time to perform this task is between February and the end of June, after blooming. We recommend reading these instructions carefully before beginning.

Potting mediums

Select the potting medium best suited to your area and gather all the supplies you will need before bare-rooting your plants. A commercial Cymbidium Mix is suitable for areas with mild summer climates (such as most of the Bay Area). Often a H Orchid Bark H Orchid Mix combo is used to provide some moisture retention and still get good drainage. For optimum results, dampen your potting medium before using.

Repotting

Remove plants from old pots, work old bark out of roots and trim roots to approximately half the depth of the new container (cymbidiums do best in heavy duty black plastic pots, with both side and bottom drain holes.) If dividing the plant make sure to leave three to five pseudobulbs (with leaves) per division. Dormant bulbs may be cut away if they are not producing new growth or holding together the clump of three to five mature pseudobulbs. Select a pot large enough to provide for two to three years of new growth—generally, this can be determined by leaving two to three inches between the base of the plant and the edge of the pot. *Do not overpot!* Add about an inch of styrofoam peanuts or rocks to the bottom of the pot for better drainage, then add a layer of bark. Tamp bark down in to pot using a blunt instrument such as the handle end of a hammer. Hold plant firmly in one hand while adding more bark and tamping down into roots.

When you have finished, the pseudobulbs should look as if they are sitting on top of the bark and you should be able to pick the plant up by the leaves. If the plant falls out of the pot, you have not tamped the bark firmly enough and will need to repeat the procedure from the beginning. Potting the plant firmly is one of the key elements of success. Don't be alarmed if your plant doesn't bloom the same year, as they may skip a blooming season after repotting/dividing.

Post-potting care

Newly repotted plants can be likened to a person who has just had surgery and they need special care for about four to six weeks afterwards. Be sure to keep your [plants out of the sun and in a shaded area while they are recovering. Also, water sparingly—just enough to keep the potting medium barely moist—to encourage new root growth and *do not fertilize!* After the recovery period, you may resume your regular watering and fertilizing routine. For complete details on how to care for cymbidiums, refer to **Gro-Sheet # 31 "Growing Cymbidiums."**

The object of this culture sheet is to give you basic information on the repotting of Cymbidium orchids. Should you need additional information we will be happy to help you personally here at Orchard.