



PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID POTTING MIX GUIDE By Gil Ho 10/27/2010

General All Purpose Mix : 4 parts medium bark and 1 part #3 perlite and 1 part #3 charcoal OR 3 parts medium bark and 1 part #3 perlite
 CHC = coconut husk chips; Water retention more to less: Spaghnum > Cocon. husk > Fine > Medium > Large bark > Inorganic rock/ gravel/clay

Source	Ingredient 1	Ingredient 2	Ingredient 3	Ingredient 4
Cattleyas Thick roots must wet thoroughly and then drain well to dry completely between waterings.				
JP Orchids Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown Gil Ho Loren Batchman	5 parts medium bark 1 part CHC Straight large bark OR 2 part treefern/redwood chips 45% med bark 5 parts medium bark Medium to Large CHC	2 parts sponge rock 1 part #3 perlite Straight lava rock 1 part Aliflor 45% diatomite 2 parts #3 perlite +/- #3 perlite	2 part coconut chips 1 part #3 diatomite 10% #3 charcoal 1 part river stones	1 part charcoal 1 part charcoal
Cymbidiums Like slightly acid potting mix that provides good drainage.				
Loren Batchman Loren Batchman Various sources	2 parts seedling bark 2 parts medium CHC Small to medium lava rock	2 parts larger bark 2 parts large CHC	1 part #3 perlite 1 part #3 perlite	
Oncidiums Smaller finer roots.				
Various Gil Ho/Alex N.	Straight small to med. bark 3 parts small/med bark	1 part small perlite		
Tolumnias Grow in Caribbean with alternating wet times with windy rapid drying.				
Unknown Billy Baker Billy Baker	Straight coconut or Osmunda fiber Straight #3 charcoal in clay pot Mount on shingle or hardwood			
Dendrobiums Epiphytic, so could be mounted. Needs to drain and dry a little between waterings.				
Tacoma Orch. Soc.	1 part Small bark	1 part Med bark	1 part Lava Rock	½ part Charcoal
Phalenopsis Epiphytic growing on trees in humid areas, so need good air plus moisture.				

Unknown Wang, AOS 2007 Wang, AOS 2007	Long-fiber sphagnum moss Straight medium bark 4 parts medium bark	OR General Bark Mix as above 1 part SPAGHNUM PEAT		
Paphs Roots must have moisture but be free flowing to drain well.				
Helen Congleton Terry Root Marriott Orchids Antec Labs Various	8 parts fine bark 1 part medium bark 5 parts CHC 6 parts medium CHC Straight good bark sm. or med.	2 parts #3 perlite 1 part lava rock 4 parts Aliflor 3 parts #4 sponge rock Charcoal ?release toxins	1 part charcoal 1 part fine charcoal 1 part #2 charcoal	#3 diatomite as needed
Phrags Lives near flowing clean water such as a river or stream. Roots like to touch moisture.				
Unknown Leo Schordje Marlow Orchids Unknown CLAN Orchids	1 part coconut husk 4 parts bark 6 parts med. fir bark Clay or Aliflor Pellets in semi-hydroponic setup 1 part Small and Med. Bark	1 part perlite 1 part charcoal 1 part med charcoal 1 part charcoal	1 part sponge rock 1 part sponge rock 1 part perlite	½ part vermiculite 1 part med lava rock + ½ part tree fern
Stanhopeas Need to stay a little moist.				
Various Gil Ho via Andy's	Just about anything -----> Straight green moss in baskets	75% Sphagnum + 25% perlite (Bush Orchids-UK)	70% small bark, 20% medium perlite, 5% charcoal and 5% fine hapuu, chunk peat moss, or coir	Osmunda or Cym mix
Angraecums and Angrecoids				
Orchidculture.com Various Gil Ho	3 parts medium to big bark Bark General All-Purpose Mix	1 part #3 perlite Some sphagnum mixed in	1 part #3 charcoal	
Neofinetias				
Orchidculture.com	Long-fiber sphagnum OR	Shredded tree fern OR	Osmunda OR	Mounted
THE MAGIC RESCUE MIX				
Peter Nguyen/Alex N.	4 parts #3 perlite	4 parts #3 charcoal	1 part SPAGHNUM PEAT (not sphagnum moss!!) in a clay pot	

See also: <http://tacomaorchidsociety.com/orchidpottingmedia.html> ; <http://www.orchidsusa.com/2APotting.htm> ; <http://floridagardener.com/orchids/mediums.htm> ; <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/deciding-on-a-potting-mix-for-orchids.navId-403872.html>