



The Oncidium Intergenerics

Species Involved

Some of the different genera used in this alliance include:

Ada, Aspasia, Brassia, Cochliodes, Comparettia, Ionopsis, Leochilus, Gomesia, Miltonia (Brazilian), Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Rodriguezia and *Trichocentrum*.

These species come from Central America (Florida through Mexico, Guatemala to Brazil) and most are easy to grow under man-made conditions, subsequently; the hybrids from them are also easy to grow, not requiring any specialised conditions in intermediate to warm areas. Many are quite suitable for landscaping on trees etc around the garden and on rocks, around artificial ponds and waterfalls in temperate, sub-tropical and tropical areas.

With so many genera and the hundreds of species represented within this Alliance it is no wonder that there are many thousands of hybrids for the enthusiast to choose from.

Culture

It is reasonably easy, given the wealth of material available and the multitude of different conditions the species within this alliance grow under, to select those intergeneric hybrids that will suit your growing conditions. Watch the plants tabled at your local society meetings and shows for flowers that take your eye and approach the owners, ask them what conditions they grow their plants under and if your growing conditions are similar see if they have a division available for sale or where you can obtain that plant or something similar.

Temperature

Most intergenerics within this alliance will grow well under Intermediate to warm conditions, minimum of 10 degrees Celsius to a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius. There are always exceptions and some will grow colder.

Light

Many of the Grexes had *Brassia* in their parentage. These plants will usually have spider shaped flowers and will tolerate more light. Some like *Brassidium* require around 50% to 60% light to flower.

If the leaves become too yellow and the flower racemes are short and crowded - reduce the light and if the leaves are too green and the flower racemes are weak and straggly increase the light.

Potting mix

Potting mix needs to be fairly long lasting, free draining and have reasonable air space between the particles. Orchid bark with possibly some charcoal, perlite or coco husk chips included or a mixture of all is quite satisfactory.

Plastic pots are generally used but the plant should not be overpotted. A fairly tight fit being more conducive to flowering than over potting.

Humidity

These plants like a relative humidity of around 50% to 60%. This will depend on your other growing conditions such as air movement and potting media. On very hot days add humidity by wetting the floor of your orchid house; don't wet the plants during this time.

In the colder months keep the plants dryer at night.

Watering

This depends greatly on other factors such as air movement, potting media, temperature etc.

These plants like to be moist (not wet) at all times as they tend to grow all year round.

During the colder times, water mid morning so the plants (not the potting media) are dry by nightfall thus reducing the possibility of fungal spotting and damage from frost.

Fertilizer

A well balanced fertilizer applied at regular at around ½ gram per litre will assist the growth and flower production. Avoid fertilizers with high nitrogen as this will cause tall sappy growth which is susceptible to pest attacks and won't produce many flowers.

Air circulation

This is a must for any orchid; good air circulation will prevent many Fungal and Bacterial problems from arising.

A good buoyant atmosphere should be maintained at all times.

Pests and disease

Fungal infections are rare and usually only minor. Some spotting may occur on leaves due to low temperatures but won't adversely harm the plant. Pests include scale, aphids & spider mite which should be dealt with using the recommended insecticide.

Disclaimer: These notes are supplied in good faith and Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

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Meetings: Every fourth Friday of each month at 7.30pm, except September & December.

Venue: St. Paul's Hall, Cnr. James and Phillip Sts, Toowoomba