

How to Propagate *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*



Unlocking the Secrets of *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*: A Guide to Successful Propagation

The *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*, with its enchanting blooms and graceful, arching stems, is a true gem in the world of orchids. But what if you could share this beauty with others, or expand your own collection with new, vibrant plants? This is where the magic of propagation comes in.

While *Cymbidium finlaysonianum* can be a little trickier to propagate than some other species, it's not impossible! With a little patience and the right techniques, you can successfully multiply your stock of these stunning orchids.

The Two Main Methods for Propagation:

1. Division:

- **The Basics:** Division is the most common method for

propagating *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*. It involves separating a mature plant into multiple smaller plants, each with its own root system.

- **Timing:** The ideal time for division is during the spring, right after the flowering season, while the plant is actively growing.

- **The Process:**

1. **Prepare:** Carefully remove the plant from its pot and gently loosen the soil around the roots.
2. **Identify divisions:** Look for natural divisions in the plant, where the rhizome (the horizontal stem) has grown thicker and branched.
3. **Separate:** Use a clean, sharp knife to carefully separate the divisions, making sure each has at least one healthy growth point and a good root system.
4. **Repot:** Pot each division individually using a well-draining orchid potting mix. Water thoroughly and place in a bright, indirect light location.

2. Keiki:

- **The Basics:** Keikis (pronounced “kay-kees”) are tiny plantlets that sometimes grow on the flower spike of a cymbidium. They can develop after flowering or even during the growing season.
- **Timing:** This method works best when a plant produces keikis naturally. You can encourage keiki production by using a special hormone paste.

- **The Process:**

1. **Monitor:** Keep a close eye on your flowering spikes for the emergence of keikis.
2. **Wait:** Allow the keiki to develop at least 3-4 leaves and its own root system.
3. **Separate:** Carefully remove the keiki from the mother plant, ensuring you retain the roots.
4. **Repot:** Pot the keiki individually using a suitable

orchid potting mix. Water thoroughly and ensure it receives bright, indirect light.

Critical Factors for Success:

- **Sterilization:** Always sterilize tools before working with orchids to prevent disease transmission.
- **Care after division:** After dividing a cymbidium, it's crucial to provide extra humidity to help the new plants adjust and establish roots. Consider placing them in a plastic dome or placing a bag over the plant to retain moisture.
- **Patience:** Propagation takes time, so be patient and give your new plants ample time to establish themselves.

Remember: While these methods can help you propagate *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*, it's essential to provide proper care for these orchids. Ensure they receive bright, indirect light, regular watering, and appropriate fertilization to thrive and produce beautiful blooms.

With a bit of practice and patience, you'll be able to enjoy the wonder of *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*, not just in your own home but also in the hands of other devoted orchid enthusiasts!