



# Big Cypress National Preserve



## Ghost Orchid

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*(Dendrophylax lindenii)*

The enigmatic Ghost orchid has become a symbol of the South Florida landscape. Its tangled mass of green roots clings to trees deep in the swamps and is visible year-round, but the elusive flower is only seen in the peak of summer. At night, the spindly white flowers are pollinated by a moth whose reward is sweet nectar from a long spur. Due to collecting, hydrologic changes, and habitat destruction, the Ghost orchid is an endangered plant species.

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