

It's Ryan "The Orchid Guy" here, and I hope this email finds you well today :-)

In today's newsletter, we're going to touch on a another reblooming question that many people have, and which we cover in great detail in our book:

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

That question is:

"After the flowers fall off, what should you do with the stem? Should you cut it, and if so - how? And where exactly?"

For some strange reason, what to do with the stem after an orchid reblooms is one of those questions where if you ask 10 people, you'll get 11 different answers!

But for me, after testing many different approaches over the years, I've fine-tuned my own personal technique to the point that I've developed an almost step-by-step formula of exactly what to do every time an orchid finishes blooming.

And in today's newsletter, I'll give you a sneak peak of my process as I explain it in our book.

So to get back to the original question, SHOULD you cut the stem after an orchid finishes blooming?

I must say, the answer is a resounding 'Yes'!

You SHOULD remove the stem off nearly all orchids once the flowers have died and fallen off, and in fact, this is something I do EVERY time my orchids have finished blooming.

Here's why:

I wish I could claim what I'm about to share with you as something I discovered myself, but I can't.

However, I have run several tests over the years on my own plants, and confirmed for my own curiosity what I'm about to tell you WORKS:

Cutting back your orchids can accelerate the next bloom cycle of your plants by MONTHS.

On some of my plants, for me this has meant the difference between getting blooms three times a year versus only twice!

I can't stress enough how important this one little step can be for you.

But BEFORE you rush to your orchid right now to cut back its stem, you should first check the tip of the stem to see if it is dry.

A dry stem is a sign that the stem is dying and therefore is safe to cut back (you never want to cut back a living stem that's still otherwise healthy.)

Now, the actual "how to" part of cutting back your orchid isn't terribly difficult...

BUT, there ARE a few *critical* tips you should know about...

...and if you want to learn what they are...
And EXACTLY how to cut back, I share all my little secrets in our book ;-)

Until next time!

- Ryan "The Orchid Guy" :-)

P.S. Okay... I'm not THAT mean!... I promised that I'd give you a "sneak peak", and I'm going to live up to that promise...

So here's an important tip for you when it comes to cutting back your orchid:

Whenever you cut or trim your orchid - whether the leaves, roots, or stem - make sure that you first sterilize your tools (and thoroughly wash your hands) to prevent infection.

This is absolutely essential because orchids can be EXTREMELY sensitive to outside germs.

A quick and easy way to sterilize your tools is to put the blade of your knife or shears under a flame (like from a lighter) for at least 60 seconds.

Or for larger tools, you can also dip them in a diluted solution of bleach and water (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) for several minutes.

Just be sure to wipe your tool dry with a clean paper towel or tissue, and if you use a flame - make sure that it is cool to the touch before using on your plant.

And when you're finished, thoroughly rinse your tools because bleach can be highly corrosive and can cause metal to rust if not rinsed off completely.

P.P.S. Okay, ONE MORE TIP... That last one might have been a bit too basic for you...

So, I'll give away one of my "real" secrets...

But JUST one.

If you're growing a Phalaenopsis (or "Moth Orchid") one of their greatest features is that you can actually "trick" them into producing a secondary flower spike after the flowers on the main spike have stopped blooming!

(and therefore extend their blooming time over the course of the year by MONTHS...)

To make this happen, you'll have to find what I call your orchid's "sweet spot" - which as you'll discover in a moment is the exact spot you should cut back the stem once the flowers have fallen off...

HOW TO FIND YOUR ORCHID'S "SWEET SPOT":

Find the point on your orchid's stem where the first flower bloomed (the flower closest to the base of your plant, and furthest from the tip of the stem.)

Did you find it?

Good.

Now move down a bit toward the base of the stem and feel for the "node" (the little bump on the stem) immediately below where the first flower bloomed.

At the base of this node is a hidden, resting flower bud. In a moment, you're going to "wake up" this bud so it will produce another flower spike for you.

To "wake up" this bud, cut off the "spent" flower spike (the one that's lost all its flowers) with your sterilized tool right at the base of the node.

Give it a week or two, and in about 80% of all cases cutting back here will stimulate the production of a secondary flower spike at this node...

And this little "secret" trick can give you an extra couple months worth of blooms every single year! :-)

Pretty neat, right?

But a word of caution. Be careful...

Don't rebloom your orchids to death! Blooming your orchid repeatedly can exhaust the plant.

(And moth orchids don't know any better... they won't stop blooming until they wear themselves out!)

If your orchid shows signs of fatigue - including puckered or wrinkled leaves, then you're best bet is to cut off the spike with the remaining flowers, stick the spike in a vase with water, and give your plant a chance to catch up on some much needed rest!

P.P.P.S. If you enjoy these sort of tips, then I think you'll REALLY enjoy our book.

My wife Laura recently did a count, and according to our "official records" in addition to covering everything you need to know about growing orchids,

we also managed to squeeze in 237 "Secret" Tips, Tricks, & Orchid home remedies just like these in its pages!

And while we try to offer as much help as possible in our free newsletter, the book is well worth it, because the newsletter only scratches the surface of what we cover...AND we save the "juiciest" secrets for the book only :-)

To order your copy of the book (and get \$40 in free bonus materials when you order today), please click on the link below:

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

Thanks for taking the time to check it out, and more tips to come! :-)

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