

Pot Plants

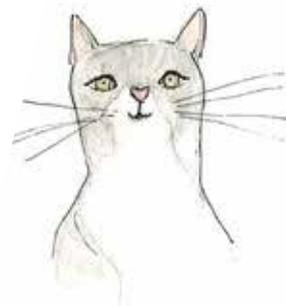
THEY NEED OXYGEN JUST LIKE US!

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Article sponsored by Arné Minnaar
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Our pot plants are all ready for a breath of fresh air. They get enough wind in their hair but not enough O₂ in their soil.

Let us give Sophie, the garden cat (who promised the pot plants that she would rally for them), a chance to speak. She told me that they want us to understand that good drainage does for them what a diaphragm does for our lungs.



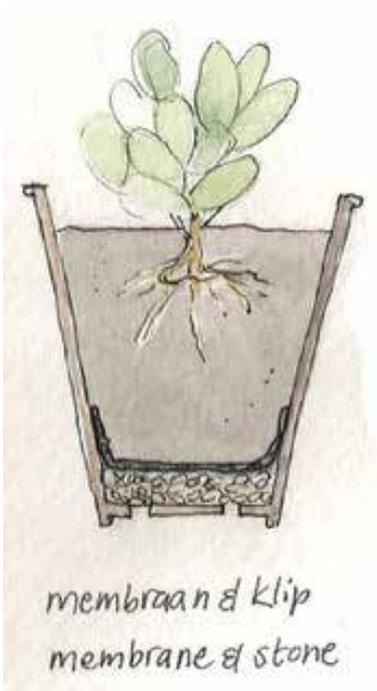
Sophie die Tuinier
Sophie the Gardener

The collection of random stones and religiously putting them in the bottom of our pots are exactly that: a religious act. “But our recipe goes back to our successful gardening predecessors, for more than three generations!” That is true, but parts of the truth disappeared in the quick-fix. We remember the stones at the bottom, but we have forgotten about the neat arrangement of different sizes of stone, which is so very important to keep the tiny soil particles from washing into the

large open spaces between our random stone collection, and then blocking the drainage.

The stone arrangement should be as follows: large stones in the bottom layer, followed by a layer of smaller stones, and finally a layer of even smaller stones.





We also have pot feet these days, and they are not only for decoration. They will also ensure drainage straight out of the pot holes. If your pot has only a few small holes that you cannot enlarge, it is recommended that you use the pot feet with stones and mat. If you have substantial drainage holes, you can rely on the pot feet alone.

Enough about drainage; what did you say about breathing? Yes, yes... it is so beautiful. As the water softly trickles through the potting soil, it is absorbed into moisture retentive organic fibres and smaller channels while the excess water runs out of the drainage holes. Gravity causes the cavities in the soil channels behind the water to be filled with fresh air from the top of the pot. Amazing, don't you think?

Plants need oxygen and hydrogen to break up the chemical combinations of the minerals in the soil before it can be absorbed by the plant roots in new chemical combinations.

That is why the pot plants ask, via Sophie, that we replenish the organic fibre and drainage materials in our pot plants at least every five years.

Are your two welcome pots at your front door as healthy and lively as you are? Are they maybe, just maybe, breathlessly waiting for you to help them?





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