

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**BROWARD**  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA



# *Native Orchids* *of South Florida*

Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM 

University Of Florida  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Science  
Cooperative Extension Service, Broward County

Printed 2021

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# A BRIEF HISTORY...

- When Florida was being settled and developed, millions of flowering orchids were ripped from the trees and packed into railroad cars, destined to be sold as disposable potted plants in northern flower shops.
- Orchid populations dwindled rapidly to catastrophically low levels. Urban development and agriculture further eliminated nearly all remaining orchid habitat.

Did you know that in the late 1800s, as the Florida East Coast Railroad extended southward, orchids were among the first natural resources to be exploited?



SOURCE: <https://fairchildgarden.org>



## REINTRODUCING NATIVE ORCHIDS TO SOUTH FLORIDA

The UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Florida-Friendly Landscaping program has joined forces with The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society to help reintroduce native orchids in Broward County's Residential Landscapes. Our region has countless suitable landscape trees for orchid reestablishment in schoolyards, roadways, and other public spaces.



Today native orchids exist in such small numbers that they have no hope of recovering on their own, despite the fact that oaks and mahoganies have been gradually making a comeback as street and landscape trees throughout South Florida.



# *Encyclia tampensis*

- *Encyclia tampensis* (ET) orchid is a tree orchid (epiphyte), native to Florida and the Bahamas. It is the most frequently found native orchid in Broward County. There are still colonies in many cities and county parks.
- They thrive in the canopies and branches of hardwood hammocks and swamp areas, as well as dry pine forests.
- Their natural habitat is on the top surfaces of horizontal branches, typically higher in the canopy with access to good airflow



# SITE REQUIREMENTS, INSTALLATION & CARE OF *ENCYCLIA TAMPENSIS*

## SITE SELECTION

- An eastern exposure with morning sun is ideal. Mid-day you want about 50% light - dappled.
- Presence of other plant species, such as Resurrection Fern, Lichen, and Tillandsia (air plants) are great indicators of a location where your ET will thrive
- It is best to install them in stable, long-lived hardwoods

## INSTALLATION & CARE

- Best time of year for installation- May through September (Florida's rainy season)
- ETs tend to perform better in groups/clusters
- Avoid getting glue on the roots
- Orchids need to be tied as snugly and securely as possible without damaging their pseudobulbs and roots (Natural fibers, such as jute, as preferred)
- They are accustomed to seasonal dry periods. Don't plant them in holes in branches or other areas where rain water may collect.
- Small amounts of sphagnum moss may be used to help retain moisture as long as the roots are not prevented from reaching the bark surface
- New installations should be watered daily during dry periods for the first 2-3 weeks, and once every 2-3 days thereafter, until roots are well attached to the tree.
- Light: Moderate to dappled sun/part shade.  
Temperature: Moderate to warm
- Pollinators: Variety of bees

## AVOID

- dense canopies
- extreme shade
- soft wood
- fragile branches/growth forms
- spiral-like branches
- peeling bark

*Best time to install the *Encyclia tampensis* is during our rainy season: May to September*

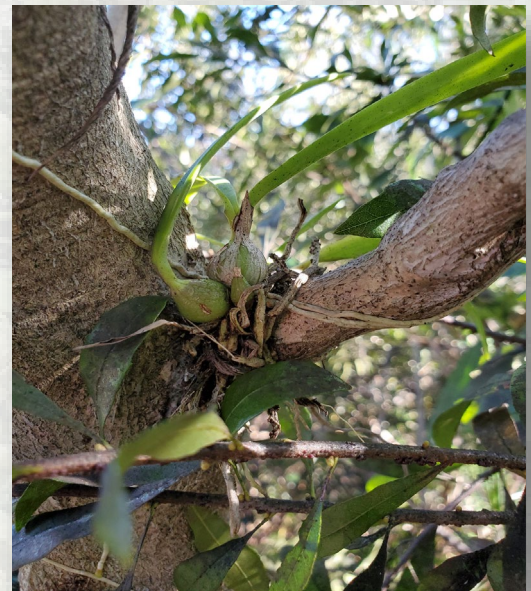


Photo credit: Jennifer Sirop

# TREE SELECTION



**Buttonwood**

Photo credit: Rich Ackerman



**Pond Apple**

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**Cypress**

Photo credit: Gerritt Stryker



# TREE SELECTION



**Laurel Oak**

Photo credit: Rich Ackerman



**Live Oak**

Photo credit: Rich Ackerman

# SUCCESSFULL TREE INSTALLATION



Photo credit: Jennifer Sirop



Photo credit: Claire Garrett

# AVOID THESE TREES



**Gumbo Limbo**

Photo credit: Jennifer Sirop



**Black Olive**

Photo credit: Rich Ackerman



**Sea Grape**

Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)



