



Spathoglottis plicata (Ground Terrestrial Orchid)



Spathoglottis plicata is a terrestrial orchid sometimes called the ground or garden orchid. They are great garden plants and are easy to grow making them a good orchid to start with for beginners. They come in a wide variety of colors from purple to white and orange.

They are tropical orchids and will not survive frost. This type of orchid is terrestrial, which means they do well planted in garden landscapes but can also be grown in pots.

Light: They like lots of light; full sun to light shade. Direct sunlight for some of the day (morning sun is good). But just to be safe, don't leave them in direct sunlight all day! They also appreciate a fair amount of humidity; 60-70% is ideal.

Water: These ground orchids like to be kept moist especially in the growing season. Let them dry out a fair amount between watering. Do not overwater; they can get root rot.

Temperature: Tropical temperatures, and about a minimum of 60 degrees at night. They should generally be kept in the 75-90 degree range. They will not live in frost and should be kept out of freezing temperatures. If grown in warm climates, they will bloom year-round. In cooler climates, with cool but not freezing winters, they may go dormant.

Soil: Use a potting mix for terrestrial orchids. Don't use all dirt as they don't like to be completely compacted. They like some organic material – a garden loam with some added peat should do well. Always be sure drainage is sufficient.

Fertilizer: These orchids need regular fertilization. A combination of high nitrogen liquid fertilizer and a slow-release blend works well.

Propagation: You can propagate through division. Separate plants at the base in sections and replant in potting mix either in a pot or the ground. Make sure to give the new plants enough space for their roots to fully develop. They require especially high nutrient levels in the time after initial propagation.

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