



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Ludisia discolor*
- Common Name: Black Jewel Orchid
- Plant Family: Orchidaceae
- Mature Size: 12 inches
- Growth Habit: Upright Clump
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Form: Shell-like Single
- Bloom Time: Winter – Early Spring
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Bright, Indirect Light
- Recommended Zones: 10 & 11
- Key Features: Striking Black Leaves, Showy Flowers
- Suggested Uses: Potted Specimen, Indoor Plant
- Growers Notes : Avoid direct sunlight or dark, gloomy areas for optimal growth.



Ludisia discolor or **Black Jewel Orchid** is a very unique cultivar in the orchid family. As the name implies, this rare plant has vivid dark purple to black leaves accented by white veins. The reddish undersides of these leaves can cause the white veins to appear pinkish to orange when light shines through them. Around two years of age, these rare orchids will produce crisp white flowers that contrast beautifully against their dark leaves.

Like many other orchids, the **Black Jewel Orchid's** flowers begin as a greenish stem reaching upwards that quickly develops to present blooms. Appearing out of blush pink capsules, the pure white blooms are very shiny and resemble seashells.

Though Jewel Orchids are often overlooked because their flowers are not very showy, they have recently become increasingly rare and popular with the indoor plant community. Offering both visually interesting foliage and high contrast flowers, the **Black Jewel Orchid** is guaranteed to 'wow' where it is grown.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new **Black Jewel Orchid** follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in partial sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage branching and shape.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Image Courtesy of CCC

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water. If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over, or adapted to growing indoors year round in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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