

## Watering.

This item was found in a very old paper issued by Red Comb House in Brisbane (no date but I think it was in the 1940's) but the information is still relevant.

The following are rules for water control, which may help to guide you towards better orchid culture:

1. Water your orchids when growth is active & vigorous, & water copiously. Then wait until they need water before watering again.
2. If growth slows up or stops when it should be vigorous, look for root trouble instead of going into an overwatering programme.
3. Water mostly on bright, sunny days. If it is dark & cloudy, postpone watering.
4. Don't use water with a high mineral content, as the plant can't tolerate large quantities of dissolved material in water.
5. It is easy to overwater when the humidity is high.
6. Ventilation is important to promote evaporation & cooling at the leaf surfaces.
7. Most orchids require a rest period after blooming. Withhold water until the plant gives you the signal to start watering again by starting new root growth, & then don't water until there are enough roots to use the water.
8. If honey appears on your plant, take it as a sign that things are well.
9. Keep your plants clean. Dirt & dust clog the pores through which water evaporates.
10. It is possible to starve your plant by watering it too sparingly, although most orchids are lost through over watering rather than underwatering. When your plant shows the need for water by growing new roots, water it but – be careful.
11. Remember, the humidity is always higher at night than in the daytime, so don't water in the evening.
12. Wrinkled pseudobulbs may indicate either over or under watering.
13. When you have your orchid doing well on a regular watering schedule – don't change it. Orchids like regular habits.
14. Study your green house, especially with regard to ventilation. It may have in it a great range of conditions which affect watering & other factors. Find for each orchid its own spot in the house & leave it there.
15. Provide ample water when flowers are forming.
16. Protect your plants against extremes of temperature by controlling water & humidity.
17. Don't expect your plants to change their habits to suit your convenience. They have already made the rules for the game. You must be governed by them & fit your programme to their requirements.