



DETERMINING THE PERFECT WATERING TIME

How it works

The Orchitop cultivation system makes watering orchids easier and more flexible than ever. Therefore, the only decisive thing is to determine the right time when the plant really needs water again. The following description applies to bark substrates with a water-storing component made of clay such as Serami's special substrate for orchids or a mixture of Kiwi Orchid Bark and coarse clay.

Basically, water is only ever poured if two criteria are met in the growth phase of the plant:

- The coaster is completely empty and dry.
- The substrate is only slightly moist to moderately moist (depending on the moisture requirement of the orchid based on the growth phase or the general moisture requirement).

You can determine the moisture content in two ways:

- by the weight of the Orchitop
- by the substrate color

DETERMINATION OF THE WATERING TIME BY WEIGHT

You can use this type of determination with all three Orchitop sizes, whereby it works best with the Orchitop M.

With the Orchitop S and M, grasp the coaster by the edge with your thumb and forefinger. If there is still a lot of water in the substrate, the weight of the water contained in the substrate is increased by the leverage and the orchitop appears heavy. The less water there is in the substrate, the lighter it feels.

Due to the size and the higher substrate volume, please grasp the Orchitop L with both hands on the coaster and lift it up slightly.

The Orchitop is heaviest when the water from the saucer has just been completely absorbed when watering from above or below, or when diving, when the Orchitop has been removed from the water bath and has dripped off. This weight is used as a reference.

DETERMINATION OF THE WATERING TIME BY SUBSTRATE COLOR

If the substrate absorbs water, it appears dark / darker or shiny-moist when it is maximally saturated with water. In the course of time the substrate becomes lighter and lighter until it is finally completely dry and has reached the lightest color.

Depending on how moist you want to cultivate your orchids, water accordingly when the desired substrate color is achieved. How much the substrate changes color when it is wet depends on the individual substrate components. Here you have to decide

individually whether the substrate color can be used as an indicator for the moisture in the substrate you are using.

We recommend that you use the weight to orient yourself to the appropriate substrate color in order to determine the correct time of watering.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – WATERING BY TIME

Basically, the Orchitop M and L are NEVER watered by time (once a week, every 5 days, ...), because the water consumption depends on many factors and fluctuates very strongly over the course of the year. If you were to water after time, the risk is far too great that the plant will receive either too much or too little water.

With the Orchitop S alone, this is possible with a certain amount of experience if you water from above or below. The volume of the Orchitop S is much smaller than that of the Orchitop M, i.e. it has to be watered earlier than the Orchitop M. We found that the lifting method is only of limited relevance due to the generally lower weight and it is therefore best to orientate yourself on the color of the substrate. In our experience, the coaster of the Orchitop S should be refilled 1 - 3 days after it is completely empty in order to ensure an even water supply. Please adapt the intervals to your special conditions and watch the water consumption of the plant carefully, especially in the initial phase.