



The species of the section *Tetragonostachys* occur as two distinct growth habits: erect plants and prostrate sprawlers. Each requires a different type of pot to be planted into.

For the erect species I prefer containers that are close in width and height.



The sprawlers are more suited to containers that are roughly twice as wide as high.

Finding pots with these ratios with an abundance of drainage holes is difficult and so I reuse plastic food containers.

I use an awl to punch holes in the containers from the inside to the outside, generally several holes around the base of the containers with several other holes above the lower holes.

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POTTING SELAGINELLA: *Tetragonostachys*

Recommended potting tactics for xeriphytic species

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Anchorage zone, from just below lip of container to Aeration Zone. Substrate should provide excellent drainage with some moisture retention.

Aeration zone, maximum depth 1 inch. drainage holes should be large enough for a number 10 bolt, at least 8 such holes.

I use a STRATIFIED SUBSTRATE in potting these Selaginellas. As illustrated above, the Aeration Zone should be filled with small pebbles to coarse gravel through which any debris can readily pass out through the drainage holes. The Anchorage Zone is the primary area where rhizophores will grow and will be the substrate that is a blend of gravel, peat moss, and various organic materials.

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For pots with drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, I use a piece of screen that is placed over the holes.



Then around 1/2 inch (1 cm) of substrate is poured into the pot



The plant to be repotted is soaked submerged in water (r/o, distilled, or rain) for about 15 mins. so the plant can absorb as much water as it needs and to reduce the degree of shock to the plant when it is depotted. Depotting involves knocking the plant out of its pot and washing loose as much as the old soil mix as possible. Division of the plant can occur at this stage.



The basic formula for the species of the *Tetragonostachys*

The basic substrate formula that I am using as a foundation mix consists of :

- Selag Mix 110810
- 4 parts gravel (freshwater or granitic)
- 1 part peat moss
- 1 part other organics

Other organics can consist of a blend of dried natural green moss grounded up, chopped up pine needles, crushed up maple leaves, coir, decomposing bark, organic mulches used in terrariums, and other similar products, with a teaspoon of nitrohumus or osmocote.