

## Brassada Orchid Growing in the Riverina region of NSW

Brassada (Brsa.) is a bigeneric cross between *Brassia* and *Ada* that was first produced in 1970. The orange colour in the popular clone 'Orange Delight' produced in 1989 in California comes from the *Ada qurantiaca* parent from South America while the spider like flowers shape come from the *Brassia* parent (1).



The plant is similar in requirements to *Odontoglossum* and is generally regarded as a cool grower.

Plants flower in summer with up to 25 flowers on a spike (3). Spikes can be 40 cm long with flowers about 9 cm across. It flowers sequentially along the spike. Individual flowers only last for up to two weeks but the spike can flower for up to 8 weeks (1). Plants can flower more than once per year (3). The plant grows to about 30 cm in height and is similar in appearance to *Odontoglossums* but it's pseudobulbs are more elongated (1). They are regarded as easy to grow.

*Brassada* 'Orange Delight'

### Temperature requirements

It can be grown in cool conditions but will also tolerate higher temperatures. They will not tolerate frosts. They are best grown in a covered shadehouse in the Riverina region of NSW.

### Light

Brassada prefers low to medium light conditions (1000-2000fc) similar to *Brassia* (3). Leaves will show black spots if they receive too much light. Keep more shaded in summer with more light in winter (3).

### Humidity and air movement

Plants prefer high humidity (2) preferably 50% or higher (3). Use the pot-in-pot technique to increase humidity.

### Water

Water the plants when the potting medium dries, but do not allow plants to dry out completely (2). After flowering, allow the plants to slightly dry out for about 4 weeks and increase watering once new growth commences (2). If new pseudobulbs shrivel this is sign they require more water (3). Use distilled water for best results (3). Water in the morning as they do not like their leaves wet at night.



### **Potting medium**

Use a medium grade bark and perlite mixture (2). Repot plants after flowering (3).

### **Fertilizers**

They require frequent application of quarter to half strength fertilizer during their growing season. A high phosphorus and potassium fertilizer is recommended in early spring or once flower spikes appear. Leach pots periodically to remove excess salts.

Plants are readily available in Australia.



*Your comments and suggestions on cultural guide are welcome.  
Email your comments to [dearconsultingservices@gmail.com](mailto:dearconsultingservices@gmail.com)*

### **Further reading and acknowledgements**

The information in this guide has been gained from local growers and the publications below.

1. Easy orchid flower- Brassada Orange Delight.  
<http://www.orchidplantcare.info/easy-orchid-flower-brassada-orange-delight/>
2. Brassada. Orchids Wiki. <http://orchids.wikia.com/wiki/Brassada>
3. Brassada Orange Delight. Orchid Web.  
<https://www.orchidweb.com/products/brassada-orange-delight-starbek-hccaos~902.html>

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These notes are intended as a guide only and are composed from available information and local experience. The Wagga Wagga Orchid Society and its members are not responsible for any loss or damage.