The Genus Brassia
R.Brown in W.T.Aiton, Hortus Kew. 5: 215 (1813)
Type: Brassia [Brs.] maculata

[BRASS-ee-ah mak-yew-LAH-ta]

Brassia maculata
'Monte Vista' HCC/AOS
Jul 1982, NS 6.0 cm
24 Flwrs, 9 Buds, 2 Inflrs

Brassia is composed of 68 species native from Florida/Mexico into Tropical America as well as some Carribbean Islands as indicated in figure below. This group was recently created in 2012 by Chase and Whitten by combining three previous genera into the previous existing Brassia genus. The prior genera where Ada, Brachtia, and Mesospinidium. The table below of key species will inlude a column title 'Group' that will be prior genus that the species were in before the 2012 combining. The native habitats ranging from hot coastal planes to the cold montane forest of equatorial America. Most are epiphytes. Relatively small species group, the vegatative growth are similar except for size.

The major distinguishing features of most of these plants is the similar sepals and petals which is support by the common name for these plants "Spider Orchids." Other common feature is the short column, two polina, and two parallel callus on the lip. Brassia species are generally separated into two climate groups, warm and cold. The 'classical' Brassia, Brassia group, are generally prefer the warm to hot climates, while the other three groups, Ada, Brachtia, and Mesospinidium groups, gererally prefer the cold to cool climates associated with equatorial mountains.

Of the 68 species only 24, a little over 1/3, have been used in hybridization while 35 grexes have received an award.

Common Name or Meaning – "The Spider Orchid"

Generally, you would point scale using the general point scale.

Below is a table of key brassia species. The species were initially selected based on having the eight most awards and/or F1 progeny (NOTE: 5 species 'qualified' for fifth place in awards with 3 awards for each). To this list were added two species from the Brachtia and Mesospinidium groups as well as some additional Brassia / Ada species for a total of 21 species in the table. Pictures of some of the least seen species are included to give an ideal of what to expect from the Brassia genera.

Brassia:

Brassia bidens
'Chadds Ford' AM/AOS
Dec 1968, NS 5.1 cm
50 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 4 Inflrs

Brassia caudata
'Rosemarie Leupi' AM/AOS
Jan 1990, NS 13.5 x 20.8 cm
37 Flwrs, 63 Buds, 8 Inflrs

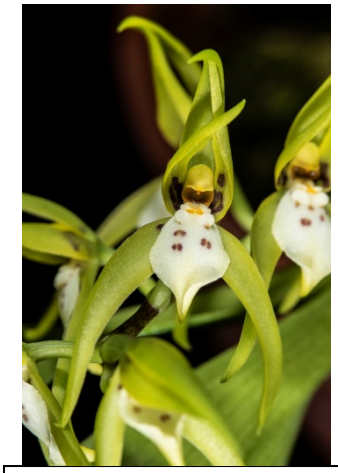
Brassia chloroleuca
'Vera Cruz' CHM/AOS
Jun 1997, NS 3.0 x 9.0 cm
41 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 3 Inflrs

Brassia lanceana
'Orange Beauty' HCC/AOS
Mar 1989, NS 5.1 cm
45 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 3 Inflrs

Brassia rhizomatosa
'Windy Hill' CHM/AOS
May 1998, NS 5.0 x 12.2 cm
40 Flwrs, 28 Buds, 4 Inflrs

Brassia signata
'The Lone Ranger' AM/AOS
Jun 2000, NS 3.5 x 8.2 cm
43 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 5 Inflrs

Brassia thyrsodes
'J.E.M.' HCC/AOS
May 1997, NS 9.0 x 11.0 cm
38 Flwrs, 5 Buds, 3 Inflrs



Brassia warscewiczii
Nullified
Aug 2018, NS 2.0 x 5.0 cm
7 Flwrs, 6 Buds, 2 Inflrs

Table of species, top 8 progeny and 8 awards (OrchidWiz – Mar 2020 update) Plus additional select species.

