

## MYRMECHILA AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHID



**POTTING MEDIA:** 70% inorganic fast draining material such as bonsai mix, or any mix of akadama, pumice and perlite, clay can be used as well. Rot is the biggest enemy, so fast draining mixes are the key – these must dry completely at the end of their growing season when they are dropping the leaves or tubers will rot! They prefer acidic mix. The other 30% should be organic potting material such as what you would normally use for your terrestrials, best is peat moss mixed with coarse sand and leaf mulch.

**POTS & TIPS:** Myrmechila is tiny Australian terrestrial orchid that mimics female of a certain wasp, grows similar to Pterostylis. Tubers are small size so 2” pot is usually big enough but they produce quite extended root system and using larger pot can lead to gaining more new tubers at the end of growing season. They also like to grow in colonies and so potting more than 1 tuber in the same pot is great. Use only R/O or rain water, and very light fertilizer (1/4 strength of balanced fertilizer). Fertilizer should be used only when in active growth. Adding mycorrhizae (like Great White) is very beneficial especially for Australian terrestrials. They prefer slightly acid mix. Reduce water after flowering and stop completely by the time the leaves fade and dry up. When dormant, keep tubers in dry place, best is plastic container with paper towel inside or in paper bag with paper towel, check for any rot, and from the end of August start checking biweekly for sprouting. Once sprouting, pot only some 1-2” deep with new shoot facing upwards.