



DIURIS AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHID



POTTING MEDIA: 80% inorganic material (akadama or bonsai mix, slightly acid, clay based and porous, no retaining water). 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 20% should be organic potting material such as what you would normally use for your terrestrials, best is peat moss/potting soil with pine bark (if you have, fermented bark is the best). Past 2 years we also tried to grow these in 100% pure coarse sand (pool filters sand) and they do grow fantastic in it!

POTS & TIPS: Diuris tubers are quite different, strange looking, some can be thin and very long so 3" or 4" pot is usually big enough depending on length of your tuber. These tubers are fragile so be careful when handling and potting. They should be potted horizontally once at least 1 side of tuber starts sprouting – and they can sprout from either side, sometimes from both sides. Use only R/O or rain water, and very light fertilizer (1/4 strength of balanced fertilizer). Fertilizer should be used only when in active growth. Adding mycorrhizae (like Great White) is very beneficial especially for Australian terrestrials. They prefer slightly acid mix. Reduce water after flowering and stop completely by the time the leaves fade and dry up. When dormant,

keep tubers in dry place, best is plastic container with paper towel inside or in paper bag with paper towel, check for any rot, and from the end of August start checking bi-weekly for sprouting. Once sprouting, pot only some 1" deep with new shoot facing upwards.

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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