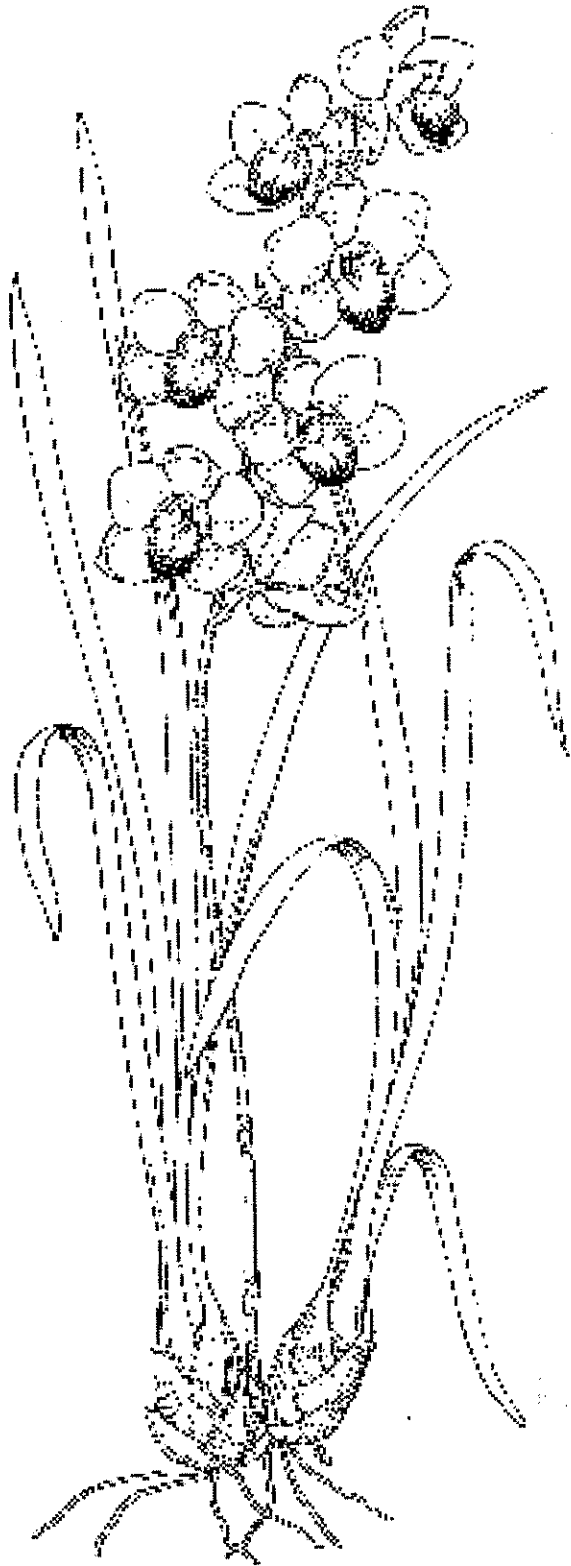


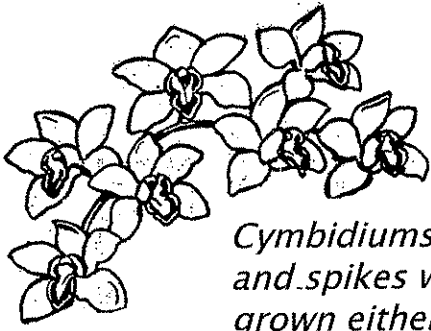
Cymbídiums



general culture

Dividing

Repotting



Cymbidium Care

Cymbidiums are the hardiest of all orchids, with long arching foliage and spikes with from one to thirty flowers per spike. They can be grown either outside under saran shade cloth of 55% density, lath, or alsonite glass, or inside on window ledge or near a window with sufficient light.

LOTS/INDIRECT

LIGHT – Sunlight is one of the most important factors in the growing of cymbidiums. They prefer filtered sun under trees where they can get direct early morning and late afternoon light. From 10:00am to 4:00pm they should be shaded from direct light by one or the other methods mentioned above. Once the buds appear, they should not be exposed to direct sunlight. The best indicator of light is the color of the foliage, which should be a yellowish/green, not a deep green. Insufficient sunlight is the greatest cause for more cymbidiums not blooming than all other factors.

