

## EUROPEAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS CARE SHEET



Very attractive European terrestrial orchids are always a huge temptation for any orchid grower. They are definitely not the easiest of the species to grow and they do require extra care. Here are some tips on growing them successfully.

**POTTING MEDIA:** 90% (YES REALLY) inorganic fast draining material such pumice, coarse sand and perlite. Rot is the biggest enemy, so fast draining mixes are the key! We do not suggest all perlite because the pot will be too light and blow over often. The other 10% should be organic potting material such as what you would normally use for your terrestrials, including some marble chips for calceolarious Ophrys, but do not use lime or seas shells since they are too alkaline. For Ophrys, they like pH of 6-7.

**POTS:** Use white plastic pot so the sun doesn't bake the tubers, and give them few hours of unshaded morning sun when growing. Use only R/O or rain water, and very light fertilizer (suggested one to use is FISH MIX). Fertilizer should be used only when in active growth. If they have not sprouted by Halloween, you can start watering them (or start whenever they start sprouting). They hate salt in the water. Reduce water after flowering and stop completely by the time the leaves fade and dry up. When dormant, keep tubers in cool dry place, best is plastic container with paper towel inside or in paper bag in the vegetable section of the fridge, or fridge doors, check for any rot, and from the end of August start checking bi-weekly for sprouting. Once sprouting, pot only some 2" deep with new shoot facing upwards.

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