



TARZANEGROUP

MICRO, MINIATURE AND SMALL ORCHIDS

HABENARIA RADIATA “WHITE EGRET ORCHID”



Origin: Japan

Temperatures: Cold to warm growing small terrestrial orchid species

Light: Bright light

Watering & Fertilizing: Regular watering and fertilizing in active growing season, goes completely dormant – no fertilizing and watering when in dormancy.

General care: Small terrestrial orchid native to Japan & parts of Korean peninsula & China, needs well-drained, moderate to constant moisture soil, and full to partial sunlight. Growing from tiny tubers, it sprouts in the spring & blooms late summer. As deciduous species, tuber serves as an energy source early in its growth cycle, allowing new leaves and the flower spike to form. Over the summer new bulbs form and the old bulb slowly dies by early autumn. A healthy growth can produce several replacement tubers.

New tubers are fully formed by late October and leaf sheading will start at that time too. Shortly after, the roots grown that season die back as well and the newly formed tubers become separate, individual plants. To store tubers for the winter, dry them out quite a bit until they feel dry to the touch, and place them in a freezer bag with a bit of very slightly damp vermiculite or perlite. Put this in a cool place over winter, below 50F is preferable. You can also store them in a refrigerator. Avoid freezing. Since they will have to rest all winter, it is a good idea to check them once in a while for fungal issues. Often a tuber will spoil and needs to be removed so that it doesn't infect other tubers in the package. It's possible to keep the tubers in the same pot for the winter dormancy, but dry it off slowly until it's nearly completely dry. Small amounts of water every few weeks is necessary, particularly if the pot is kept in low humidity. Keep the tubers cool and dry all winter in their pot, 32-50F is ideal. In March or early April take the plants out of the pot. Recover all newly formed bulbs and throw away the old bulbs and dead roots. Pot them immediately to start the new growth cycle. Tubers should be potted just below the surface, 0.5 inch deep. Plant them pointy side up. Once potted, put them in a sunny, warm position and keep them moist, but not wet. Be patient, they can take weeks to start to grow, but once they do, increase watering. When temperatures get hot, water them well so potting mix stays slightly wet at all times (they are bog orchids). Make sure water does not contain chlorine – use rain water or RO water only.

You can grow *Habenaria radiata* in any mix that is water retaining and acidic. Mix of pumice, peat moss, and a bit of sand (ratio of 1:1:1/2) works well, top can be decorated with small amount of the moss. Perlite mixed with sand and peat will work as well. We do grow these orchids in pure live sphagnum moss too. When actively growing, fertilize them with weak (1/8th strength) fertilizer, we do use fish mix for all our terrestrials.

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