



**St. Augustine Orchid Society**

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## **Seasonal Tips for Cymbidiums**

### **Fertilizing Cymbidiums**

#### **May and June**

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**Repotting.** Plants that need it, should be repotted at this time of year.

### **Fertilizing Cymbidiums**

- *Cymbidiums with the exception of devonianum and its primary hybrids.* The plants are growing fast now and fertilizer is a must. Use a good Cal Mag fertilizer (containing Calcium and Magnesium). I use 12-3-15-7-2 from Jacks but anything that has about the same ratio's is ok. My mix for cymbidiums is 125 ppm N. I also top dress with a 50/50 mix of crushed seashell and granular dolomite lime at the rate of one tablespoon/ gal pot and a table spoon of 15-8-11 360 day controlled release fertilizer which has all micronutrients in it. Cymbidiums are heavy feeders and the fertilizer regiment insures that the plants get enough. The lime stabilizes pH but does not provide much calcium unless conditions become acid within the pot or water supply. Its best benefit is that it keeps pH at 7 or slightly less. If lime is not used roots will rot. Using lime allows me to grow my cymbidiums in a pan of water 1 to 1 1/2 deep without root rot.

*Fertilizing devonianum and its primary hybrids.* Fertilize these at half the rate of the rest. This cymbidium is an epiphyte and does not require as much fertilizer. At this time I am using at least half tablespoon of the 360 day controlled release fertilizer. If you are find that the leaves die from the tip back, then you should reduce fertilizer further.

*Fertilizing Pendulous Cymbidiums:* Be careful with all the pendulous cymbidiums and watch for tip browning. I have not grown this type for very long and have not established hard rules for fertilizer.