

In yesterday's newsletter, we covered a few very important things you should do whenever you bring orchids into your home.

And I can't stress enough how important it is to follow those 3 critical first steps.

Now that you've established the solid foundation needed for your orchid to thrive, one of the first questions you might be asking is:

"How much water should I give my orchid?"

In today's newsletter we're going to tackle that very question, and in the process, I'll share with you a few of the watering tips from our book:

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

When it comes to figuring out how much water you should give your orchid, there's bad news and good news.

The bad news is unfortunately, there's no "one size fits all" answer.

BUT...

The GOOD NEWS is, I have a few little "tricks" (which you'll learn in a minute) that you can use to take virtually ALL guess-work out of the process next time you water!

But first, let's talk about the factors that play a role in determining how much you should water your plants.

FACTOR #1: THE TYPE OF ORCHID

Naturally, different orchid varieties have different watering requirements. So your first step is to determine what kind of orchid you have.

In general, Miltonias, Phalaenopsis, and Paphiopedilum orchids enjoy continuously damp conditions. Whereas Cattleyas and Dendrobiums need to dry out between waterings.

So your first step is to determine what kind of

orchid do you have?

(If you're not sure, then you might benefit from the "Orchid Cheat Sheets" included free when you order our book. These cheat sheets outline the watering requirements for each of the most popular orchid varieties.

AND each Orchid Sheet includes an "identification photo" of the variety to help you determine what type of orchid you have.

To learn how you can get yourself the entire set of these sheets free, please check out the link at the end of this newsletter.)

****FACTOR #2: THE TYPE OF POT**

If you remember from yesterday, I mentioned that you should always use either a plastic or natural clay pot for your orchids. (And NEVER a glazed, decorative pot because the glaze can be toxic to orchid roots).

Water evaporates much faster from clay pots than it does from plastic pots.

So this means that an orchid potted in a clay container will need to be watered more often than that same variety potted in a plastic container.

So your second step is to determine what kind of pot are you using - Clay or Plastic?

****FACTOR #3: THE TYPE OF POTTING MATTER**

The type of potting matter you use will also factor into how much & and how often you should water.

For example, moss stays wetter much longer than bark does. Therefore, an orchid potted in a potting mix mostly made up of moss would require watering less often than that same orchid potted in a potting mix primarily consisting of bark.

So your third step is to determine what kind of potting matter are you using? One that holds moisture for a long time? Or one that dries out

quickly?

****FACTOR #4: YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

Your orchid and potting matter will dry out more quickly when 1) the temperature is too hot, 2) the light is too bright, or 3) the humidity is too low.

Also, don't forget about seasonal changes in your climate. In general you'll need to give your orchid more water in the hot summer months, than in the cooler winter months.

So your fourth step is to determine what kind of environment is your orchid in? One that is hot, bright, & dry? Or one that is cooler, darker, & more humid?

Once you've answered these 4 questions, this will help you determine exactly how much water to give your plant...

But if you're like most people, by now you probably have MORE questions than when you first started reading!

And this is where most orchid books and resources will leave you hanging...

Understanding these 4 factors IS important... But at the end of the day watering your orchids doesn't have to be a mystery. After all, we're not talking about brain surgery here! :-)

So let me help you out by making things completely SIMPLE - and boil everything you need to remember down to my "5 Simple Watering Rules of Thumb."

5 SIMPLE WATERING RULES OF THUMB

1. Potting material should never feel "soggy."
2. But if the potting matter feels "bone dry" then it's time to water right away.
3. Small pots (5" or less) need more frequent watering than big pots (6" or more).

4. Clay pots will evaporate more and dry out more quickly than plastic pots of the same size.

5. And when in doubt, err on the side of caution...
OVER-watering is one of the leading causes of orchid death!

Simple as that!

In the next few newsletters, we'll continue going through the basics of orchid care - more good stuff on watering, plus tips on temperature, light, fertilizer, potting, & more!

(And I'll do my best to continue making everything simple & easy to implement - because if you're like me, I usually need an "idiot-proof" way of remembering what I'm supposed to do (just ask my wife) :-)

Until next time,

Ryan "The Orchid Guy"

P.S. LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH ANOTHER WATERING TIP:

Want a quick & easy way to know when your orchid needs more water?

Next time you water your orchid, pick it up and take a mental note of how heavy it is when saturated with water.

Wait a day or two and pick up your orchid again. Your plant will get lighter as more water evaporates and is absorbed by the plant.

Feel the difference?

Keep a mental note of your orchid's "wet weight" and "dry weight". With a little practice, you'll know exactly when your orchid needs water simply by picking up the pot!

P.P.S OKAY, ONE MORE TIP:

Here's my "dirty little secret" of how I "cheat" when it comes to knowing whether to give my

orchids more water (but you've got to promise not to tell anyone about this one) :-)

Next time you go grocery shopping, pick up a package of those wooden bamboo skewers from your supermarket (the same kind you use to make kebabs on the barbecue).

When you get home, stick a bamboo skewer in your potting material about 1-2 inches deep. Leave it there for about 5 seconds, and then pull it out.

How does it feel?

If it feels a little wet or cool to the touch, that means the potting material is still damp. And you can wait a bit before watering again.

But, if the skewer comes out completely dry, then it's time to water right away.

It doesn't get any easier than that! :-)

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 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 this 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 - including the entire set of those Orchid Cheat Sheets that I mentioned earlier), 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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