



(626) 780-3003

Email: mail@Pacificepi.com

Visit our Website: www.pacificepiphyllum.com

Nursery is open to the public:

Spring/Summer: April – September Tuesday - Saturday

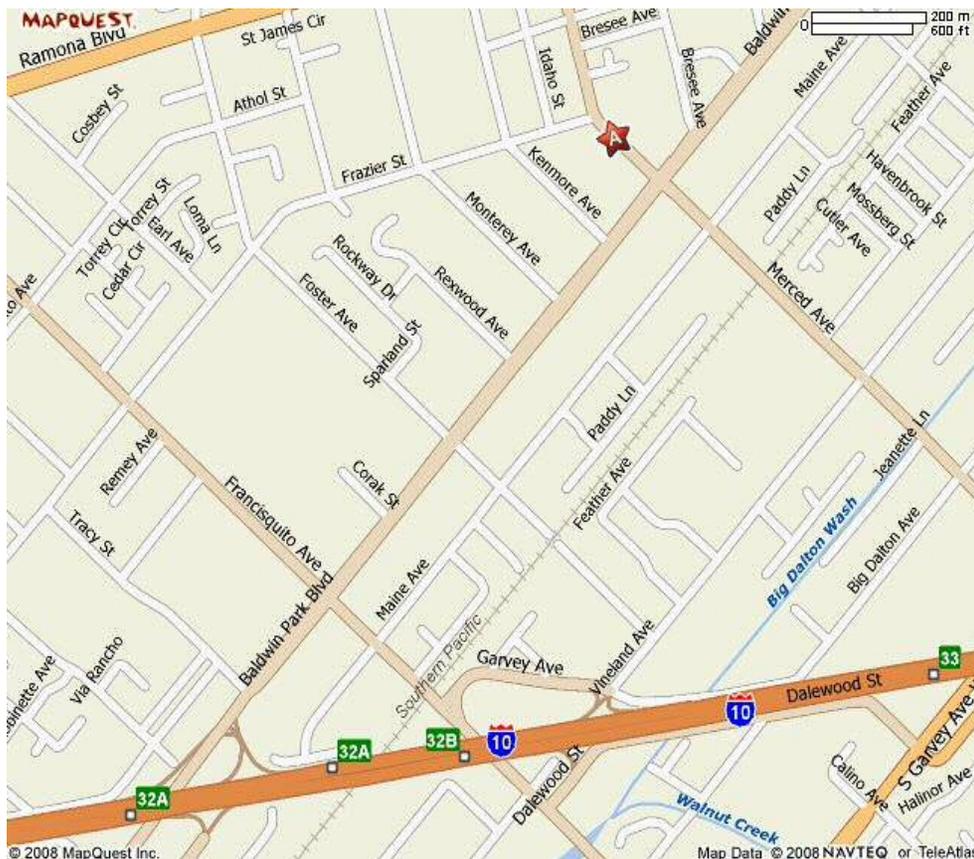
Hours may vary please call ahead

Winter: October – March “open by appointment only”

EPIPHYLLUM

CARE

GUIDE



www.pacificepiphyllum.com

Thank you for purchasing plants from our nursery We hope they bring you many years of enjoyment

Pacific Epiphyllum Nursery is a family owned and operated nursery located in the San Gabriel Valley of California. We have grown Epi's for over 28 years and started the nursery in 2002 out of a passion for growing Epiphyllum. Since then we have been leaders in the way Epiphyllum plants are now grown and sold.

Mail order: If you are receiving your plants through mail order please unpack them carefully. Most plants are shipped with new growth showing.

All plants: Plants need time to adjust to a new environment, we recommend giving the plants several weeks to adjust before transplanting or fertilizing.

General Care

Epiphyllum are now grown all over the world and there are as many ways to grow them as there are growers. Once you learn the best way to grow them in your yard try experimenting with new things, you may just find the new "greatest" growing method.

Epiphyllums cannot tolerate direct sunlight; their branches can burn with just 10 minutes of afternoon sun exposure. A ratio of 50% shade & 50% sun is ideal in most areas. Plants grown in hotter climates will need more sun protection. A wonderful place to put them is underneath a tree or lath where they will receive filtered light and fresh air.

Epiphyllum plants that are provided too much shade will continue growing but may not flower.

During hot summer months good air movement and a little humidity is beneficial. Generally speaking, wherever you are comfortable in the summertime so are your epiphyllums.

Epiphyllum must be protected from freezing. Hardy mature plants can withstand temperatures into the low 30's for very short periods provided they are not full of water and/or fertilizer. As a rule we recommend protecting your plants anytime temperatures drop below 36° Fahrenheit. You may overwinter your plants indoors provided they are given plenty of natural light.



Our motto "If we grow it, so can you!" is something we live by, our plants are grown just as you would grow them at home.

- We will never grow our plants grafted onto Opuntia cactus
- We will never use trick fertilizers that produce unnatural growth
- We will never misrepresent the way a plant grows just to make a sale
- We will always work to find better ways to serve our customers

We pride ourselves in offering our customers "Best in Class" plants and service

For special announcements and advanced notice of new varieties coming available



Pacific Epiphyllum Nursery

Epiphyllum Pests

Scale, mealy bugs and aphids are the most common pests we have found. All three can be controlled with any of the commercial insecticidal soaps available, some growers prefer systemic insecticides. (When using any type of poison always follow manufacturers' instructions) Remember to water plants before treating with insecticides, as they should not be dry prior to application.

Small infestations may also be removed with a solution of 50% isopropyl alcohol and 50% water. This can be swabbed or sprayed on the infected area, (Including blooms).

Snails and slugs also love Epiphyllum, so bait regularly as they can cause considerable damage in a very short period of time.

