FAIRCHILD
TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Congratulations on your Florida Native orchid kit! This kit features hot growing orchids well suited for planting on trees in South Florida. This package provides everything you need to establish your own population of Florida native orchids in your landscape.

Bletia purpurea

"Pine pink orchid"

ABOUT

Bletia purpurea commonly called pine pink orchid, is native to pine rockland and cypress swamps in the state of Florida. There are usually 3-5 light green grass-like leaves, a distinct bulb (corm). At maturity it is typically 1-2 feet in height and up to 5 feet when flowering with 3-80 pink to purple flowers. It flowers from December to March.

WHERE TO PLANT

These orchids prefer shady spots with mulch or a rich organic layer but grows well in a variety of conditions and landscapes. This species is suited for native wildflower gardens and natural landscapes. If you wish, you may leave the plant outdoors in a pot permanently.

HOW TO PLANT

Find a shady spot in your landscape. Carefully remove the orchid from the pot, making sure not to break any roots. roots. Do not remove the soil from plant roots. Dig a small hole and plant the root ball so that the roots and bulb (corm) are completely covered (see photo example). Water thoroughly after planting. Plants that are in a pots will need to be watered when the soil becomes completely dried. Potted plants can be re-potted in standard potting soil mix and mulch.
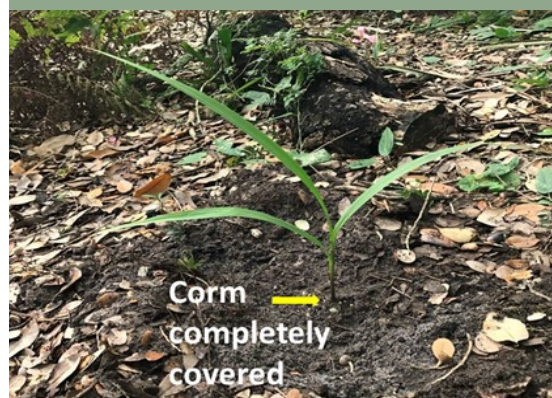
WHEN TO WATER

Native orchids require little to no long-term care once they become established in the ground.

However, watering is necessary during establishment phase. For the first month daily watering is highly recommended, after plants are growing new leads, watering is not necessary. Using a hose or misters thoroughly soak the orchid roots and surrounding soil. For best results allow roots to dry for 10-15 minutes and reapply water. Plants that are in a pots will need to be watered when the media becomes completely dried.

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.

Example 1

Corm completely covered

Package contents: 3 orchid seedlings (2 yrs. old), burlap twine, and planting instructions.