



## **MICROTIS ATRATA “SWAMP MIGNONETTE ORCHID”**

### **AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHID**



**POTTING MEDIA:** Best potting mix: Well drained, moisture holding terrestrial mix – we like to use 100% pure coarse sand (pool filters sand), but other mixes like peat moss, bark and perlite will work as well.

**POTS & TIPS** *Microtis atrata*, also called “Swamp Mignonette Orchid” is charming species from South Australia and Tasmania, the smallest *Microtis* species. It is found growing in swamps and bogs, sometimes completely submerged in the water – they are great bog orchids. Provide bright light levels, cool-intermediate temperatures, and regular watering keeping them always moist during active growing season, with dry dormancy period. The flowers have a powerful if sickly scent.

*Microtis* are, in general, shallow-rooting plants of well-drained low-fertility soils. Their symbiotic relationship with a fungus in the soil allows them to obtain sufficient nutrients and be able to compete successfully with other plants. They are very sensitive to the addition of fertilizers or fungicides since these can harm the symbiotic fungus and thus kill the orchid. Use some 3” pots, pot your tubers some 1” deep.

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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