WATER – Cymbidiums should be kept moist at all times. During the spring and summer months (April to October) plants should be watered at least twice a week. Watering schedule should be dictated by the medium used. Watering systems vary from hand pitcher or Syphonex, to automatic individual “spitters” or overhead sprinklers. All systems have their own advantage. Leaf tip die back and bud shrivel are two telltale signs of insufficient water. During fall and winter months (October to April), watering will usually be once a week, depending on the medium. Plants should never be allowed to become bone dry. Plants should never stand in water. Good drainage is a must.

HUMIDITY – Humidity is essential to all orchids because they are “foliage feeders”. Methods of increasing humidity vary from individual humidity trays, to pie pans with gravel or sand, to wetting down the gravel on floor of a greenhouse or overhead misting systems. Cymbidiums like about 40% humidity.

FEEDING – Food and feeding schedules are as varied as the color of cymbidiums! Most commonly recommended foods are an even 20-20-20 to be used year round, or with every watering, or a high nitrogen 30-10-10 from July through November. and a low nitrogen 15-30-15 from December through June. If you don't care to fertilize every time you water, a controlled release fertilizer such as “Osmocote” 19-~~16~~12 may be applied twice a year, *(1 TSP)* once in the fall and once in mid-spring after repotting. Another recommended controlled release product is “Nutricote”, which contains beneficial micronutrients. Most orchid foods have recommended dosages and schedules. You must find the one best suited for you.

Cymbidium Care cont.

POTTING MEDIUMS - Mediums range from pure fir bark to blends of all kinds, with the addition of ^{fir}redwood chips perlite, oak leaves and many others. Again, you will need to find one that is best suited for your particular needs. ^{CHARCOAL (SOIL PENETRATED w/water to make moist)}

PREMIX IS OK

TEMPERATURE - Cymbidiums prefer a twenty to thirty degree spread - from 55° to 85°, but are capable of handling temperatures in excess of 100° and below 35° as long as exposure to these temperatures are not prolonged. This is the main reason that they are such excellent plants for indoor and outdoor habitats. It is necessary to expose cymbidiums, from late summer to early fall, to night temperatures at least 50° to 55° to initiate spikes. Once spikes have set, temperatures should not fall below 40° to assure no spike loss. The warmer plants are kept after spike set dictates how soon they will bloom. Too much heat however, may cause premature blooming, smaller flowers, and shorter spikes. (INITIATED IN FALL - BLOOM)

BULBS AND FOLIAGE - As long as the center leaf of a bulb is still alive, bulb is still growing. Bulbs with no foliage are called back bulbs. Back bulbs are storehouses of food and plants. As long as back bulbs are a part of the mother plant they will remain dormant. But, if removed, new growth may perhaps be initiated. Front bulbs, or green bulbs, are the bulbs with foliage, and will retain their leaves for at least two years before becoming back bulbs. Adult green bulbs initiate new growth and flower spikes.

