

Exclusive Report - \$20 Value!

The 5 Biggest Orchid Care Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them!)

"Thanks to you and 'Orchid Secrets Revealed' today the first plant that I bought is blooming again after 8 months! Thank you for sharing!"
– Agnes Delgado, Puerto Rico

Mary Ann Berdak
OrchidCareZone.com

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**“How to Grow Breathtaking Orchids –
Even If You’ve Never Raised One Before!”**

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Dear Orchid Growing Friend,

Thanks for requesting our new special report! This is **worth a very real \$20**, but it's yours as a **'thank you' gift** for joining our newsletter!

Since we're known for providing you with the best orchid care related resources and information online, we wanted to do something super cool for you. That's why we're pleased to bring you this new orchid care report designed to help you *avoid* the most common orchid growing mistakes.

Once you read this, not only will orchid growing become **less stressful** as you master the insider tips and tricks, but you'll find it will become **more fun for you**, too! As a bonus, we'll also send you free "Orchid Care Zone" newsletter updates when we have great fresh content published on OrchidCareZone.com!

We love hearing success stories, so please share your feedback with us! Thanks again for putting your trust and support in us – we pledge to always respect it, and do our best to help you as a fellow orchid lover!

Best wishes,

Mary Ann ☺

"The 5 Biggest Orchid Care Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them!)"

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Mistake #1 - "Hard or Soft? Choose Wisely!"

by Mary Ann Berdak, <http://www.OrchidSecretsRevealed.com>

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It's a fact.

Growing orchids can be down right tricky. Now, granted they are one of the most rewarding plants you could ever raise, and they will give you YEARS of pleasure...they still can have a steep learning curve if you don't know what you are doing, or if you don't have ALL the information you need readily available.

In fact, it can be quite easy to KILL your orchid if you aren't properly prepared. And that's the exact reason I've created this "mini-course" for you.

Like it or not, almost EVERY orchid grower seems to make the same mistakes at one point or another. So I've compiled the five BIGGEST mistakes for you. Hopefully you can avoid a few of them as you raise your little beauties.

Keep in mind as you read this course: Orchids are almost as varied as humans and races. I'm going to cover some of the most popular types to get you started - but be sure you know the specifics of YOUR orchid species so you can enjoy it for years and years to come!

(If this is your first attempt at growing orchids you must realize, experience is the most important factor when it comes to growing orchid plants in whichever environment you choose. So taking action is the most important thing you can do after you read this information.)

Ready? Let's get started!

As a beginner (or even advanced grower) you must first decide how you choose to grow your orchid plants.

There are two simple rules of thumb: "hard" or "soft". The differences between the two philosophies vary greatly...

The "soft" method describes growing orchid plants inside of a well lit, but shaded, area of the greenhouse. The leaves of the orchid plant become lush green and this method produces BEAUTIFUL plants.

But, what suffers is the orchid's ability to bloom as vibrantly as with the "hard" method (see below). Too much shade can affect the plants ability to flower properly. Choosing the right area that has just the right mixture of both natural and available sunlight can be a costly trial and error process (I'll give you some tips to get you started when I cover Mistake #2!).

Now, onto the other method...

The "hard" method of growing your orchid plants lets the plant languish in the sunlight to the point that the sun burns out the chlorophyll from the leaves creating a yellowish tone.

Sounds bad, right?

Well, not completely.

The flip side to this sun overexposure is it maximizes the bloom process much more than the "soft" method.

(NOTE: Too much light in general should be avoided at all costs to the plant. Eventually, if too much light is available, the growth of the orchid plant will be hindered. Should this happen to your plant make sure you follow the very precise "cutting" procedure outlined at our website. If you do it right, there's a very good chance your plant will recover during indirect periods of natural light!)

So hard or soft? Choose wisely. While either choice can bring you pleasure - it's important you decide your goals BEFORE choosing a method. Many growers start down one path, and then realize they aren't going to have the plant they thought they were. Don't be one of those people.

With the information above, and a careful consideration of the outcome you want - you'll be ahead of most people (especially when you get ready for the "change of seasons" in your growing environment)!

And get ready for tomorrow, when I'll cover one of the biggest mistakes you can make: Choosing the WRONG location. There are a lot of key factors that go into deciding on a location (and you may not realize how many exist!)...so be sure to read the next section so *YOU* can avoid making any mistakes!



