

Encyclia tampensis

Florida Butterfly Orchid • Tampa Butterfly Orchid

◆ Florida Native ◆



Distribution: Central and southern Florida to the Keys, Bahamas, and Cuba. One of Florida's most abundant epiphytic orchids.

Growth Habit: Epiphyte. Mesic hammocks, hardwood swamps, mangrove forests, pine flatwoods, sloughs, and strands — typically on limbs and upper trunks with good light.

Host Trees: Southern live oak (most common). Also bald cypress, red maple, buttonwood, pop ash, pond apple, mahogany, strangler fig, slash pine, and palms.

Watering: 2–3 times weekly in summer; once weekly in fall/winter. Roots must drain quickly — never remain wet. 60–80% humidity year-round.

Temperature: Intermediate to warm. Tolerates light frost — one of Florida's hardiest epiphytes.

Light: Bright filtered or dappled light. East-facing or under light shade cloth. Grows well under pool or patio screening. Avoid direct mid-day sun.

Additional Notes: Blooms May–August (peak June); up to 45 honey-scented greenish-bronze flowers with a white, purple-marked lip. Attracts bees. State-listed commercially exploited — buy nursery-propagated plants only. Slow growing but long-lived. Needs strong air movement.

BROWARD NATIVE ORCHIDS

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