

- 12 If the plant is unstable when potted, place one, two or several stakes and tie the pseudo bulbs.  
(N.B.: Cut tops off stakes so you don't poke your eyes out next time you inspect for new growth).
- 13 ALWAYS WRITE 2 NEW LABELS as the old ones usually fade and go brittle very quickly.
- Write one small label and poke it right down the side of the pot, so no one can see it. Then if you do lose the main label either to grandchildren or short sighted show patrons, next time you repot you will find the plant's correct name.
  - Write the main name label with a horticultural pencil or ink that will not fade. Stick it in the front of the pot, or better still tie it to the plant. If theft is likely to be a problem, put only numbers on your plants and keep your record book of numbers and names in a secure place. Be sure you remember where it is.
- 14 Now the plant is repotted, place it in a shady spot where you are not tempted to water it until it is bone dry and all cuts are healed up.  
**Remember: The worst thing you** can do to a newly potted plant is to WATER IT! as this will wash off all the protective fungicide, and leave the plant open to infection by bacteria and fungus spores.
- 15 After the plants cuts are healed, up, return the plant to its normal place on the bench and commence fertilising with a high Nitrogen formula for rapid cell growth. The addition of "Fongarid" or "Fosject" to the fertiliser once or twice at this stage will help prevent root rot.  
When the growth becomes too soft, change to a high potash formula to harden the growth and prepare for flowering.  
**Note:** Hardened growth is cold resistant, as well as disease and pest resistant.

Back cutting and repotting at the optimum time as indicated, will not upset the plants growth cycle, and will not upset the plants flowering cycle.

Ed by KR

- This is a reprint of a culture sheet issued by Sunshine Orchid Nursery*
- As this enterprise no longer exists, this product is no longer available.*

## **RE—POTTING**

We repot because:- (a) **THE COMPOST HAS BROKEN DOWN**, and so is keeping the roots too wet and preventing air flow through the pot and over the roots.

(Note: with our premium quality treated bark lasting 8 to 9 years this does not occur). 2.

(b) The plants new growth is out over the edge of the pot.

(These growths, if left for too long, can grow at 90° to the rest or even down to 180°, making repotting very difficult).

**THE OPTIMUM TIME** for repotting any orchid is when new roots are just starting to show from the base of the leading pseudobulb, as this is the time when roots grow very fast, and will quickly grow down into a new compost to become established.

- 1 Gently squeeze the plastic pot until the plant with roots and compost slips easily out of the pot with minimal damage. (Me do not advise this with terra cotta pots)
- 2 Inspect roots for any rot or insect damage.
- 3 Sterilise cutters in Tri-Sodium -Ortho-Phosphate. (Stericlean™)
- 4 Gently remove compost and drainage material.
- 5 Cut off any roots not solid and healthy.
- 6 Cut a bit off the back of the Rhizome and inspect for tell-tale marks of disease. A healthy Rhizome cut is a clean creamy green colour generally. If there is a black or brown mark, cut back until this disappears.
- 7 Then seal up the Rhizome end cut with a thick paste of MANCOZEB, STERIPRUNE or similar.
- 8 Prepare a new, or sterilised pot that will hold an adult plant for 4 to · 5 years. (Or 2 years if the plant is small).
- 9 For pots 125 mm diameter and larger place about 30 mm plastic cubes or similar inert material in the bottom for drainage. For smaller pots use bark one grade larger than you will use with this size pot.
- 10 Hold the plant in the pot with the back of the Rhizome to the side of the pot. If the roots are root balled, make sure you spread them or they will stay that way in the new pot.
- 11 Choose the appropriate grade of bark mix for the size of pot and the type of plant, and pour it through and around the root system. Use dry bark or mix to repot as this will assist in the drying out of the root system. Besides, soaking our Premium grade bark will wash out the fertiliser and fungicide we put there. Tap the side of the pot to consolidate the mix.  
**DO NOTPRESS THE MIX DOWN** to consolidate, as this breaks the roots!



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## BACK CUTTING AND REPOTTING

1

### **BACK CUTTING**

We back cut our plants so as not to waste the older part of the plant, as dormant eyes on the old canes or pseudobulbs do not generally grow unless the leading growths are cut off.

The **OPTIMUM TIME** to do this is when one of the eyes on the leading growth just starts to grow its next seasons pseudobulb. That is generally the only time of the year a dormant eye on a back growth will grow on that plant.

1. Sterilise cutters in TRI-SODIUM-ORTHO-PHOSPHATE. (To prevent spread of disease such as bacteria, fungus or worst of the lot virus).
2. Cut the Rhizome generally between the third and fourth growths.
3. Check the cut is a creamy green colour. (Any black or brown mark could be disease and should be cut out now).
4. Seal the cut faces with a thick paste of MANCOZEB, STERIPRUNE or similar material.
5. Place a small piece of brightly coloured label in the cut. Always return cutters to the sterilising solution.
6. Put the plant in a shady spot where you won't water it until it is bone dry. (About one week in summer, 2 or 3 weeks in Winter). This will seal up the cuts and prevent infection.
7. **DO NOT WATER** the plant for this drying out time. Watering will wash off the fungicide and leave the plant open to infection by fungus and bacteria.
8. Plants are generally not repotted at this time, unless they are making new roots.
9. If the leading growths are making new roots as well as new growths, then the leading 3 or 4 growths can be cut off and repotted now.  
(See section on repotting).

The back cut is then treated as follows

Remove from the old pot and cut into groups of 3 or 4 pseudobulbs or canes. Take a cut off the back of the Rhizome to check for disease.

If the face of the cut is a clean creamy green colour, it is OK.

If there is a brown or black mark in it, keep on cutting to eliminate.

Cut all the old roots off and soak in a Mancozeb solution for 10 minutes.

After soaking, seal all cuts with a thick paste of Mancozeb; label the - cuts (tie labels low down near the base of the plant.) Then stand upright in an empty terra cotta pot and place it in a fairly shady spot on the bench. The pot will absorb moisture and will create a moist micro—climate inside the pot. Soon a new growth will start from dormant eyes, and when new roots appear pot as described in the next section on Repotting.