Mary Ann Berdak is the publisher of the newly rediscovered work by Adelaide Willoughby, "Orchid Secrets Revealed". Up until today, each orchid hunter, grower, and hybridizer jealously guarded his or her secrets from curious and covetous eyes – but now, this long-lost resource changes everything!

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Mistake #2 - "Picking the Perfect Location"

by Mary Ann Berdak, <http://www.OrchidSecretsRevealed.com>

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Another biggest mistake orchid growers can make is thinking "one location fits all".

One of the most common problems surrounding orchid growing is finding the best habitat to raise them in. There are certain conditions that simply **MUST** exist in order for them to survive (and thrive).

Of course light, water, sun and food must be readily available to help your orchids thrive and prosper throughout the bloom until the following season.

Some of the more exquisite orchids come from warmer climates that make it hard to grow them in different temperatures. Some species are born and bred in a variety of places including Hawaii and Australia, two predominantly warmer aquatic climates.

If you don't have access to these climates there are variations that you can grow that will still provide the beauty and excitement practically exclusive to growing orchids.

Your personal house (or greenhouse) can thrive with variations of orchids including the Phalaenopsis ("Moth Orchid") that requires just a moderately lit room to live. This species can thrive in the same settings as other indoor floral species including the African violet, so it's highly recommended - and quite popular!

And did you know...

...there are even certain parts of the home that suit different species of orchids better than others?

The Paphiopedilum ("Lady Slipper") needs only a small amount of light to prosper (some growers fail to realize that light is a **very** important substance in the orchid diet!).

And did you also know?... The Cattleya, Oncidiums, Vandas, and Dendrobiums often prefer brighter light than the Paphiopedilum.

Although most orchid variants can be grown indoors, it is best to grow orchids inside of a sunroom or greenhouse considering the lack of control you can exert in your house, versus the conditions you can create in your greenhouse.

But if you choose the greenhouse route, keep this in mind. There are many issues involved with the heat, and excessive heat that can buildup in a greenhouse environment making it unbearable to the orchid. Some orchids will die if overexposed to the sun or if they do not like the sun at all. Paphiopedilum often do not last long in strong sunlight; their preference is to grow low-lit areas more-so than a traditional greenhouse or sunroom.

Reducing the sunlight inside a greenhouse can sometimes be rather tricky (if you don't know what you're doing, that is).

There are several methods that you can use to foster the right amount of natural sunlight in any greenhouse. You can actually use a small base light-emitting paint that can easily be dissolved and removed when the sun is at its weakest point in the winter.

Or, you can actually apply slats across the windows. That way, you can filter out "harmful" rays while still giving your orchids the nutrients they need from the sun.

And there's a side benefit: Your slats can also help reduce the temperatures inside of the greenhouse.

Yup. Using a greenhouse with slats is the preferred method to provide the overall warmth and shade necessary for certain orchid blooms in the spring and fall months.

(Now don't worry - setting up your own greenhouse is NOT as hard as you think it is. In fact, there's a step-by-step system for it!).

With that having been said, there's one last important factor to consider when choosing the perfect location....proper ventilation.

You can keep your plants healthy -- and vibrant! -- by providing the right amount of circulated air.

Keeping with our greenhouse theme, you'll want to use a combination of vents and circulation fans to help regulate overheating and provide a refreshing stream of fresh air through your greenhouse year-round.

This works particularly well in most areas, except drier climates where circulated air can be stifling to the orchid. Keeping the greenhouse properly aerated will help them thrive and prosper year in and year out!

And there you have it! Mistake #2: Choosing the WRONG location. Be sure you know the species of your orchid and what it requires...then just review the factors above to make sure all your bases are covered!

In Mistake #3, which you'll learn in the next section, I'm going to cover how to prepare for invasions...invasions of pests and insects, that is! One of the best measures to keep your orchid plants healthy and brilliant is to keep insects and pests away from the plants - so you won't want to skip #3!



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Mistake #3 - "Why Saying 'It's Only a Little Bug' is the LAST Thing You Want to Do!"

by Mary Ann Berdak, <http://www.OrchidSecretsRevealed.com>

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Sure.

It's easy to say "but it's ONLY a little bug" when you first set up your greenhouse, but a lot of growers (beginners and pros alike) sometimes underestimate the devastating impact a few pesty critters can have on your beautiful orchids.

So that means...one of the best measures to keep your orchid plants healthy and brilliant is to keep insects and pests away from the plants.

When you find an insect, you might ask yourself: Friend or Foe?

