

Fair Orchids Repotting Paphs & Phrags



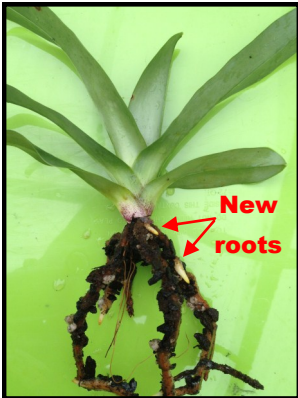
Young Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium grow by adding new leaves from the center or top of the fan, while older leaves at the bottom of the fan wither and dry out. As a result the **root crown** slowly rises out of the mix, unless you replot the plant and seat it lower in fresh mix.

Photo to the left shows a single growth Paph, that has been in the pot for 2-3 years. It has 2 new fans forming, but they are at least 1/2" above the mix, so this plant is in dire need of repotting.

Root crown

Mature multi-growth plants grow faster than seedlings & 1-2 growth plants. New fans often consist of just 4 leaves, which typically grow in less than 1 year. For the larger multi-floral types, it takes somewhat longer, so there the issue of plants rising out of the mix rarely occurs.

The next photo shows a blooming size seedling, which was in mix that had turned to 'mud'. It is a typical plant, so I am using it to demonstrate how deep to place Paphs & Phrags in the pot (please see the close-up of the base of the fan).



Notice the new root appearing just below the root crown (**red dotted line**). New growths will form behind one or both of the two lower leaves (A & B), slightly above the current root crown. Roots on the new growths emerge at the base of the growth, which must be just below the medium surface.

That is why the plant needs to be potted as deep as shown by the **blue dotted line**. And finally the freshly repotted plant.

Some experts replot their most valuable Paphs annually. I tend to go 18-24 months (occasionally longer

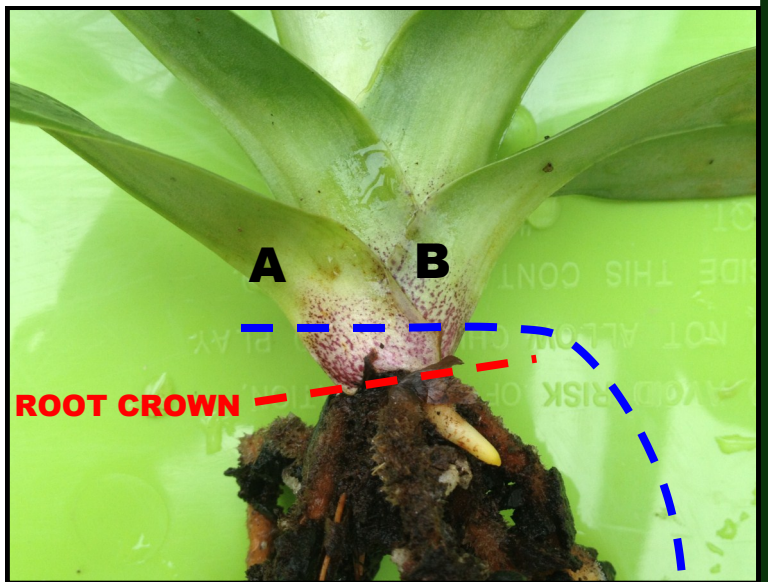
if the mix is still good), repotting only when the mix goes bad or the plant has outgrown the pot. **Phrags sitting in water should be repotted annually.**

- Paphs & Phrags do best, when slightly **under-potted**. Select the smallest possible pot, that will hold the plant and still allow watering into the pot.
- Single growth plants: **Centered in the pot.**
- Mature plants should be placed slightly off center, with old growths closer to the edge, and more space in front of the new leads.

Paphs & Phrags can be grown in almost any mix (except soil & ProMix), as long as you water accordingly. Please refer to 'The Slipper Grid' for details.

Paphs & Phrags can be repotted at any time of the year, **even while in bud or flower** - just be careful not to break the flower stem. This makes 'slippers' one of the easiest orchid groups to work with.

NOTE: Many Paphs do not set roots from new growths till the 2nd year, so do not be in a hurry to divide plants. To assure adequate roots on each new plant, I recommend having 2-3 mature fans in each new division.



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