The White Egret Orchid

Unpacking
You will receive your orchid bulbs packaged in a small plastic cup with damp sphagnum moss. You can leave them in this cup in your refrigerator for a short period of time.

Storage
The White Egret Orchid should be stored in a cold damp environment. 36-42 °F is ideal. DO NOT FREEZE. Keep them moist, but never wet. For long-term storage, place bulbs in a container or freezer bag with a bit of very slightly damp sphagnum, vermiculite, or perlite. In moderate winter climates you can store outside and in colder winter climates a garage may suffice. Ideally, the best place to store your bulbs may be the refrigerator. It is also a good idea to check them once in a while for fungal attacks. If a bulb is rotten, remove it from the group and either store it separately or dispose of it.

Planting
The White Egret Orchid loves water, but they also require oxygen at their roots. The best soil mix to accomplish this is kanuma soil and milled sphagnum moss in an 80:20 ratio. It is also a good idea to cover the surface with sphagnum moss to prevent the roots from drying. Kanuma is a Japanese soil and can be very difficult to find and expensive in the U.S. There are a number of substitutes that you can use. I prefer pumice. It allows for greater root aeration and still holds quite a bit of water. You can also use vermiculite, perlite or even sand. For sand, a larger grain size is better. Consider adding 50% milled Sphagnum to help with water retention. In early spring the bulbs should be planted just below the surface, perhaps 0.5 inch deep. You can plant 3-5 bulbs in a 4-inch nursery pot. Some people recommend planting them pointy side up; however, I always plant mine horizontally so there is no confusion as to which side is the point side. Be sure to protect the newly planted bulbs from freezing, especially if they are in a pot.

Growing
Once potted, put them in a sunny, warm position and keep them moist, but not wet. Be patient, they can take weeks to start to grow, but once they do, increase watering. They are also very slow bloomers making you wait all the way until August to see them flower. When the days truly get hot and the plants are growing strong, water them such that they remain essentially wet. The water you use should be relatively low in dissolved minerals. In the hottest and driest of climates, you should protect them from the afternoon sun. In mid-summer with a good soil mix like the one mentioned earlier, it is almost impossible to over water. Because this recommended soil mix does not have any organic material, you should fertilizer your orchid. They enjoy heavy feeding and almost any fertilizer will work well. At Kusamono Gardens we use cottonseed meal and fish emulsion.