

Today, we continue our "Top 10" List of the most common reasons why your orchid won't rebloom from our book:

<http://www.OrchidsMadeEasy.com/TheBook.html>

We're half-way through the list, so without further delay, let's keep going!

## THE TOP 10 REASONS WHY YOUR ORCHID WON'T REBLOOM

### REASON #5:

#### Not Using Enough (or the Correct) Fertilizer

If you can't get your orchid to bloom, it might be because it hasn't been properly fertilized.

...You ARE using fertilizer, right??

Because if you haven't been, and you can't get your orchid to bloom... this might just be the reason why!

Orchids don't necessarily require specialized "Orchid fertilizer", but there are certain things you should be looking out for when choosing a fertilizer for your plant.

Here's a simple "Orchid Fertilizer Checklist" that I like to use.

#### MY ORCHID FERTILIZER CHECKLIST:

1. Nitrogen - Total amount is 20% or less.
2. The source of nitrogen must be "Nitrate Nitrogen" or "Ammoniacal Nitrogen"  
(NOT Urea - because orchids cannot access the Nitrogen locked up in Urea)
3. Phosphorus - Any amount > 0%
4. Contains Supplementary Calcium (up to 15%)
5. Contains Magnesium (up to 8%)
6. Should also contain trace elements like Sodium, Iron, Copper, etc.

Here are a few more Orchid Fertilizer Tips for you:

#### NEVER...

...Apply more fertilizer than the dose recommended on the packaging. For generic fertilizers (i.e. not Orchid-specific), I usually like to play it safe and use about half the recommended dose.

...Fertilize orchids that are in sick or in poor condition. Nurse them back to full health first, and once they appear fully healthy again, THEN you can begin reintroducing fertilizer.

...Fertilize orchids with root damage. This is LITERALLY like pouring salt in your orchid's wound. Ouch!

...Apply fertilizer to dry potting matter. You should always ensure your potting matter is thoroughly soaked before applying fertilizer.

#### ALWAYS...

...Fertilize orchids when they're in "active" growth stages.

...Remove excess salts left by fertilizers: Drench your potting material with a thorough rinsing of water every two weeks to wash out excess fertilizer minerals. (This process is often called "leaching.")

...Finally, remove any "crusted" salt and mineral deposits left by your fertilizer on your orchid's pot using a damp cloth.

(These deposits represent DANGEROUS concentrations of minerals that can actually "burn" your orchid if they come in contact with the leaves or roots.)

And those are just a few more important fertilizer tips for you :-)

In your next issue of this newsletter, our

countdown continues... and you'll discover the #4  
Reason Why An Orchid Won't Rebloom...

It's related to Reason #6... Any guesses as to  
what it might be??

You'll find out real soon in the next newsletter,  
so stick around!

To Healthy, Vibrant Blooms!

-Ryan "The Orchid Guy" :-)

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