

Spathoglottis Ground Orchids

Cultural Information for CP 72 & CP 32



Spathoglottis Orchids are terrestrial plants found in the tropics of Asia. They are typically found growing on hill sides in between other grasses and low lying bushes. They are exposed to bright sun but some cloud cover may form during the hotter parts of the day providing partial shade. They normally are grown commercially as landscape plants in USDA zones 9 and 10. However due to their tolerance of high light conditions they can be grown as a beautiful addition to your Summer Patio Plant line. We recommend the following guidelines for growers producing these as potted flowering plants for the Patio or for potted plants to be used for landscaping.

- 1) **Temperature range:** 60-95° Fahrenheit preferred. Foliage may show some “burn” at temperatures below 50° Fahrenheit in the winter.
- 2) **Light intensity:** Can be grown in full sun but will produce cleaner and prettier foliage if grown under partial shade. For greenhouse growing and preparation as potted flowering plants light levels of 2000 – 4000 fc will provide active growth and flowering. Plants grown under the higher range should transition to full sun without burning the foliage.
- 3) **Soil type:** Plants like well drained soil high in organic matter. pH of 5.5-6.5 preferred. Typical mixes used are similar to those used for Tropical foliage plant production and may include peat moss, bark, sand or perlite as additives.
- 4) **Fertilizer:** Spathoglottis require frequent and copious amounts of fertilizer and will respond with multiple shoot formation and active flowering. A balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 with minors applied at the rate of 2-300 ppm Nitrogen applied with each water application will result in strong growth. Other slow release fertilizers such as Osmocote or Nutricote can also be used. Quicker release formulas that will release the fertilizer within 4-6 months should be used at the rate shown on the label for either greenhouse production or the field container rate. Apply at the rate recommended for herbaceous ornamental plants.
- 5) **Watering:** The key here is good drainage in the soil medium and adequate drainage where the plants are placed. The soil should be allowed to dry out on the top of the pot but should not dry out completely before re-applying water. Water heavily to saturate the medium and then re-water once the top of the pot feels dry.

6) **Finishing times:**

You can finish and flower a 72 or 32 CP liner within the following time schedule, depending on your location, growing conditions and growing protocols.

	6" Pot	8" Pot	2 Gallon Pot	10" Pot	3 Gallon Pot
72 cell	4-6 months	6-8 months		8-10 months	
32 cell	3-4 months	4-5 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	5-6 months

Note: In warm areas with good light, there is a probable growing time reduction of 20-30%.

- 7) **Flowering:** Plants flower when the bulb reaches maturity. With careful planning, proper nutrition and adequate light levels plants can be produced to flower throughout the year. Individual plants can produce more than one set of shoots and flowers per year.

Grower Notes:

(Bloom Cycles)

The key for growers is to keep them warm and uniformly watered, so that they will flower in 6-8 months, regardless of the time of year.

- After transplanting, the roots tend to move to the bottom of the pot and foliage grows. Most of the new growth develops from the original center shoot and the side shoots will grow and usually tend to catch the original shoot. **We call this the “vegetative state”.**
- Blooms typically occur when the growth is mature (the bulb gets fat). We note that the stem swells right at the base (bulb) at the soil line, and that is where the bloom stalks will form. We call this the **“generative state”**, and the plant then flowers.

This takes about 6 months (more in winter and less in summer) and depending on the night temperatures in which the plants are grown.

- We have observed that cold, and likely other stressors as well (extreme heat, lack of water, mineral deficiency, pot bound, etc.) will cause the plant to go back to vegetative growth thus stop flowering. **Note:** Less than 60°F (night temperature) for a prolonged period.
- If the plant is stressed the flowering can stop and the plant becomes vegetative. It then needs 6+ months grow time before re-flowering.
- If this scenario, you should shift to a larger pot as the plant quickly becomes rooted or bound and will not flower well.
- The plant, if left in the original pot, will send out lots and lots of new shoots and will overwhelm the original pot.

We would appreciate your feedback and grower observations.

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Thank you.