

Botanical Name: Bletilla striata

Common Name: Chinese Ground Orchid

Type of Plant: monocot: perennial Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape clumping grasslike orchid with few leaves -- grows from a  
tuberous root which persists through the winter months while the foliage dies  
back

Height to 2' Spread to 1' Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoor partial shade preferred

Soil needs a well-amended soil rich in humus

Hardiness Hardy (all zones)

Morphology:

Leaves narrowly elliptical, to 10" long with heavy parallel vein  
patterns showing on both sides -- 3 to 6 leaves per plant per year

Flowers spikes of cattleya-like orchid flowers lavender to pink  
with splotches of white -- forms spikes about 12" long in mid spring

Fruit narrow 3-valved capsule

Propagation: division

Usage: small specimen plant for containers or shaded beds, good  
for small-scale landscapes, tropical or forest-style plantings

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average water -- not drought tolerant

Fertilizing half-strength balance fertilizer in spring before flowering

Pruning remove dead leaves and flower stalk when spent

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions blooms best when crowded

Origin: China Family: Orchidaceae