

Blackfire Orchid

Pyrorchis nigricans



Plant Features

- **Leaf:** Large, round dark green leaf with red markings, lying flat on the soil; often 5–6 cm wide.
- **Flowers:** 2–8 reddish-purple and white blooms per stem, with a frilly lip marked by red lines.
- **Height:** Usually 10–30 cm tall when flowering.
- **Growth:** Native ground orchid with an underground tuber.



Growth & Fire Cycle

- **Leaf Stage:** In years without fire, you may only see the broad leaf sitting on the forest floor.
- **Fire Trigger:** Summer bushfire heat and smoke stimulate the tuber to send up a flowering spike.
- **Blackening:** After flowering from August to November, the plant dries and can turn jet black.



Habitat & Distribution

- **Habitat:** Forests, woodlands and heathlands in southern Australia.
- **Distribution:** South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and New South Wales.



Blooming Time

- August to November



Also known
as red beaks.

QUICK FACTS



Native
ground orchid



Fire-triggered
flowering



2–8
flowers



Large
round leaf



Leaf stage