

Roots

[11]

Epiphytes are plants that grow on something (stones, trees, etc.) showing that potting is not a necessity in the wild. People choose to pot epiphytes.

Roots gather water and nutrition on a substrate

How often do you repot? Depends on the medium in which your orchids are growing

Phalaenopsis come to us grown in sphagnum – re-pot them quickly – holds too much moisture

Factors affecting watering:

- species

- potting medium

- temperature

- humidity

- air flow – more airflow dries plants more quickly

Cattleyas prefer to be bone dry before watering

Mistakes:

- insufficient watering

- watering too often

- watering at night

- ignoring plant queues

- using softened water

Dendrobiums like to be in tight quarters

Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis like more room

Water plants right before applying fertilizer

More advantageous to use lower concentration of fertilizer - “weakly – weekly”

Re-pot plants when roots go crazy and are scattered

Take out all medium then soak roots so they are more pliable

Grow orchids in clear pots to see what’s going on with roots

downside – algae tends to grow in these pots because of the light