

**MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY Inc**  
Is there something wrong with your orchids?

Plant condition	Possible cause	Remedial Action
Plants look weak, leaves dull, dark green lower leaves dingy & falling off	Lack of water	Water thoroughly
Leaves dark green & luxurious	Too much shade	Move to sunnier spot
Leaves yellowish	Too much sun or over-watering	Move pot to where it receives less sun
Tips of leaves turn black	Roots have become cold, usually from over-watering	Move pot to a warmer position where it receives less water
Foliage blackens, black blotches appear	Continuous over-watering	Spray with fungicide, and dry out
Roots have risen to surface of pot	Over-watering	Necessary to repot
Poor root development leading to stunted growth	Lack of phosphorus	Use fertilizer rich in Superphosphates or blood and bone
Stunted growth, premature loss of leaf	Lack of nitrogen	Use fertilizer rich in Sulphate of Ammonia or dried blood
Excessive growth, less flowers	Excess nitrogen	Re-pot or use potash to counter balance
Leaves appear dull, leaves twist. Shoots die back	Lack of potassium	Use fertilizer rich in Potassium Sulphate
Young leaves do not form properly	Lack of calcium	Sprinkle a little bone meal on medium
Flower buds fall before they open, foliage yellowish	Lack of magnesium	Use Magnesium Sulphate (epsom salts)
Medium appears sour, plants are not showing progressive growth	Excessive acidity	Dip in weak solution of lime water to sweeten medium

**POTTING MEDIUM** - these days you can buy a good quality orchid bark at most nurseries or at your local Orchid Society Shows.

Cymbidiums enjoy the maximum amount of sunlight without burning, and it is for this reason 50% shade cloth is the most economical way of providing ideal growing conditions during summer.

Watering is best done early in the day. In winter, a gradual reduction in the water to once a week ensuring that plants remain moist at all times (not wet). Feed a rich potassium fertilizer from November to February for flowers. From March to June feed a high nitrogen fertilizer.

Begin with monthly feeding in November and increase to fortnightly in December, then decrease to monthly with the last feed in April. All food at half recommended strength.

When repotting, all old, soft and rotted roots should be trimmed off. Remove as much as is possible of the old potting medium without too much damage to the roots. Place the oldest bulbs to the back edge of the pot so as to allow room for the new growths. Crocking the bottom of the pot and increasing the size of the drainage holes is an advantage and well worth the effort. A good watering straight after potting and placing the plant in a cooler position with regular misting over the leaves, but keeping the bark mix on the dry side will help to promote good roots. After 3 weeks the plant can be treated in the normal way.