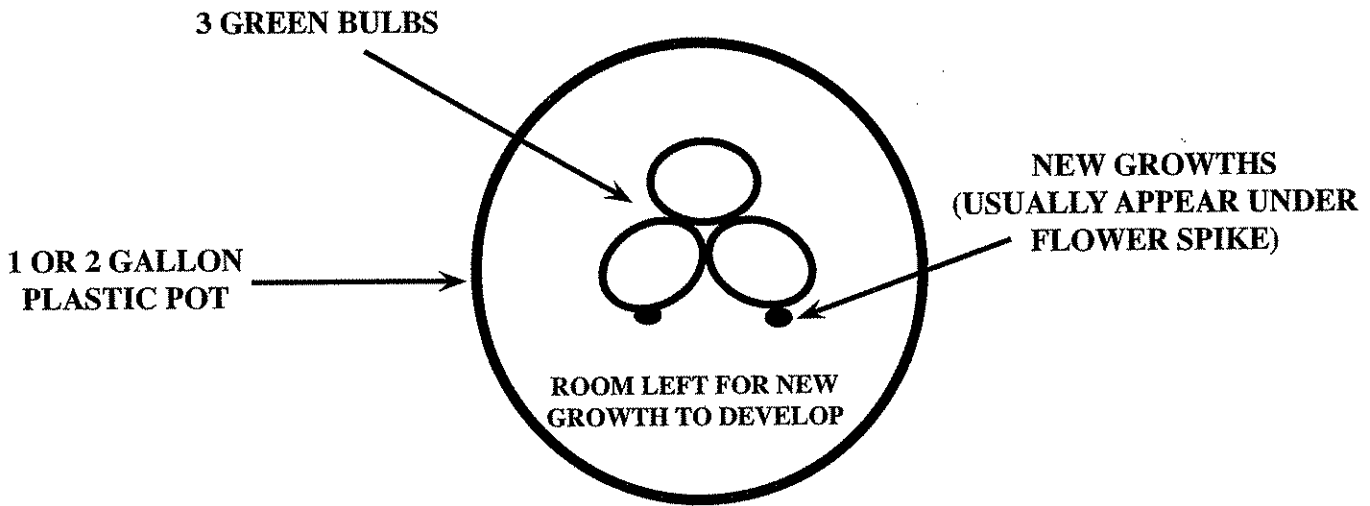
WARNING SIGNS & POSSIBLE CAUSES

1. Leaf tip die back
 - a. Insufficient water
 - b. Salt build up in mix
 - c. Over exposure to light
2. Bulb Shivel
 - a. Insufficient water
 - b. Insufficient food
 - c. Possible disease or infestation
3. Bud Drop
 - a. Over exposure to light
 - b. Possible disease or infestation
 - c. Drastic temperature change
4. Flower Spot
 - a. Insufficient air movement with too much humidity
 - b. Infestation

