

BRASSIA

The Spider Orchid

Brassia orchids are also known as spider orchids for their pointed sepals and long petals which resemble spider legs. Some forms of Brassia blossoms can stretch to more than 16 inches in length. Although Brassia's are not available in a wide variety of colors, most collectors can't resist their interesting colors.

LIGHT: Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production. They may be placed in front of a half sunny window that receives direct sun from the east or south. Provide a little more shade if it faces the west.

TEMPERATURE: For this group of orchids, temperatures considered intermediate to warm are best. 55 to 60°F at night, and 80 to 85°F during the day. Temperatures up to 95 to 100°F are tolerated if humidity and air movement are increased as the temperatures rise - a good general rule in any case.

WATER: Brassias should not be allowed to completely dry out between waterings. Seedlings need a little more water than mature plants.

FERTILIZER: Must be provided on a regular basis. The exact fertilizer you use will depend on the mix in which your plant is growing. A good general rule is to use a balanced (10-10-10 or 12-12-12) fertilizer "weakly, weekly." That is, fertilize every week at one quarter to one half of the recommended dilution.

POTTING: Brassias should be repotted about every two years before the medium begins to decompose. Young plants may benefit from being repotted yearly to a size larger pot each time.



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