

CHLORAEA CHILEAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS CARE SHEET



Very attractive Chilean terrestrial orchids are quite rare in cultivations and always a huge temptation for any orchid grower. They do require special conditions to grow successfully. Here are some tips on growing them successfully. This terrestrial orchid has similar growing habit to commonly known North American *Platanthera*, but in the different time of the year.

POTTING MEDIA: Chloraea likes mix suitable for North American *Platanthera*, mostly organic (80% potting soil/peat moss or pure sphagnum moss) and 20% inorganic material (akadama or perlite, slightly acid, porous, no retaining water, well drained). Pure sphagnum moss works well as well. We do know some growers using even African violet potting mix or pure sand (you can use sand for swimming pool filters). These love bright light, in nature they grow exposed to sun!

POTS: Use white plastic pot or clay so the sun doesn't bake the tubers (not black pots), and give them few hours of unshaded morning or afternoon sun when growing. Recommended is 3" or 4" pot, potting your tuber some 1" under the media. Use only R/O or rain water. Chloraea is a heavy eater during active growing and will benefit from weak fertilizing weekly (1/8th strength). Adding mycorrhizae (like Great White) is very beneficial too. They hate salt in the water. Reduce water after flowering and stop completely by the time the leaves fade and dry up but do not let tubers dry out too much – you can keep them in the pot in media in higher humidity place. They will start new growths during summer months - if summer gets too dry and hot and summer draft happens, these new young growths may wilt and die. This is a natural thing for Chloraea that happens during summer draft in Chile, and it does not mean your tuber is dead, it will

resprout from the same tuber and same place again later in summer or fall. Chloraea does not actually produce new replacement tubers, it keeps growing from the same tuber year after year and under good conditions, tuber just keeps getting bigger and stronger each year.

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