



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: Bletilla yokohama "Kate"
- Common Name: Ground Orchid, Yokohama Kate
- Plant Family: Orchidaceae
- Mature Size: 2 ft.
- Growth Habit: Upright
- Bloom Color: Purple
- Bloom Form: Single
- Bloom Time: Sporadic / Perpetual
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Full Sun
- Recommended Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Tough strap leaves, sporadic elegant blooms
- Suggested Uses: Ground Cover, Border, Shade Garden, Potted, House Plant
- Growers Notes : Bletilla can be propagated by splitting bulbs from soil as needed



Terrestrial Orchids do not require the special media and conditions of other epiphyte orchids (ie, the ones whose native habit is to grow on the sides of trees in the rain forests). These will do well planted into the ground, they are not fussy and will quickly naturalize. This group is native to Southeastern Asia and the Philippine Islands and have recently become very popular in the US.

Bletilla yokohama or 'Kate' is a popular, relatively rare cultivar. It has pretty veined, strapped, leaves, and is an almost constant warm season bloomer in pastel yellow and orange. Flowers are born on long stems above the plant and have a classic orchid shape in a miniature form, complete with the small spots and speckles.

They are semi-tropical, and must be protected from freezing temperatures. However, in cold climates they are easy to grow in pots so they can be wintered over indoors, or can be acclimated to grow as house plants year round.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new Bletilla yokohama "Kate" follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun or partial shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilizer 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

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

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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