



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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### FYN Topic: Newly Naturalized Ground Orchid

**Question:** An uninvited guest sprung up again in one of my mulch beds. It looks like a bulb about the size of a medium onion with a long flower stalk and miniscule leaves. Should I destroy it? Last year I pulled up several without knowing what it is. I'm sure I didn't plant them but wonder where it came from?  
—Tom C. N. Naples--

**Answer:** Keep an eye out for this alien invader, still rare but becoming more of a problem. Thought to be an escapee orchid from hobbyist growers, it is classified as a newly naturalized ground orchid in Florida, called *Eulophia graminea* (no common name yet). It was first discovered on the east coast in a residential garden in Miami in 2007. We've seen several spring up unexpectedly this year in Lee County, including one found growing in the herb garden at Terry Park.

Look for a bulb-like stem between two leaf nodes, called a pseudobulb. The orchid favors open, warm and sunny spots, often seen partially buried in a thick woodchip mulch layer. Once mature, the pseudobulb produces a long, single shoot or stalk with three to five grass-like leaves and multiple tiny orchid flowers. By growing this plant you might be growing a future menace to your garden. Pull it out by hand to control. You may need to remove more plants as they sprout up.



**Pseudobulb**

**Bulb with Buds**

#### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



**Bulb Flower**

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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