

Phalaenopsis orchid repotting instructions

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Amber is a single mother on a fixed income, couponer, DIYer, and accounting student who knows the value of her penny. My first experience with orchids was not good. The plant was in bad shape when I got it... No, he was in THE shape of TERRIBLE, and despite my best efforts to save him, he shrivelled and died. But then I bought two more dying from Walmart. Then I only killed one of them. So it was a pretty steep learning curve for me. I learned tons of caring and growing along the way, and my surviving orchids eventually put out a thorn for me. I can't tell you how excited I was to see what color my flowers would be. Terracotta pot and sphagnum moss: A certain death. Mine.The Retail TruthEverybody has seen orchids in large box stores. They always look so beautiful, blooming off-season. They seem to sell, but I don't too often see orchids doing well in homes. I heard a lot of people say they bought one and he died two months later. Then orchids are accused of being fussy or difficult. What good would it be to make a big box store to sell a factory that is set up for success? If everyone who brought the orchid home put it on a shelf and a beautiful plant that blossomed every year, a large box shop can't sell any more orchids. (And in my opinion, they charge too much. What to look for when buying An OrchidOne is a thing that is very important to remember when you buy orchids from a large box store (although greenhouses and local vendors usually do a better job of selling a plant that will survive) to make sure your plant is healthy. Make sure there are no dead flowers or leaves in the environment; they rot and cause disease. Before deciding on a particular plant, lift the sphagnum and gently dig into the pan. If the roots are plump and green (or silvery) in color, you have a healthy root system. If they are medium yellow and a little soft, you can save the plant. Don't pay more than 25% of what the store asks for it though; You may just end up with the bark after all. If the roots are brown and soft or the crown is black, you will not save the plant. She's already gone. These are not the roots you want to bring home. Mine.This looks better! Mine.Repotting Your OrchidThere continues the debate about whether to transplant orchids as soon as you get home. There are pros and cons to do this immediately: Pros: Orchid roots are green because they perform photosynthesis. They need sunlight and air just as they need water and nutrients. Sphagnum moss harbor tons of bacteria and diseases. Sphagnum moss stays moist for a long time. This can lead to root rot and suffocation. Cons: You will lose your If conditions are favorable, however, you can get a new splash. Orchids don't survive long when they are in moss, because it completely suffocates them. As mentioned above, the roots need sunlight and air to thrive. If you want to keep the orchid in sphag (not recommended by many growers), make sure to loosen it a lot. Orchids like to dry between waterings, but sphag likes to stay moist for a few weeks. The best environment I've read about seems to be a mixture of coconut husks and coarse bark. I use a commercial blend of orchids, and my plants love it. I've heard Styrofoam popcorn works well, too, in wet areas. Who would have thought Styrofoam would be useful for plants? I've read books and seen people on TV talking about using a well-drained cactus soil and orchid bark mix. I see it's useful because orchids are hungry little guys and cactus soil has more nutrients than bark mixture, but again you use something that will stay wet for too long and is going to limit the flow of air from the roots. I've heard arguments about pruning dead roots. Some people do this to stop rot and disease; some (myself included) leave them in case they are not dead. I also leave them for anchor purposes. I trim my dead spikes since they do nothing else for the plant. Should you cut off dead orchids? You can sing your flowers, but I've heard arguments that the plant absorbs nutrients through them. Cut the thorn back to the nearest knot, and a new thorn may form. What is the best pot? Now let's talk about pots. Orchids are often sold in terracotta and glass pots without drainage. It's not good for any plant. When you choose a pot, keep in mind that your roots need sunlight and proper airflow. I like clean plastic. I got a pack of ten pots for \$5.00 or so from Lee Valley. There are slits all the way around from top to bottom. They work great. There are some plastic meshes you can use. I've heard great success stories. There are terracotta pots at Walmart labeled as orchid pots, but I wouldn't recommend them because they only have one puny drainage hole at the bottom and don't allow proper airflow. Light, humidity, food, water, Etc.Light:Phalaenopsis Orchids as bright filtered light. You will know if you have them in too much sun because their leaves are actually tan. Humidity:I grow my orchids in the greenhouse with relative