



Potting, a key part for a successful cyclamen crop!

You need to get the best conditions for your cyclamen growth area to successfully pot them: choose the right pot; use a good and well-balanced **substrate**; get the right **shade** in your greenhouses.

Once these 3 criteria are in place, here are a few potting tips from when you receive your young plants to the first time you water them: recommended **climate conditions** (light, temperature), **sanitary** conditions, using **pop up trays** and the recommended bulb position in the substrate.



THREE STAGES TO PREPARE FOR POTTING:

I. CHOOSE A GOOD PLASTIC POT:

They are very popular and provide countless benefits: lightweight, **cheap**, mechanisation, **easy to transport**. They can also be customised (**printed pots**).



a) Check how transparent your pot is



Plastic pots can be too transparent: cyclamen roots are very sensitive to light passing through the pot.

Top tips:

- The inside of the pot must be black or opaque to ensure **total opacity**.
- The outside of the pot can be white to reflect light and encourage the growth of more compact cyclamen.
- In hot areas, avoid pots with black outside as they provide extra heat to the detriment of the roots.

b) Check the bottom of your pot (**bottom design**)

There are **different pot designs** to suit different watering systems:

Drip irrigation		Sub-irrigation	
Pots can be put straight on the ground with drip irrigation. It increases the risk of disease if the water filters badly (poorly levelled soil) and is reabsorbed by the plant.		These capillary watering systems make it hard to check the accuracy and amount of watering. The aim is to increase drainage by filtering as much water as possible.	
2 solutions :		Some pots are now designed with several levels in the bottom and have 12-16 holes to speed up drainage. This type of pot enables us to achieve 2 objectives: improve drainage and ventilation which enables the roots to better absorb fertilisers.	
o Choose a pot with a raised base to avoid direct contact with the ground.	o Adjust watering amounts to avoid stagnant water under the pots.		
	Raised pot		16-holes pot

In the event **irrigation mats**, the choice of pot is based on the same technical criteria as their design.



II. CHOOSE A GOOD SUBSTRATE

There is now a wide variety of brands and different formulas of substrates.

Choose a good substrate for your cyclamen to produce a **successful rooting system**.

This substrate should give you the **right balance** between quantities of water, air and exchange periods between the two.

It should primarily stop the substrate drying out too quickly between watering.

Please note that the more the plant grows, the more the rate of transpiration increases. This causes the risk of **repeated drying** and capillary root loss. A **balanced substrate and suitable irrigation** produce a good quality cyclamen.

The amount and frequency of irrigation depends on several factors. On top of this, it is important to consider the growth system and base (ground, bench etc.) as well as climate control in the greenhouse.

Composition of a balanced substrate:

In our experience, the best substrates are made up of:

- Mainly blond peat
- Different fractions and types of peat based on pot size
- Components to improve drainage (perlite etc.)
- Components that have a buffer effect to protect the substrate from excessive drying (clay and/or black peat)
- A basic fertiliser at around 1kg (2.2 lb)/m³ to complete the rooting stage.



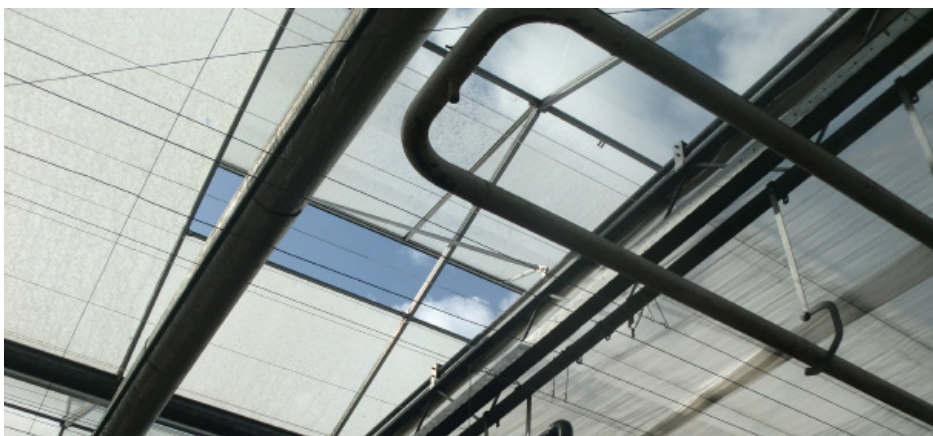
On receipt, make an analysis of your substrate to check its composition.

