**Spathoglottis Care Sheet**

**LIGHT** : The "common" name for Spathoglottis is "Ground Orchids" even though there are several other genera that can be planted directly in the ground as landscape plants. These orchids are terrestrial found in the tropics of Asia. If grown in greenhouses, 750 fc (150 PAR = micromol/sq m/sec) for the youngest plants coming out of flask or grown in plug trays; 2,000 - 5,000 fc (400 - 1,000 PAR = micromol/sq m/sec) or speckled sunlight protected from the hottest direct sunlight of the day is good for landscape or outdoor container growing. Slowly acclimatize the plants to higher light levels when young plants are transitioned to outdoors. Flowering should occur throughout the year on the most modern hybrids / clones since they were bred for more compact foliage and larger more colorful flowers.

**WATERING** : Spathoglottis require good drainage in the media, so after a thorough watering allow the media to dry on top but you do not want the container to dry out altogether. Do not allow to sit in water. Water thoroughly in the morning once to twice weekly depending on your cultural conditions (light, temperature, humidity, air movement, etc.) allowing the top of the media to dry slightly between waterings. If the potting media is top-dressed with expanded slate, the area next to the pseudobulbs will dry out nice and quickly.

**FERTILIZING** : Spathoglottis like fairly high feedings of fertilizer @ 200 - 300 ppm N every watering. Outdoors, a slow release fertilizer such as Palm 12-4-12, or Nutricote or Osmocote with full micros can be used in the 4 - 6 month release formulations. Apply according to the bag's suggestions for herbaceous ornamental plants.

**TEMPERATURE** : Spathoglottis are generally "warm" growing plants liking temperatures up to the high 80° F (30° C) and they can tolerate temperatures down into the upper 50° F (15° C). Keep in mind - the more air movement, the warmer the plants can be and the higher light levels they will accept without turning yellow; and if it is too cold, the pot stays too wet and the growth will suffer. Foliage may burn below 50° F (14° C) - containers can be protected by moving or covering; landscape plants can be covered with light weight frost blankets. New growth will replace the old burned foliage if frost damages the plants, but protect from freezing.

**POTTING MEDIA** : The plants are very forgiving as to the potting media. We use a media based on 75% high quality soilless mix used for hanging baskets and larger containers mixed with 25% our orchid potting media which incorporates expanded slate. Outdoor landscaping media can incorporate more orchid media for drainage - New Zealand Pinus radiata bark, perlite, sphagnum moss, and various other components. The mix is very free draining but holds more moisture than regular media for epiphytic orchids. I plant allowing the topmost roots coming out of the pseudobulbs to be exposed and then top-dress with a couple of layers of straight expanded slate so that the area immediately around the pseudobulbs remains on the dry side. Do not bury the pseudobulbs. Potting containers can be in the 2 - 4 gallon size (8" - 12" diameter).

**BLOOMING** - Blooms typically are produced when the pseudobulbs mature. If the temps fall below 60° (15° C) for extended times, the plant may revert back to growth stage and flowering may be delayed.

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