**Melaleuca**

Photo credit: [kaiyanwong223](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kaiyanwong223/), [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/)



**Fig**

Photo credit: Rich Ackerman

# *Oncidium ensatum*

- *Oncidium ensatum* also called the Florida Oncidium or Dancing Lady
- Native to South Florida, Southern Mexico, Cuba, Central America, Bahamas, and Venezuela
- May occur in terrestrial habitats of rich humus in relatively dry hammocks, or as epiphytes at the base of cypress trees in wet forests



# SITE SELECTION, INSTALLATION & CARE OF *ONCIDIUM ENSATUM*

## SITE SELECTION

- Partial sun



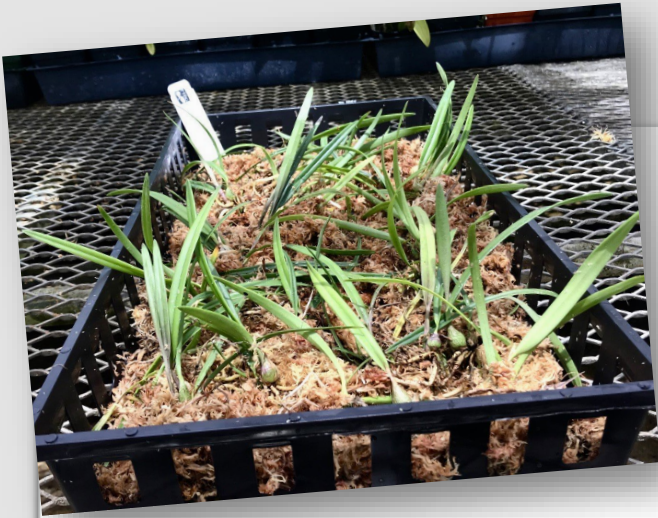
Photo credit: Jennifer Sirop

## INSTALLATION & CARE

- Remove orchid from the potting media, making sure not to break any roots or remove any media adhered to roots
- Dig a small hole and plant the root ball so that roots are completely covered but the pseudobulb is above ground exposed to air.
- Water 3x per week for 1<sup>st</sup> month- if left in pot, water every other day.
- Fertilize monthly

# ORCHID GROWING KITS

## *What's Included?*



### ***Encyclia tampensis***

Large Kit (\$160):

- 32 *Encyclia Tampensis*
- Cut Twine
- Tube of Glue
- Literature

Small Kit (\$75):

- 12 *Encyclia Tampensis*
- Cut Twine
- Literature

### ***Encyclia tampensis***

Large Tray (\$150):

- 32 *Encyclia tampensis*

#### ***A la carte:***

- Glue (\$8) – Liquid Nails Silicone 2.5 oz
- Twine (\$5) – Spool
- *Oncidium ensatum* \$6-\$10 per plant dependent on size



*Location  
is  
key!*

# Native Orchid Project Resources

## ***Encyclia tampensis* Videos**



- Site Selection, Installation & Care Requirements
  - ❖ [https://youtu.be/Z7Zas\\_7RKWQ](https://youtu.be/Z7Zas_7RKWQ)



- Tree Selection
  - ❖ <https://youtu.be/8vYoLAQtbik>



- Installation Demonstrations
  - ❖ <https://youtu.be/aaJxC12oE6I>

## ***Oncidium ensatum* Videos**



- *Oncidium ensatum*
  - ❖ <https://youtu.be/5PvXkai1P70>



## **Webpage**

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/fflresources/>



# Credits



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# URBAN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM VIRTUAL EDUCATION NETWORK

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***Oncidium ensatum***

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