



TARZANEGROUP

MICRO, MINIATURE AND SMALL ORCHIDS

PONERORCHIS TERRESTRIAL ORCHID CARE SHEET



Origin: Japan

Temperatures: Cold to warm growing miniature terrestrial orchid species

Light: Bright indirect light

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

General care: This amazing tiny terrestrial orchid native to Japan can bloom in incredible range of colors. It blooms late spring & early summer (June and July) on spikes emerging from thin grassy leaves. Ponerorchis likes a long growing season from late April to late October. They are tuber-grown orchids. They will form new tubers as the old ones are being spent and can produce several tubers from each potted one during a good growing season. Tubers grow at the base of plant, not along the roots like *Habanera radiata*. These tubers can be separated or left together to grow as a clump.

They like bright light, but not too much direct sun, and high humidity. Early morning sun is best. In very hot or dry climates use shade cloth to protect thin leaves from burning. Constant humidity is important & humidity trays can be helpful in dryer climates. During the growing season, keep them well watered. If you used well drained soil, you can water very frequently without much fear of over watering. Water generously through flowering (June and July), then cut back a bit while still keeping them moist until dormancy sets in. Fertilize with 1/8 strength of natural fertilizer, (we do use fish mix for all our terrestrials to avoid burning the plant) until September. By November they should be dormant.

Ponerorchis roots should be kept well oxygenated. The best soil mix is kanuma soil (similar to pumice / bonsai soil). Kanuma is hard to find and expensive in the USA, so we prefer using pumice mixed with sphagnum moss in a 50:50 ratio. This mix allows good root aeration and still holds good amount of water. You can also use vermiculite, perlite or large grain sand. In early spring, tubers should be potted just below the surface 0.5 inch deep. You can plant 3-5 bulbs in small 3 – 4-inch pots. It's recommended planting them pointy side up but to avoid confusion which side is the point side you can pot them horizontally. Repot these every couple of years. Some people remove the plants from their pots and collect the new tubers after the plant goes dormant. This can be a good idea if you have very wet winter, or live in an area where you need to force dormancy.

Winter temperature should be above freezing with an average temperature under 50F. During dormancy, you can remove the new tubers from their pot and store them or you can dry the pot out almost completely, but sprinkle a bit of water on them from time to time so they do not dry out complete. Tubers should be stored in a cold damp environment. 36-42 °F is the best, always protect your tubers from freezing! Storing them in the paper envelope in a fridge works well too.

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