

Plants in the Cattleya family grow 1 or more new pseudobulbs (PB) each year, PBs arise from a meandering **rhizome**, which should be on the surface of the potting mix, which can be:

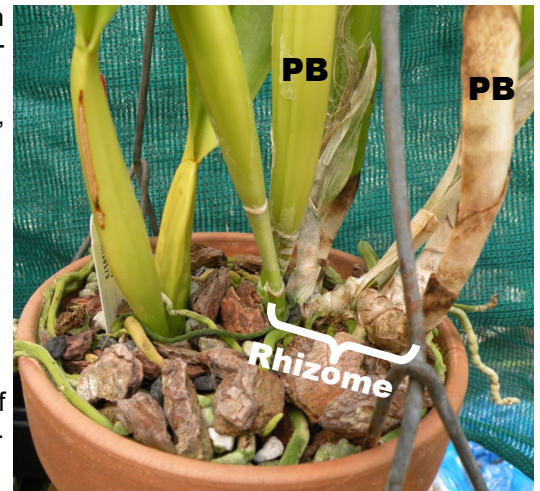
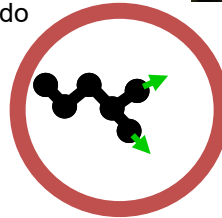
1. **Granular**, some mix of bark, charcoal, perlite, coconut husk chips, lava rock or Aliflor (semi hydroponic pellets).
2. **Fibrous**, sphagnum/bark mix, treefern fibers or chunky peat/bark.

In order to maintain the same watering schedule for all plants, I use:

2" size:	Plastic pot	chopped sphagnum/bark/charcoal
3" size:	Plastic pot	Bark/Charcoal/Perlite mix (sdlg size)
4"-10"	Clay azalea pot	Bark/Charcoal/Perlite mix (std size)
10"+	Clay bulb pan	same mix

You can use either plastic or clay pots (I prefer clay⁽¹⁾ for 4" size & up). If growing in a greenhouse, wooden or plastic baskets are also an option. When repotting:

- Select a pot with room for **2 years** of new growth, but do NOT overpot. If the plant eventually grows out of the pot⁽²⁾, it is no disaster, it just makes the following repotting a little bit harder.
- Place the plant with:
 - Old PBs tightly against the pot wall
 - Room to grow in front of the newest PBs.
- Rhizome should be half above, and half below, the surface of the potting mix. Many plants 'climb' slightly, so it becomes necessary to repot with the rear part of the rhizome below the surface. A few plants climb so much, that mounting on cork or treefern should be considered (or an improvised potting/mounting⁽³⁾, as shown below).
- When repotting, make sure that the mix gets in between the roots, and that it is packed as tightly as you can (it is OK to use a potting stick to tamp the mix into the pot).
- Do not be in a hurry to divide (big plants grow much faster). When dividing a plant, aim for minimum 4-5 mature PBs in each division. If a mature plant does not divide naturally (grows in a single line), you can cut the rhizome leaving 4-5 bulbs in the lead division. The backbulbs will usually develop a new lead.
 - Ideally make the cut about 6 months before you plan to repot. This gives the backbulbs time to produce a new lead before you repot.
 - Always use a sterilized cutting tool. To prevent spreading virus from plant to plant, **use it only once**,
- **Some growers recommend a rest period without water after repotting.** I disagree. I water every repotted orchid the same day, in part to help settle the mix in the pot, and in part to get the plant going asap.
- **Some growers suggest trimming the roots to 'promote new root growth'.**



This plant has been in the pot for 15 months. The next growths should be right against the edge, or possibly just over the edge, of the pot.

I strongly disagree with this approach, which could be death to some plants in the bifoliate group (some only grow new roots once a year).

- (1) I use clay pots for Cattleya in granular mix. It helps them dry out faster, cools the roots in summer and is more stable than plastic for tall plants.
- (2) In high humidity greenhouse environment, these Catts are doing fine, despite being 2-3 years 'out of the pot'.
- (3) For this bifoliate 'mountain climber', I used a section of treefern post, set into the mix in a clay pot. This provides support for the climbing plant, and directs the roots to grow down into the pot with the mix.



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