



THE MILLION ORCHID PROJECT

Congratulations on your native orchid restoration kit! This package provides everything you need to establish your own population of Florida native orchids in your landscape.



Epidendrum nocturnum: Also known as "Night Fragrant Epidendrum" this tropical orchid grows throughout swamps & tropical hammocks in southern Florida. Their elegant green and white flowers are very fragrant at night and can flower any time of the year. It grows well on a variety of

hardwood trees and prefers the shadiest branches. Flowers year-round.

Package contents: 32 orchid seedlings (2 yrs. old), burlap twine, and planting instructions.

Where to plant? These orchids prefer tropical hardwood trees, avoid smooth flakey bark species. Select horizontal limbs that have some shade from the afternoon sun. You can also plant directly on the trunks of trees and palms preferably on the north or east face to avoid direct afternoon sun. If possible choose branches that are visible so you can better enjoy your plants.

How to plant? Attach seedlings individually or in clusters of 2-4 orchids using sisal string or burlap twine (supplied). Do not apply any of the sphagnum moss or



medium provided in the tray, doing so will

hinder root attachment and cause the roots to stay too wet promoting root rot. Make sure the plants are tightly secured to the branch and any new root leads are in contact with the bark surface; take special care not to injure the new roots (see photo example).

When to water? Native orchids require little to no long term care once they become established on the tree. However watering is necessary during root attachment phase. For the first month daily watering is required, after roots become attached watering is not necessary. Using a hose or misters thoroughly soak the orchid roots and surrounding bark. For best results allow roots to dry for 10-15 minutes and reapply water.

Should I fertilize? Native orchids require no fertilizer once they become established on a tree. Standard garden fertilizer can be applied monthly to promote growth. We suggest ½ strength (20-20-20) fertilizer or a commercial orchid fertilizer.

To learn more about other ways to participate in The Million Orchid Project, please contact Dr. Jason Downing;
jdowning@fairchildgarden.org or 305.667.1651, ext. 3354.