

Care of your Tolumnia Orchid

The Tolumnia that you receive has been grown in high light greenhouse conditions with warm to very warm days and cool nights, but should quickly adapt to your home. In nature, Tolumnia grow in the tops of trees, so they experience relatively high light and low humidity. You will see that the triangular leaves are thick and succulent, but there are no pseudobulbs, as many other orchid species have. The leaves are the primary storage area for moisture. If the leaves are firm feeling, the plant is getting enough water. If the leaves become floppy and/or shriveled, this means that the plant needs more water. Your Tolumnia can tolerate considerable sun and a broad range of temperatures. The roots will grow and extend outside the moss ball on the mount, but this is perfectly normal. They will be perfectly OK even though they are exposed, and will fasten themselves to the cork to help anchor the plant. When watering, make sure all exposed roots are wet. Never cut live roots off of a Tolumnia or any other orchid.

Follow the general care instructions for mounted orchids, and your Tolumnia should thrive. When the plant blooms, do not cut the flower spike unless it is obviously dead and dried out! It may branch and produce more flowers. Tolumnia can bloom at any time of year, and may bloom continuously for a long period of time. New fan-shaped growths will develop from the base of the old leaf clusters and these will also bloom eventually. They can be divided when there are enough growths to have at least 2 per division.

Enjoy your orchid! If you have any questions about caring for your orchid, feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone.

Olympic Orchids & Orchid Finders

orchids@olympicorchids.com

206-229-7919