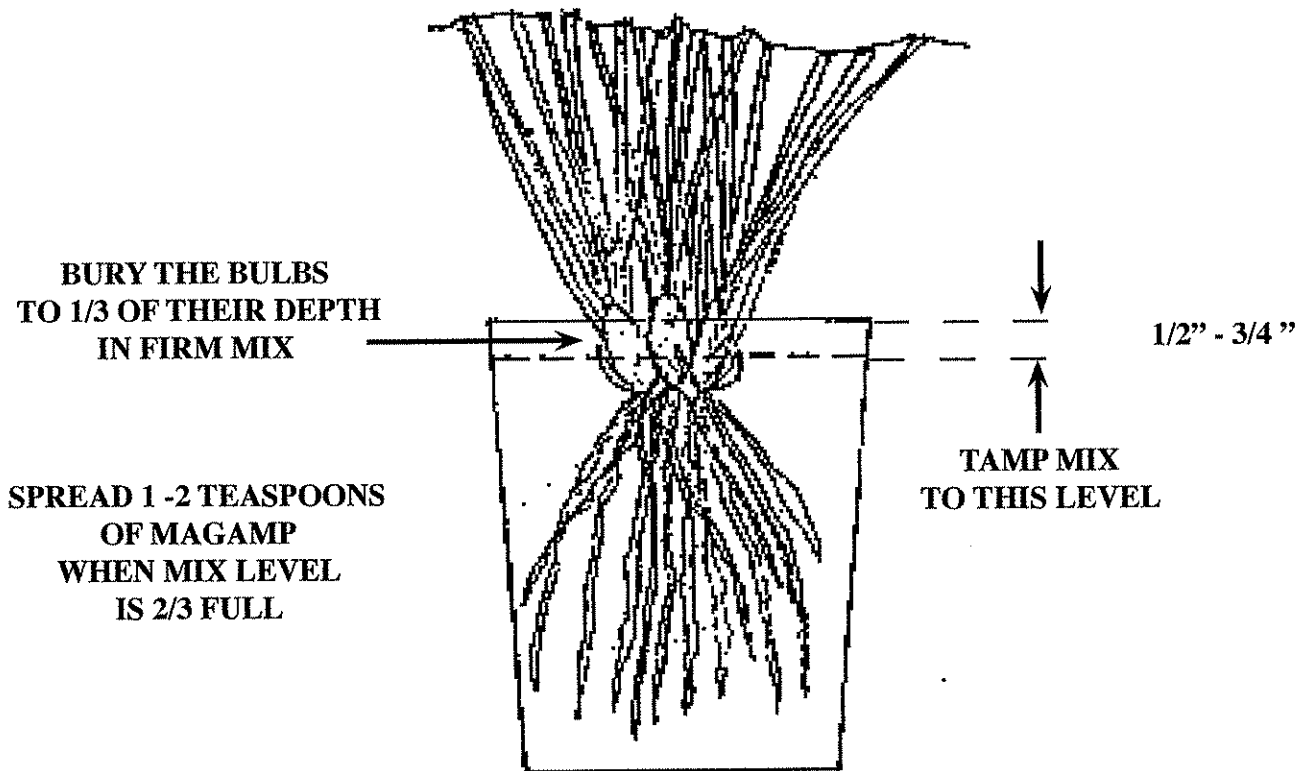


POTTING A CYMBIDIUM PLANT

TOP VIEW



SIDE VIEW



↑
DRILL 4 OR 5 DRAINAGE HOLES,
1/2 INCH IN DIAMETER

How and When to Divide

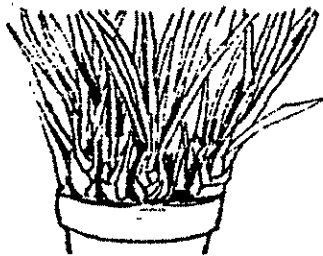


FIGURE 1

The plant illustrated in Figure 1 has just finished blooming. The pot is filled with bulbs with no room left for new bulb growth. You can either shift this plant on without dividing, or divide as shown in Figure 2. If the plant is not blooming, the best time to divide is in March. If blooming, May is best, as soon as blooms are cut. Do not divide after July 1 as this will usually prevent blooming the following year.



FIGURE 2

Figure 2 shows how the division will be made. When separating the plant into blooming size divisions, keep a minimum of 3-5 bulbs in a division. The dormant, leafless bulbs, called back bulbs, may be removed to be restarted by planting in a cymbidium mix to 1/3 of their depth. Large divisions are advisable if all bulbs are strong and have leaves and roots. It takes a good-sized, well established plant to produce the best flowers. Do not remove a back bulb if it holds two green bulbs together.

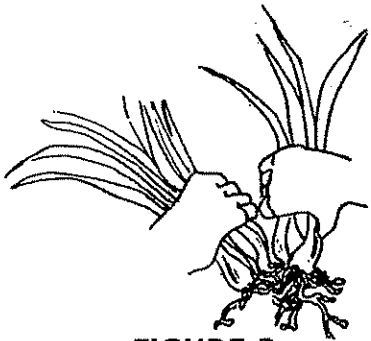


FIGURE 3

Before dividing, wash or shake as much old potting mix off the roots as possible. Examine plant to see where separation can best be made. Firmly grasp the lower portions of the bulbs and vigorously pull them apart as illustrated in Figure 3. A sharp knife sterilized by dipping in 50% chlorine/50% water, will help in severing the rhizome, which joins the bulbs at their base. Wash old mix from around roots, remove any dead roots, cleanse the wound area, and seal with asphalt tree seal compound (Pruning Paint).

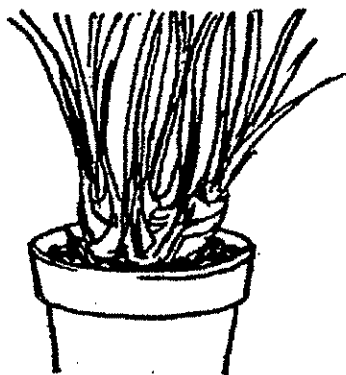


FIGURE 4

Figure 4. Place newly divided Cymbidium divisions into a pot or tub large enough to contain them for 2-3 years. Make a mound of mix in bottom of pot. Spread roots over mound. Pot the growths and bulbs to 1/3 of their depth. Firm mix about roots being careful roots are not balled into center of pot, but spread well throughout mix. Work mix in well around roots. Water once with Vitamin B1 to settle soil around roots. Place plant temporarily in well-shaded, humid location and frequently mist foliage. Do not water for two weeks. This dry period allows cuts or fractures to heal over. When active root action shows, normal lighting, food, and watering can be resumed.

POTTING MIX – Cymbidiums require a medium that is slightly acid and has a high organic content. The drainage must be very good, as Cymbidiums will not tolerate standing water around their roots. Commercial cymbidium mixes may contain some or all of the following ingredients: fir bark, perlite, peat, redwood chips, redwood sawdust, lime, fertilizers, and trace elements.