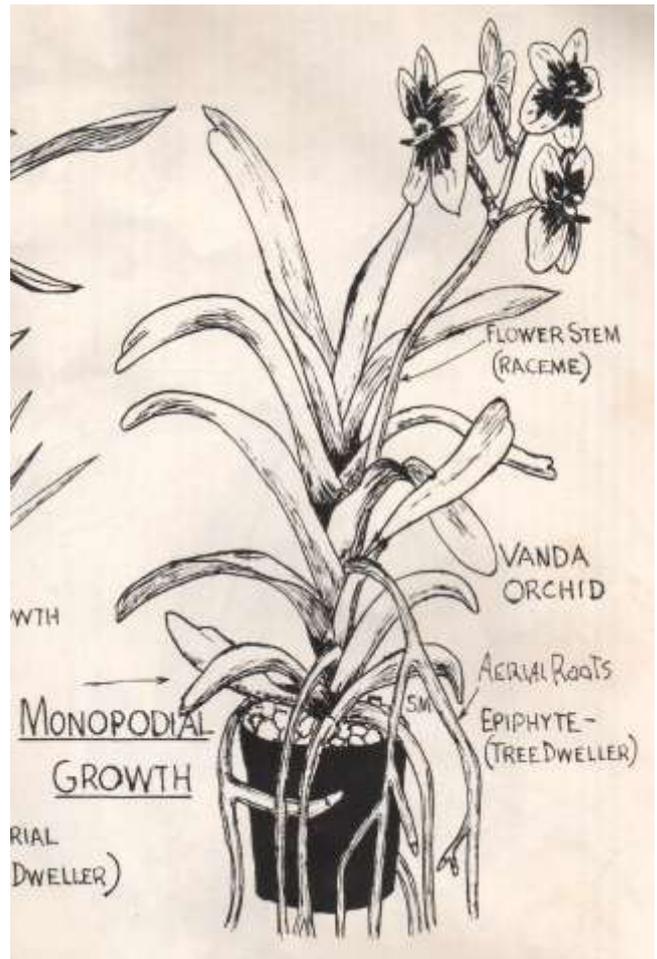


REPOTTING VANDAS

In their natural environment vandas grow on the sides of trees and rocks with their roots exposed to all the elements. After they get wet when it rains they dry out very quickly. In our greenhouse culture we have to try to duplicate these conditions. If you look at your vanda you will note that the roots are very thick and fleshy. You will also note that the growth habit is different to cattleyas, dendrobiums etc. in that it has monopodial type growth - that is that it grows singly upward instead of growing across the pot with multiple canes. There are generally two methods of potting vandas most commonly used - Pot culture and Basket culture.

Before you start potting your vandas ensure you have all the necessary equipment ready to use - secateurs, steriliser etc as per the cattleya potting sheet.



POT CULTURE

When choosing the correct size pot to put your vanda into, select the size that will comfortably support the vanda on your bench. The size of the height of the vanda will dictate what is suitable. Next you will need to decide what mix to use. Keep in mind the rule of thumb to work by - the thicker the roots the coarser the bark. As vandas have very thick roots you will need to use a coarser bark mix than you would use for cattleyas, dendrobiums etc. A good mix would be your standard cattleya mix you would use for that size pot and add the next grade bark up from that to the mix to make it a little bit coarser.

After removing the vanda from its old pot remove the mix from around the roots. If a few bits of the old bark are attached to the roots and cannot be taken off without damaging the vandas roots then leave them on. Place the vanda in the centre of the pot with base of the plant where the roots meet growth, level with the top of the pot. Fill the pot with your mix making sure it is fairly firm in the pot. If the plant is loose in the mix you may have to stake it. Ensure you put the label back in the new pot. Return to the greenhouse. If

you are repotting at a very hot time it is advisable to put in the plant in a shadier position until the plant re-establishes itself in the new mix.

BASKET CULTURE

The type of basket you decide to put your vandas into is a personal choice for you to make. The old wooden baskets are still very popular for their aesthetic look, but the more modern plastic baskets are practical as they will not rot like the wooden ones will do. You can also make your own baskets out of gutter guard and similar material if you choose.

Potting into baskets is very simple. After you have removed the plant from the old mix, simply thread the roots through the holes or slots in the basket ensuring the base of the plant stays level with the top of the basket. Put some coarse bark in the basket around the roots. If the plant is wobbly attach it to the basket's wire hanger. Ensure the name label is in the new basket. It is beneficial to put a bit of old mans beard around the top of the basket to help hold moisture and keep up humidity. Don't let the beard grow too thick as it can hold too much moisture. Hang back in your greenhouse as for pot culture.

You will find you will need to water basket grown vandas more than pot grown vandas as the extra air movement in the basket makes them dry quicker.

REMEMBER : POT YOUR VANDAS IN THE WARMER WEATHER WHEN THEY ARE SHOWING GREEN TIPS ON THE ROOTS AND ARE IN GROWTH MODE.

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