



St. Augustine Orchid Society

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

## Broken Clay Pots

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

If you have a pot fetish, you understand. Once you have located a supply of those shallow, wide slatted orchid pots, driven halfway across the state to collect them, and then soaked, scrubbed and baked them, you get attached to them. You cannot bring yourself to take a hammer to them to extract an overgrown orchid, so you so soak and cut until the orchid is free of the pot. Of course, accidents happen and occasionally you end up breaking a pot. Never fear, you may be able to repurpose that broken pot.



1. Keep your broken pots, you will find a use for them.



2. If all else fails, you may have a new scoop for blending up your potting mixes.

**Potting Mix Scoops.** If you end up with the side broken out of the pot, it may work well as a potting mix scoop when you are blending up your mixes.



3. Broken clay pots or upside down pots can be used to mount orchids and the clay will not rot.

become a lot of Spanish moss.

**Mounts.** If the pot breaks in half, you may have a perfect clay mount for your orchids. You can set the base of the plant on what was once the bottom of the pot so the orchid can attach to and climb up the side of the pot. You can easily hang the pot using a single wire hanger. Even if the pot is not broken, you can mount your orchids on an upside down pot. Either place it on your potting bench or use an S hook to hang the pot. Wrapping a little live Spanish moss around the roots helps maintain higher humidity. Of course, it does not take much time for a little *Tillandsia usneoides* to

**Oddly Growing Orchids.** It happens to all orchid growers; you find an orchid that has overgrown its pot and is now growing in several directions. You know you have to remove the plant from the pot, but how in the world are you going to get it to start growing upright in a pot? With one of your broken pots, you may be able to orient the confused new growth



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out of the broken part of the pot while the rest of the plant and its roots can be properly situated in the pot.



4. Keep your broken pots, you will find a use for them.



5. You may find just the perfect plant to fit into that broken pot.

Your broken clay pots can be used for so many more things than just drainage shards. Sterilize the broken pot the same way you would an intact pot, and then let your imagination guide you to new alternative uses.