

Yes, You Can Grow Streps in Florida!



Florida's Special Challenges

- High Temps
- High Humidity
- Fungus
- Mold
- Mildew
- Insects



High Temps & High Humidity

- Keep plants on lowest shelves possible
- A/C set to 76° or lower
- Do not let plants grow too close to warm fluorescent bulbs
- Ceiling Fans
- Floor Fans
- Do not overcrowd plants on shelves
- Air needs to circulate around your plants

Fungus, Mold & Mildew

- Rust fungus forms a rust color arc at base of leaf
- Powdery mildew is white or gray, looks like dust on a leaf
- Can be treated with Physan, Neem Oil, Apple Cider Vinegar, Immunox & other fungicides
- Spray all surfaces & top of soil
- Wipe down shelves, walls & fans with antibacterial or bleach solution



An Ounce of Prevention . . .

- Use an extra light 40% soil to 60% extra coarse perlite mix
- Add extra holes to sides of solo cups
- Crown of plant should be 1/8-1/2" above the top with soil mounded to cover roots
- Do not over water, especially young transplants
- Good air circulation is essential



Fertilizers

- Better-Gro Orchid Plus with minor elements 20-14-13
- Feed Me! MSU RO/Rain/Tap Water Formula 13-3-15 8Ca-2Mg developed by Michigan State University (recommended by Dale Martins)
1/8 - 1/4 tsp per gallon



Additives

- Orca Plant Success Mycorrhizal Fungi Root Enhancer
1/2 mL (about 6 drops) per gallon
- Superthrive Vitamin Solution
1-2 drops per gallon



Grooming

- Remove old leaves with no new bloom stalks.
- Remove new plantlets that are crowding the established crowns.
- If your plant doesn't have many leaves, trim back 1/3 of the largest leaves to encourage new growth from center.
- When removing old bloom stalks, trim as close to the leaf as possible. Cuticle scissors work best.

Some of My Collection

