The Bucket Treatment for Sick Orchids

Many times I have heard people say, "That orchid hanging over there doesn't look too good". A few weeks later they say, "It still doesn't look too good." Then a few weeks after that they will tell you they were right and the orchid had died.

My question to them is, what did you do about it?

The most common answer is, well there was nothing I could do, it was going to die so I will have to buy a new one.

One of the things I do, is take the sick orchid, the first time I notice it and remove it from the other plants. I remove it from the pot and wash all the bark off then trim all the effected dying parts using clean cutters. I put cinnamon on all the cuts and leave for about an hour.

Then take a bucket (or container) fill it with water, enough to accommodate the orchid so it will be completely covered. Then add Phos Acid, which is a systemic chemical that controls root problems, at whatever rate is recommended on the container.

Now place your sick orchid into the bucket ensuring it is completely covered. Place a brick or something that will hold the plant under the solution and leave for about 6 hours.

I have sometimes left a plant in the bucket overnight, because I forgot it was there, with no harmful effects.

Could you imagine if a plant could think. "I am already sick now my owner is trying to drown me."

After the time in the bucket, bring the orchid out and place it on a clean paper towel and leave overnight to dry, as it absorbs the liquid. Next day pot it up in new bark media and put it back where it came from. I usually spray this area with alginox or spore kill to ensure the area is clean.
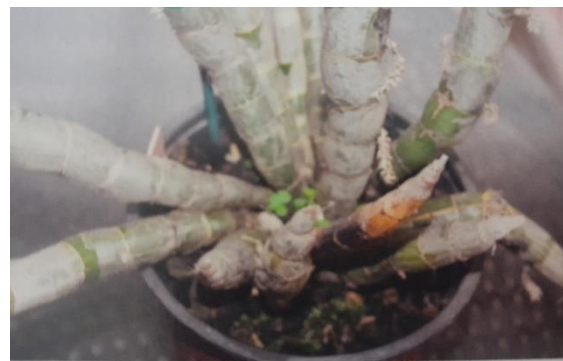
Next time you see a sick orchid in your collection, don't ignore it try the **Bucket Treatment.**

My success rate is very high with this method and I don't have the expense of buying a new orchid.
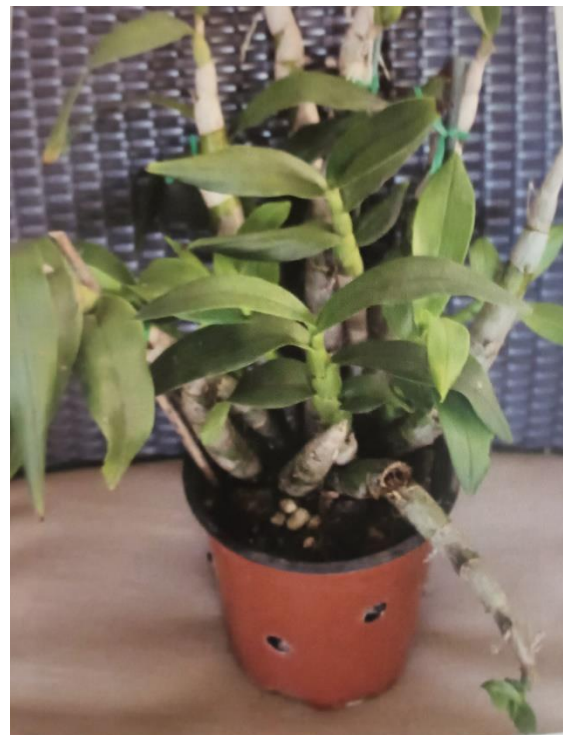
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Before bucket treatment 16-12-18

After bucket treatment 15-6- 19