

# *Oncidium ensatum*

Florida Oncidium • Florida Dancing Lady Orchid

◆ Florida Native ◆



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**Distribution:** Extreme southern Florida (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties; state-listed endangered), Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, and Central America.

**Growth Habit:** Primarily terrestrial in rich humus of shaded dry hammocks. Can be semi-epiphytic at the base of cypress knees. Inflorescences can reach 2 m (6+ ft).

**Host Trees:** In the ground, plant at the base of a shaded hardwood with a rich organic layer. When epiphytic, prefers the shady bases of hardwood trees or cypress.

**Watering:** Minimal once established in ground. Potted: water when medium is fully dry. Daily for the first month after planting. 40–80% humidity; excellent drainage essential.

**Temperature:** Hot to warm, 85–90 °F days, 65–72 °F nights. Not frost-tolerant.

**Light:** Shade to medium indirect light (~70% shade cloth in summer). Medium-green leaves indicate correct light. Strong air movement beneficial.

**Additional Notes:** Blooms spring–summer on arching panicles to 2 m with up to 80 yellow and olive-brown flowers with a bright yellow lip. Pollinated by male oil-collecting bees via deceit (mistaking flower clusters for rival bee swarms). State-listed endangered; propagated by Fairchild's Million Orchid Project.

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