



Cymbidiums are known as large and greedy plants. In addition to standard & miniature cymbidiums (photo above), there are now hybrids with arching/pendant spikes, as well as a variety of warmth tolerant plants and fragrant species from China.

Common for all are, that they grow very well in a terrestrial type mix based on:

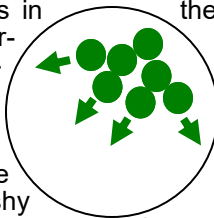
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | My Choice |
| • Bark (medium to coarse) | 1 part |
| • Charcoal (medium to coarse) | |
| • Chunky peat (not milled). | 3 parts |
| • Coconut coir | |
| • Composted horse or cow manure | 2 parts |
| • Garden soil. | |
| • Leaf mulch | |
| • Leca/Aliflor nuggets | (1 pt, large pots only) |
| • Perlite (coarse) | 1 part |

When repotting, you need to remove all of the old mix, which can be difficult to do when there is a solid mass of live roots along the pot wall. You need to dig in from the bottom (remove the old drain) and work your way up. It helps to swish the plant in a bucket of water.

You have to be careful with pot size selection. Ideally the plants should stay 3 (or even 4) years in the same pot, BUT you do not want to over-pot. Try to place the plant with the older bulbs against the wall of the pot.

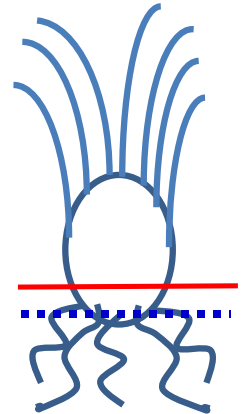


This can be difficult due to the large fleshy roots (you may have to trim some off).



You should have room for 2 new bulbs in each of the other 3 directions. After 2-3 years, this often leads to very root-bound plants, sometimes busting out of the pot when you least expect it.

For plants with large bulbs, you should have about 20% of the bulb below the surface (**red line**). For plants with smaller bulbs, you might have to set them a little deeper, with about 1/3 of the bulb below the surface. Always make certain that all roots are below the surface of the mix.



Make sure you do not 'bunch' the roots (work some mix into the center). When you place the plant into a new pot, toss 2-3 large handfuls of mix into the pot, and then shake the pot to let it settle between the roots. Repeat as you fill the pot, and finally compact it as much as you can with your fingertips (or a 'potting stick').

If the plant has a lot of live roots, sometimes the root mass pushes the plant up over the edge of the pot size you would like to use, so the root crown is exposed (**blue dotted line**). In this situation, it is OK to trim a little off the bottom of the roots, so you can fit the plant into the correct pot size.



An example of a recently repotted Cymbidium (6 months earlier), with a maturing & budded new growth, and room for 1-2 more bulbs on either side. This plant should be good for 2 more years in this pot (and then it will very pot bound).

December, 2014, rev 2017