

Sunset Valley Orchids 2019 Spring Newsletter



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For most parts of the country it's finally spring! Your Catasetinae should be or are just getting started to grow. Most of you along the southern edge of the country have already started watering and fertilizing. I am hearing reports from many Southern growers that most of the new growths are 6"-12" tall with new roots 3"-6" long. This is the time to start watering! The growers farther north (myself included) may still have a few weeks until the new roots are 3"-6" long. Remember: not all Catasetinae come out of dormancy at the same time, so you may have some plants showing well-developed roots while others will be just starting to root. Begin watering and fertilizing those plants that are ready and hold off on the ones still needing more time; this is a good practice to develop.

Catasetinae like lots of light and air movement; be sure your plants are getting the correct amount now as this will really help them get a good start on their seasonal growth. I keep mine under 40% shade with lots of air movement day and night.

Ideal temperatures in early spring are 60 degree nights and 75-85 degree days, humidity should be at 50% or higher, this is a great help to the plants and new roots.

I start the watering season using ½ tsp fertilizer per gallon of water, and then, as the days get longer and the temperatures warm up in late June and early July, I increase the fertilizer to 1 tsp per gallon through August, before switching back to ½ tsp from September through October.

Don't forget that Catasetinae prefer to be re-potted or divided with the onset of new growth just before the new roots start to show.

Early in the growing season is when spider mites can get a foot-hold on your plants. Be diligent and check the undersides of the new leaves regularly. If mites are detected, spray immediately. They can quickly get out of control if early action is not taken!

The new 2019 Catasetinae offering is really amazing. I expect to have the new Catasetinae list ready in late June.

"Save me the Work Sale"

We have are some beautiful Catasetinae plants in 3" pots; they are just starting their growth cycle and it's the perfect time to pot them up. Take advantage of this "Save me the work sale". All Catasetinae plants are 25% off from April 2nd to 5th.

The voucher code is: SVO

Here are some pictures showing root development and when to start watering and fertilizing.



No water, growth just started



No water, roots too short



Start watering now, roots 3"- 6" long and into the media



Fully rooted plant, top growth 10" water and fertilize regularly

Here are the stages of growth



This is the size to begin watering ^

Please feel free to forward this list to your orchid friends, they will thank you!

I am always available to take your calls and E-mails, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I love to talk orchids.

fred.clarke@att.net

(760) 310-0778

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez
Sunset Valley Orchids