III. SHADE IN YOUR GREENHOUSES

Check the weather forecast to plan your shade for the right time to organise your repotting appropriately.

In most climates, using **coatings** is the best way to protect your cyclamen harvest from heat.

This enables growth with **diffused light**. The amount of shade should be set between 50% and 70% depending on the climate's light and average temperature.





TOP TIPS to optimise your cyclamen potting

I. WHEN RECEIVING YOUNG PLANTS

How to store young plants ?

Always keep your seedlings away from soil or on disinfected trays from when you receive your young cyclamen plants to when you repot them.

Keep the **light relatively low** (200/300 W/m² - 2000/3000 fc-22000/33000 lux) and **water very lightly** where necessary without fertiliser or acid (**clear water**).

If you have a room with temperature control then seedlings can spend 2-3 days in the dark at around 10°C/50°F and 60-70% humidity.

Don't store your young plants for too long!



Avoid storing seedlings for too long in their planter tray.

It may cause etiolation and root loss.

A cyclamen that spends too long in the planter tray experiences unnecessary stress and becomes more fragile.

This causes a major **delay in rooting** in the pot.

II. TOP TIPS

a) Use pop up trays

Young plant roots are fragile and can be damaged during potting. To avoid damage, we highly recommend using pop up trays that match the size of the plugs so the **young plants can be delicately removed from its cell**.



b) Position your young plants properly when potting



Position the bulb properly to avoid unnecessary issues: neither too deep in the soil (rot, late flowering) nor too shallow (too dry, instable).

2/3 under the soil and 1/3 above is a good compromise.

Fill your pot enough to anticipate the compression of the substrate with watering (the bulb may go too deep if there isn't enough substrate in the pot).

It's best to use an appropriate matrix for **manual potting** to prepare holes in the growth substrate.

c) Prevent SANITARY RISKS

The utmost care must be taken over the potting area be it manual or automatic.

Disinfecting tools, machines and growing equipment is highly recommended.

For further information about disinfection and disease prevention, please visit our website

<https://www.cyclamen.com/en/professional/diseases/1/1>





Young plant **GROWTH** in their new **ENVIRONMENT**

I. WATERING

The substrate may be provided with very irregular rates of humidity.

To make humidity uniform for all the pots, generous watering is highly recommended for the **first time you water them**.

The next waterings will be more moderate but frequent.

During this period, we recommend using clear water with **big drops from above and close to the foliage** (proscribe fine nozzles spray) to penetrate the vegetation and humidify the entire pot.



III. ROOTING and FERTILISATION

After potting, the young plant will take root for several weeks and grow to fill the pot.



To encourage rooting, we recommend not to use fertiliser before the roots start to colonise the whole media.

That's because the mineral salts in fertilisers can accumulate and stunt growth, especially in hot climates. Therefore, even if the water's pH needs to be adjusted later on, **it is recommended to use clear water without fertiliser or acid** (for 4-5 weeks after potting).

For most varieties and growth conditions, a **basic fertiliser around 1kg (2.2 lb) / m³** should be sufficient in terms of fertiliser for the entire rooting period.

II. Pot CARRY TRAYS: a tool to encourage rooting



It has become the norm to use carry trays. Depending on their design, these trays affect how much and how often you water them depending on their ability to make buffer effect in the pot.

Do not use trays with a water reservoir which often hinders proper drainage.

Choose trays with an open base and raise them to improve drainage and air exchange. Well-chosen carry trays can improve **rooting**.

IV. The cotyledon leaf: let it disappear on its own!

The cotyledon leaf fullfils its function during the seedling phase (nutrition, photosynthesis, transpiration).

When the young plant has taken root after potting, the leaf disappears gradually on its own as it naturally dries out. **It is neither necessary nor recommended to remove it as you risk damaging the seedling.**

The potting stage is vital for your young plants to grow roots properly. It improves the success of your cyclamen crop.

For further information about the vital rooting stage, view our ROOTING TechNews!

Link to ROOTING guide available to download:

<https://www.cyclamen.com/pdf/technews/201606/rooting-en.pdf>