

Orchid Potting Mix



We use several different potting mixes. We use different grades of bark from Aus Gro. We treat all our bark before use. We do a bag at a time using large drums, it is soaked & drained twice then soaked with a detergent scoop of magnesium sulphate, a scoop of seaweed solution, a scoop of calcium nitrate & some blood & bone. This is then drained & used while still moist. The water from this soaking is used on the garden. We add some Styrofoam to the bark to open up the mix. For the large Cattleyas & Vandas we use the large bark & go down in size depending on the size of the plants & the pot size.

At present Noela is using sphagnum moss for her Mini Catts. She adds small Styrofoam to moist sphagnum & does not pack it tightly. We also use perlite & peat mix at the rate of 10 to 1. We use this for different genera. We are also using coco chip which we purchase from down south in 5 kg. blocks. As this has only been washed once when imported we soak & treat it the same as we do for our bark (2 blocks at a time) & adjust the ph. if we need to but it seems to be fine after this treatment. There is a Brunnings brand available which already has the nutrients added. To our treated Coco Chip we use 5 parts Coco Chip, 1 part fine foam & $\frac{3}{4}$ medium perlite.

The Cymbidiums & Oncidium Alliance we have potted in Coco Chip & are doing very well. We are also potting some of each genera into coco peat. Watering is a major factor with the coco peat & also sphagnum moss. Feel the weight of the pot to gauge if you need to water or not.

Noela & Italo Frizzo at the Glasshouse Country Orchid Show

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