



CALADENIA 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: Caladenia is wide spread Australian terrestrial orchid growing on exposed meadows. It gets lot of sunshine during active growing season so light levels are important, these should grow in full sun or 20/30% shade, but never too shady, with good watering during active growing season. It grows nice round leaves and can grow up to 12" tall spike. 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 and if possible, organic fertilizer works. Inorganic fertilizer will kill mycorrhizae and Caladenia species depends heavily on mycorrhizae for water and mineral uptake, so adding mycorrhizae (like Great White) is very beneficial especially for this Australian terrestrial. 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 bi-weekly for sprouting. Once sprouting, pot only some 1" deep with new shoot facing upwards. Depending on size, we suggest 3- 4 inch clay pots.

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Keep dormant tubers in dry place (best kept in plastic containers) till sprouting
2. Pot sprouting tubers into your preferred mix, add mycorrhizae at this time to your mix
3. When in active growth, provide regular watering and weak fertilizing
4. Your plants will send spike and bloom, then start slowly dying off
5. Reduce watering and stop fertilizing after spikes are done flowering
6. When plants are leafless, check your pot for new tubers and store them again in dry place for next season

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