

## Not Giving Your Orchid Enough Water

Ryan "The Orchid Guy"

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A few newsletters ago, we talked about some of the problems associated with OVER-watering... ....but UNDER-watering your orchid can also be a reason why you might be having trouble getting flowers on your plant.

A quick and easy way to tell if you're under-watering is to gently remove your plant from the pot and take a look at the roots. Simply take a knife and gently scrape around the edges of the potting matter, put your hand over the potting matter, turn the pot over, and remove the plant.

You'll see dry and shriveled roots if your plant is not getting enough water. The potting material will be bone dry, and potentially even rock hard.

Depending on the severity of the problem, you may need to remove some of the roots, and re-pot the plant

in new potting matter' or you can try placing the plant back in the pot as is, and increase your watering schedule. Potting matter should be damp, but not overly wet.

For a quick rule of thumb, stick your finger 1-2 inches into the potting matter. If it feels moist, then you

don't need to water. But, if it's dry to the touch, then it's time to give your plant some water!

Reason why your orchid won't flower- and if you've been having trouble getting your orchid to flower,

this is where you'll want to really start paying close attention :-)

### EXTEND YOUR ORCHID'S FLOWERING PERIOD BY MONTHS

#### 3 SIMPLE WAYS TO GET LONGER-LASTING FLOWERS!

##### **1.) Beware of Ripening Fruit!**

As soon as your orchid starts to flower, move it to a location in your home at least 10 feet away from any ripening fruit.

Here's why:

When fruit ripens, it releases ethylene gas, and ethylene gas can cause the flowers on your orchid to fade... and many times even collapse!

It's essentially the same thing that happens when "one bad apple spoils the whole bunch..." That one bad apple can spoil your orchid too!

Also, never spray household air freshener or aerosol cans of any kind near your orchids for the same reason - they're FILLED with that very same ethylene gas that you want to desperately avoid!

##### **2.) Bring Your Orchids Inside!**

Are you keeping your orchids outdoors? Because, once you start seeing flowers, it's time to BRING THEM INSIDE!

Here's why:

As soon as orchid flowers come in contact with bees or other flying insects, they'll begin to die almost immediately after they're pollinated.

And yes, sometimes this can happen just a few days after flowers appear!

Keeping your orchid indoors and AWAY from pollinating insects can extend your plant's flowering period by WEEKS

##### **.3.) Keep Your Orchids Nice And Cool...**

Did you know., You can also extend the flowering period of your orchids by introducing them to \*slightly\* cooler temperatures - not above 75F (24C) - once they Begin flowering?

It's true!

This is a bit cooler than what most orchids prefer when they're not in flower, and going through a "growth spurt" period.

But by lowering the temperature a bit, you're essentially slowing down the aging process of your plant while it's in flower- which means many more mornings where you get to wake up, grab a cup of coffee and admire those gorgeous flowers!

But don't go overboard... You don't want to send your orchid into a "deep freeze"... Just a few degrees cooler than your orchid's recommended temperature range is all you need to achieve your desired outcome :-)

Does that all make sense so far? Good.

Because those were just a few quick tips to get you off to a good start.