

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.



# *Trichocentrum undulatum*

## “Mule eared orchid”

### ABOUT

*Trichocentrum undulatum*, also known as the mule eared orchid, is native to extreme southern Florida, it is also found in the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. These orchids grow on the trunks and branches of hardwood trees and mangroves. They have long leathery, folded leaves that can reach over 5 feet in length.

### WHERE TO PLANT

These orchids prefer tropical hardwood trees, avoid smooth bark species. Select forks in branches, crotches, or horizontal limbs that have some shade from the afternoon sun. If possible, choose branches that have plenty of head space above them since this plant can reach large sizes. You can also plant directly on the trucks of trees and palm and preferably on the north or east face to avoid direct afternoon sun. If you wish, you may leave the plant outdoors in a pot permanently.

### HOW TO PLANT

Attach seedlings individually using cotton string or burlap twine. 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. 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.

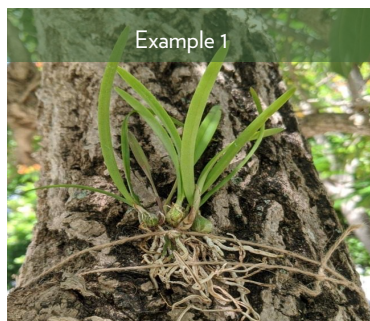
Press the pseudobulb (base of leaves, above roots) into the drop of glue, allowing the roots to hang below the glue and contact the bark. Avoid embedding roots in the glue.

### 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 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

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



Example 2

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