Now, not all insects in a greenhouse or sunroom are potentially harmful to the plant, but some of them leave ugly marks on the flower and pose a deadly threat to the orchid.

By nature, most bugs that are airborne such as the fruit fly do not necessarily create an immediate threat to the greenhouse. But other insects such as spiders and aphids can be deadly to the vulnerable orchid in bloom.

(Pro Tip: Some external reptiles can actually help with reducing insects and other pests. Salamanders, frogs, and certain snakes prey upon small creatures that will try to find refuge in your greenhouse.)

One of the most severe flies that can infest a green house is the Cattleya fly. This fly hatches eggs on the flowers that will eventually form into larvae and fatten up by eating the plant.

Ultimately, the eaten portions must be severed with a scissor or knife and the remainder of the plant quarantined for more larvae. Very specific bug killers can usually take care of the remaining unsightly larvae that may be on or in the plant.

(Keep in mind, the Cattleya beetle is just as destructive and does not necessarily reside on the same plant. This beetle infests and eats the roots of the orchid plant. Similiar treatment may be necessary).

Other pests such as cockroaches and slugs often attack during the evening hours and eat the orchid blooms. It is good to patrol the greenhouse at various times of the day and night should the orchids have damage where there is no predator in sight.

Even earwigs are also fond of the orchid plant and can cause problems to the leaves and blooms. Earwig bait and keeping the premises clean can help alleviate issues with these bugs.

Which means, one of the most important things you should do right away is "bug proof" the greenhouse. The harder it is for the bug to get in the less maintenance you will have to worry about later.

One of the best ways to begin pest proofing is by first starting on the outside to keep the area free from ants, spiders and other bugs that can find their way inside.

A good repellent (make sure you use the right chemicals though!) from the store or professionally applied can extinguish the problem.

(Another Pro Tip: Don't go chemical crazy with pesticides. There are a lot of natural/organic chemicals that can be used as substitutes. For example, a blend of well strain garlic and chili peppers mixed with water can be sprayed to eliminate soft-shelled insects)

Although a single spray can stop most pests, the greenhouse must remain under constant alert for larvae and smaller insects that have just reached maturity. One of the greatest dangers to orchids is the insect you cannot see.

Another way to get rid of the issue is by keeping the inside of your greenhouse meticulously clean (yes, you might even have to keep your plants "house" cleaner than your own!). Keeping the floor swept of leaves and other matter that may attract insects or small vermin is the key.

Regardless of the prevention route you take, a routine extermination schedule (the best time to do this is when you're watering them) should be adhered to as well as consistent maintenance in and around the greenhouse. Coming up in Mistake #4, I'm going to reveal a few secrets about the "hibernation" your orchids will go through...and how to make sure you don't mistakenly think your orchids have died!



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Mistake #4 - "Think Your Orchid Is Dead? Guess Again!"

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After the bloom takes place for most orchids, the plant seems to wilt and rot away...

But beware!

Don't think that the plant is dead and throw it away!

Depending on which region your orchid plant is from, this hibernation or resting period is *completely* normal!

In fact, if your plant's "homeland" is usually barren from hot scorching summer seasons, this hibernation would insure it's survival for next season. Pretty amazing, isn't it?

Since your plant can lay dormant for an undeterminable period of time, you might be asking yourself, "Okay, How Do You Know When The Orchid Plant Is Resting?"

One of the key things to watch for is in the roots themselves.

During the rest period, an orchid plant will find a way to live through the roots. Dry and white roots usually tell you that the plant is still alive and performing its function through the roots.

There is very little water necessary as the plant is using the nutrients derived straight from the soil to survive. All the plant really needs during this time is oxygen to survive.

Don't worry though...

Eventually the plant will "awaken". One of the noticeable signs is the generation of new "bright green" roots found in the bottom of the pot. Over a period of time the plant will revitalize itself with leaves and begin to bloom just like before.

----- *SIDE BAR* -----

One of the popular ways that these plants are shipped around the world is during the dormant stage of the orchid. Special orchids are packaged so they can endure a dormant trip to other countries until their "rest" period is over. Unfortunately, what happens in some cases is that the orchid will wake up from its incubation en route to your mailbox and die before you ever get it out of the box. So make sure you're dealing with a reputable seller!

----- *SIDE BAR* -----

Of course, different species have different treatments.

