

# Growing Brassia



*Brassia are among the many orchids commonly called “spider orchids” and fortunately spiders don’t grow as large as these gargantuan flowers—the blossoms of some measure up to 16" from top to bottom! Almost all species have fragrant flowers in shades of gold to green, speckled or banded with brown, purple or maroon. Plants may bear hundreds of blossoms perfectly spaced on gently arching spikes during the late spring to early summer.*

*Brassias are easy-to-grow and can be treated much like cattleyas, but they should never dry out completely during the active growth period.*

## Light

Medium bright light is best. Grow lights are fine. Plants do not tolerate direct sunlight.

## Temperature & Humidity

Their native habitat is from Florida to Central America, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica and Jamaica. Bearing this in mind, the relative humidity should be between 50 and 70%. To improve humidity the pot can be set on large pebbles in a tray of water making sure the pot never stands in water. A regular fine mist spraying is recommended to keep them healthy in the home

Brassias like a temperature of 64-75°F in the day with nighttime temperature of 55-60°.

## Watering

Water thoroughly at the sink with tepid water; let it run through several times then drain. Water about 1-2 times a week during hot weather—less in cool, damp weather. Brassias should rest about two months, during which water is reduced.

## Fertilizer

Premium Orchid Food 20-20-20 should be used at ½ strength twice a month. Check the roots occasionally—they should show live, green growing tips.

## Air Movement

This is very important as the plants are used to gentle breezes in their natural habitat. If there is no movement of air, the plants will stagnate. A small whisper fan nearby is a good way to generate this gentle air movement.

## Potting

Orchid bark is a good growing medium and is generally used. Bear in mind that bark decomposes over a period of 2-3 years and should be replaced to avoid medium staying too wet and to maintain a favorable acidity.

Propagate by dividing the pseudobulbs after flowering.

*The object of this culture sheet is to give you basic information on the cultural requirements of Brassia and their allied genera. Should you need additional information please stop by the Flower Shop for personalized help.*