Ants do not attack Epi plants directly; they feed on the secretions of the other insects. Keeping ant populations down will aid in ridding your plants of mealy bugs and aphids.

Good Practices

- Wash your hands after handling any potting mix
- Keep tools clean, disinfect before moving to another plant
- Duct tape helps in getting thorns out of your fingers
- Keeping your plants off the ground will aid in pest control
- Don't let seed pods form, they take considerable strength away from the plant
- Remove spent blooms by cutting the flower tube near the branch
- Keep weeds under control by hand picking when they first appear
- Always save room for one more plant, trust me you'll need it
- Purchase your plants from licensed nurseries, buying from John Smith in anytown USA may mean you end up with pests you don't want

ABOVE ALL, HAVE FUN GROWING!

Potting Mix / Soil prep

Epiphyllum do well in almost any good quality commercial potting mix with the addition of perlite and small orchid bark for drainage. If commercially packaged camellia-azalea mix is available in your area, we recommend using it instead of regular potting mix. You may want to experiment with different percentages, but a good all round mix would consist of 1 part camellia-azalea mix(or potting mix), 1 part perlite(or horticultural pumice), and 1 part small orchid bark. A good test to see if your current mix is going to drain well would be to take a handful of moist soil and squeeze it in the palm of your hand. When you open your hand the ball of soil should fall apart. If it sticks together it may be too dense to allow good drainage.

If you live in an extremely humid area such as Hawaii, Florida, or near the Gulf of Mexico, you will want to "lighten" the mix in order to improve drainage. This is accomplished by decreasing the amount of potting mix and increasing the amount of perlite or pumice.

Feel free to experiment as epiphyllums are very forgiving and do quite well in almost any mix as long as it has good drainage and is coarse enough to allow plenty of oxygen around the roots.

Pot Size

Epiphyllum like a crowded root system, you should always "pot up." Start with a small (3" or 4") pot and move to the next size up as the pot fills with roots to eventually a 12" pot, where it may live for years with the proper nourishment and care.

A large plant in a large pot is for the grower's convenience only, as "Epiphytic Cacti" are quite capable of growing to a mature size in a 4" pot. In a large pot you are able to fertilize, water, and most importantly, display for maximum effect.

Labeling

We always recommend keeping your plant labeled with the proper variety name. This can be done with a plant tag or by writing on a branch using a "Sharpie" marker. Sharpie ink will not harm your Epiphyllum and can be taken off with rubbing alcohol.

Potting

Your soil mix should be slightly damp when potting never completely dry

Rooted plants: Holding the plant in the pot with one hand fill in around it with mix. Tap the pot several times on the potting bench to help settle the mix. Do not pat down the soil as the roots are very fragile. Do not water the first week, but gently spray the branches. The following week, you may begin to water very sparingly. If the mix is porous enough, the water should drain through leaving the mix only damp without the fear of root rot.

Unrooted Cuttings: These can be rooted in the same mix as your rooted plants, but many collectors prefer to root their cuttings in a mixture of vermiculite and perlite. After they have rooted, they can be moved into your regular Epi mix. Dip the cutting into a rooting hormone such as Rootone. Insert the cutting into the barely damp mix making sure at least one areole on each side is covered. The best new growth comes from below the soil line. If your cuttings start to put on new growth near the top, pinch it off this will help force new growth from the bottom. Before you plant your cuttings, let them dry for about a week. They can be started at any time, but they do root faster in warm weather. After planting, do not water for a week or so, and then after that spray gently every few days until the cutting has rooted. It takes three to eight weeks for them to root. Be patient.

Flowering Season

As a general rule, Epiphyllum hybrids will bloom in the spring on a 2-3 year old potted plant. Occasionally, you get flowers in the fall, especially on some of the smaller flowering varieties.

The Epiphyllum “species” (those which you find growing in the wild), bloom throughout the summer and fall.

Bloom Color

Bloom color can be greatly affected by weather, soil and fertilizer. Individual micro climates in ones yard can also affect the color intensity in blooms.

Watering

Epiphyllum **do not like wet feet** care should be taken not to overwater your plants. Some signs of over watering are sudden yellowing and soft and/or rotted tissue at the soil line. If this does happen remove your plant from the soil, trim off all dead roots and any soft or rotting tissue, allow it to dry for a day or two and start the potting process over.

POTS: After watering, allow the top 1/3 of the container to dry before watering again. Always water until water begins to run out of the drainage holes in the container. Never allow the plant to completely dry out as the small feeder roots dry up and die.

MISTING: If the temperatures are 90° – 100° for several days spraying them with a little water will help keep them happy.

HINTS: Epiphyllum have two growing periods; spring and fall. During these time periods, they will need more water. After flowering in the spring and during the winter months, they appreciate a resting period with only enough water to keep them slightly moist. As Epiphyllum absorb moisture through their stems, spraying the entire plant is recommended.

Fertilizing

After the danger of frost has passed in the spring, we use a liquid 0-10-10 to promote flowering. 2-10-10 will also do just fine. Spray the branches as well as watering into the soil, as Epiphyllums absorb much of their moisture and nourishment through the cell tissue.

When the flowering cycle is complete, a “rest period” is necessary, during which time no fertilizer should be applied, although you should continue to keep plants slightly moist. About 4 weeks after flowering, start fertilizing once again but with a balanced fertilizer (i.e.) 10-10-10 or if you have 20-20-20, use half strength. Repeat once a month with this formula through the summer and fall. Here again, spray foliage as well as watering into the soil. In November, another application of 0-10-10 / 2-10-10 may be applied to promote flowering in the spring.

No fertilizers should be applied during December and January or when the temperatures fall below 45° Fahrenheit. Although this is the program we use, your particular climate will determine the schedule you should follow throughout the year.