For example...Cattleya Gigas requires extra special treatment during resting period. Often called the "prima donna" for its necessity to be nurtured during rest, it will require an adequate amount of attention until it fully develops the roots and bulb. Upon complete formation of the bulb and root, it is to be left dry or not watered until it fully blooms. Of course you can spritz the bloom from overhead to stimulate it, but NOT the roots! The plant must undergo shock in order for it to bloom.

Laelia, on the other hand loves the extremes during its resting period. This variant of orchid loves a lot of water and sun during the days of it's resting period and needs less of the two elements at night.

And Brassavola also thrives on warm temps and water until it finally blooms late summer into early autumn.

And curiously, Cycnoches often requires water until it blooms. The crowns and roots should be well watered upon awakening until the end of the summer months. Should it be watered during the winter dormant months it will rot away and die!

So, as you can see, it's vitally important you "do your homework" to learn exactly how to handle your specific orchids.

In the last section, I'll give you a few "do or die" tips for repotting your precious plants, which medium to use and more!



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Mistake #5 - "'Do or Die' Repotting"

by Mary Ann Berdak, <http://www.OrchidSecretsRevealed.com>

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As each dormant season ends, your orchid will come alive with new green and pink roots. While that's a great thing to see, it can also mean your orchid has outgrown its pot. And also likely, it's depleted the soil's nutrients.

Which means if you don't take action, your orchid will have a hard time getting through another season.

With each new season you must decide which roots you think will survive and produce beautiful blooms and regenerate again for another season. That's one of the first steps in repotting. Now, you may think that uprooting the plant will be an easy transformation. BUT...the shock caused by transplanting the orchid plant to a new pot can kill the plant if you don't do it under the right conditions.

-- So, When Is The Best Time To Repot An Orchid Plant? --

A rule of thumb in potting an orchid plant is to wait after it flowers. Once the plant has flowered, look for the plant to create another bulb swelling at the base. A transplant should only occur once you have identified the plant is actively growing!

Keep in mind, the ideal time to repot the flower is right when the new roots break through. Upon transplanting at this time, the roots can assimilate to the new soil and reduce the chances of shock from the move.

Also, should the roots overflow from the pot or if the bulbs in the pot start overcrowding the pot base it is a good time to move it to a new one. If these signs appear early on, it is ideal to move them as soon as you possibly can to reduce the shock involved with a transplant. You also need to keep an eye on your potting mix to make sure it's not rubbery or sponge-like. Plants cannot survive in rotting soil or in a place where there is no growth potential.

-- Benefits Of Repotting The Plant --

One of the major benefits of repotting the plant is that it will prevent shock and help move the orchid plant to a larger pot should the roots have outgrown the current pot. A good practice is to continuously review your roots after the bloom to make sure that the plant is either ready to be potted or needs to be discarded from inactivity.

-- What Type Of Medium Should You Use To Pot The Plant? --

Depending on the variant of orchid there is a special mixture of compost available called Osmunda fiber. Another popular medium being used to pot orchids is Polypodium. Some growers prefer Polypodium to Osmunda because of its overall texture and decomposing properties.

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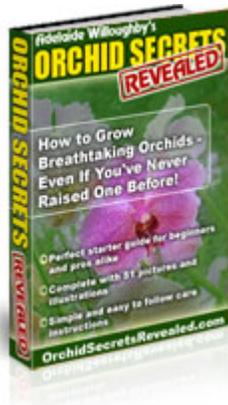
Polypodium can have a unique effect on your orchids. Even though it can be a healing medium for sick plants, it's important to note that you can cause shock when repotting from this medium to Osmunda. That's why most growers use Osmunda even though it is tougher to water and dries quickly.

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-- Tips On Replanting --

Make sure to use tweezers to remove compost and tissue from the bulb and roots. By doing this in advance you'll help speed up the acceptance of the transplant. Keeping the roots clean and intact makes the transition process easier.

Certain plants need to be repotted very quickly for shock reasons, so make sure you consult a good resource guide for your specific species.



I hope these tips have helped you! As you've probably discovered, growing orchids is NOT a piece of cake. You need to be armed with expert strategies and tips. You can't just "wing it" with orchids.

That's why, if you're ready to take your orchid knowledge to the next level and give your orchids the expert care they deserve, then I highly recommend you visit our site and pick up the newly republished long-lost orchid guide. It's currently available with a limited-time bonus package and introductory price (but it won't last long!).

Don't wait! Get it now while it's fresh on your mind:

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Best Wishes,

Mary Ann Berdak ☺

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