

Encyclia plicata

“Plaited lipped epidendrum”

ABOUT

Encyclia plicata, also known as plaited- lipped epidendrum is native to the Bahamas, and Cuba. A flowering period from spring and early summer. This large sized *Encyclia* appreciates a hot environment, hot humidity, and a wood mount including live oak, mahogany, strangler fig, slash pine, bald cypress, buttonwood, and pond apple.

WHERE TO PLANT

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

HOW TO PLANT

Attach seedlings individually or in clusters of 2-4 orchids using sisal string or burlap twine (provided). Do not apply any of the sphagnum moss 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 #1).

Other products such as plastic ties and monofilament can be used but these products are slow to deteriorate and are not biodegradable. You can also reinforce attachment using Liquid Nails glue (not provided); apply small drops of glue directly to the bark of the tree, allow glue to harden for 15 to 30 minutes, until it has the consistency of sticky clay.

Press the pseudobulb (base of leaves, above roots) into the drop of glue, allowing the roots to hang below the glue and contact the bark. Avoid embedding roots in the glue (see photo ex # 2).

WHEN TO WATER

Native orchids require little to no long-term care once they become established on the tree. However, watering is necessary during the root attachment phase. For the first month daily watering is required, after roots become attached to tree watering is not necessary. Using 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. Plants that are in a pots will need to be watered when the media becomes completely dried.

SHOULD I FERTILIZE

Standard garden fertilizer can be applied monthly to promote growth. We suggest ½ strength (20-20-20) fertilizer or a commercial orchid fertilizer.