humidity between 65 and 90% depending on the time of day. The humidity tray works just as well. I even used topping the fat Bog Moss on the bark of the orchid to increase the humidity. My Fall loved it. Food and water: What works for me may not work for you. I live in a harsh climate (Growth 2a), so I have to water a lot. There is also an ongoing debate about whether is a good idea or not. I soak up mine once a week (about 20 min) and spritz with a bottle of spray daily. I feed with regular fertilizers (10-15-10) once a month (orchid bark doesn't have a lot of nutrients in it) through slow growth season (September (September During the active growth season (from the time when it spikes until the flowers die). I use orchid fertilizer (25-10-10) once a month. The rule of green thumb with orchids: You can water too much, but not too often. This means that you can soak them, or if your pot and medium do not allow adequate drainage, you can drown the roots. But if you take it to the faucet and run the cool water over it every day, chances are you won't kill it. If you still want to know how to work out a watering schedule, put a bamboo skewer in the pan. If it's dry when you pull it out, it's time to water. Children! Unfortunately, you can't propagate orchids with cutting. Need to pollinate the plant to get a baby plant (or keiki.) I can't explain how to pollinate, so I'll let this gentleman do it for me: Yay! With a little patience, a steep learning curve, and the death of poor Danielle, my little Diana spiked for me. Mine!This content is accurate and correct to the best of the author's knowledge and is not intended to replace formal and individual consultations with a qualified professional. The questions and answers: After all the flowers fell off my orchid, did I cut off the stem? Answer: Wait until the stem dies and dries. Your plant re-absorbs nutrients through it. The question is: Should I use ice cubes to water my orchid? Answer: No, save the ice cubes for your cocktails.CommentsDaph September 13, 2014: I cut the stems above the second horse, but the ends have just dried up and produced no new growth. Can someone tell me how to fix it so I can make it flower again. Thank you in advance. Amber Joy (author) from Canada October 06, 2012: Thank you! Don't give up! They are probably just holding a grudge against you for having left them and they love to test their patience. Happy growing!truley from South Jersey on October 06, 2012: Love it and thank you. Left my outside for a while, the storm came and it was the end of the flowers. I'm still holding out hope for the future! Great hub, good photos and good information! Amber Joy (author) from Canada September 13, 2012: Oh, if I could get my hands on some mature Nepenthes I would be the happiest girl in the world. I brought my Venus fly trap home today (against my husband's tips... well that he is a forgiving man). This will be my second. I lost my first when my roommate was feeding him a hamburger. I have Prism seeds in the green house now. I'll definitely be putting the hub together if anything happens.Nettlemere from Burnley, Lancashire, UK September 13, 2012: I'm interested to hear how you do with carnivores. I'm totally not with Venus fly traps, but more success with nepenthes. Unfortunately, lost it a couple of years ago in winter, when it got too cold in my house. Amber Joy (author) from Canada September 13, 2012: You'll love your new pots. It was the best thing I did. My. Unfortunately, our harsh climate makes growing exotic houseplants a problem, so I can't just go to the garden shop and buy these pots. I have to find an online vendor soon, Diana is about to crawl right out of her pot and find a new home. If it wasn't so dry here, I'd probably be going to see them editing. Next conquest: Carnivores! Nettlemere from Burnley, Lancashire, UK September 12, 2012: After reading your hub I went out and brought proper clear orchid pots for them all (only one of them originally came in a clear pot, when they grow vigorously and well cared for. Amber Joy (author) from Canada September 12, 2012: You do better than I do; my phaluses are not yet spiked. I didn't expect them to be in the state they were in when I brought them home. Their roots and leaves grow like crazy... but I'm still looking forward to flowers.Nettlemere from Burnley, Lancashire, UK on July 31, 2012: my least successful is zygopetalum because it hasn't blossomed again since I got it. I also have phalenopsis, which blooms every year, and another with cane straps like leaves - forgotten its name but blooms most years. Amber Joy (author) from Canada July 26, 2012: Thank you! I'm glad someone found it useful! Now, as a true Orchid Geek, I'm going to ask you how much and what? Nettlemere from Burnley, Lancashire, UK July 25, 2012: Really interesting to read as you got both plants out looking like a gloomy doomed to die orchid lovely and healthy and sprouting new leaves. I will follow some of your tips with my orchids. Orchids.

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