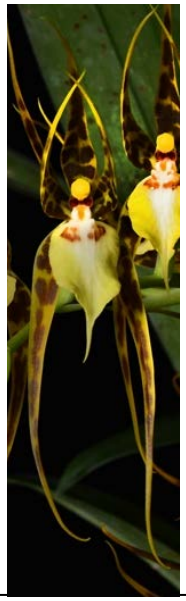
				Progeny	Awards	AOS Awards										
Kew Name	**Country**	**Group**	**Climate**	**F1/Total**		**FCC**	**AM**	**HCC**	**JC**	**AD**	**AQ**	**CCE**	**CCM**	**CHM**	**CBR**	**Total**
Brassia allenii	Columbia, Honduras, Panama	Ada	Cool to Hot	1/1	3			1							2	3
Brassia andina	Columbia to Peru	Brachtia	Cold to Cool	1/1	1										1	1
Brassia arcuigera	Honduras to Peru / Venezuela	Brassia	Warm to hot	49/284	19		6	5	1				3		1	16
Brassia aurantiaca	Ecuador to Venezuela	Ada	Cold to Cool	25/72	17		1					1	7			9
Brassia bidens	Venesuela, Guyana, Brazil	Brassia	Warm to hot	1/1	4		1		1					1		3
Brassia brevis	Columbia, Ecuador	Brachtia	Cold to Cool	0/0	3									1		1
Brassia caudata	Florida / Mexico to Bolivia/Brazil, Carribbean Islands	Brassia	Warm to hot	25/62	10		2	1	1				5			9
Brassia chloroleuca	Guyanas, Brazil	Brassia	Hot	8/10	2									2		2
Brassia euodes	Columbia to Peru	Ada	Cool to Warm	0/0	3							1		1		2
Brassia garayana	Ecuador to Peru	Mesospinidium	Warm	0/0	0											0
Brassia gireoudiana	Costa Rica, Panama	Brassia	Warm to hot	42/355	31		21	4				1	3	1		30
Brassia glumacea	Venesuela to Bolivia	Ada	Cool to Warm	8/13	0											0
Brassia incantans	Columbia to Bolivia	Mesospinidium	Cool to Warm	0/0	1										1	1
Brassia keiliana	Guyana to Columbia	Ada	Cool to Warm	17/24	21		3						1	2		6
Brassia lanceana	Guyanas to Peru	Brassia	Warm to hot	9/11	2			1						1		2
Brassia maculata	Mexico to Costa Rica, Carribbean Islands	Brassia	Warm to hot	28/92	3			1					1	1		3
Brassia rhizomatosa	Venesuela to Peru	Brassia	Cool	1/1	3								2	1		3
Brassia signata	Mexico to Bolivia	Brassia	Cool to Warm	0/0	6		1	1						2	2	6
Brassia thyrsodes	Bolivia	Brassia	Cool to Warm	3/3	3			1						2		3
Brassia verrucosa	Mexico to Brazil	Brassia	Cool to Warm	70/653	47		7	2	1				8			18
Brassia warszewiczii	Ecuador	Brassia	Warm to hot	1/2	3										2	2

Key: Cold – 50 to 58F at night; Cold to cool – 50 to 66F at night; Cool – 58 to 66F at night; Cool to warm – 58 to 75F at night; Cool to Hot – 58 to 85F at night; Warm – 66 to 75F at night; Warm to Hot – 66 to 85F at night; Hot – 75 to 85F at night

Ada:

Brassia allenii
'Our Tropics' HCC/AOS
Mar 1997, NS 7.2 x 11.8 cm
97 Flwrs, 26 Buds, 19 Inflrs

Brassia euodes
NS 1.6 x 1.8 cm



Brassia glumacea
Nullified
Nov 2014, NS 2.1 x 6.2 cm
25 Flwrs, 11 Buds, 4 Inflrs

Brassia keiliana
'Wylde One' AM/AOC
Sep 2014, NS 2.3 x 10.0 cm
468 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 52 Inflrs

Brachtia:

Brassia andina
NS 1.25 cm

Brassia brevis
'Maria del Monte' CHM/AOS
Nov 2009, NS 0.7 x 1.1 cm
66 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 7 Inflrs

Mesospinidium:

Brassia garayana
NS 0.5 cm

Brassia incanans
NS 0.5 x 1.2 cm

Clearly the Brassia genus, from this table, is dominated by three species Brassia verrucose, Brassia gireoudiana, and Brassia arcuigera. Brassia verrucose has most F1 and total progeny and the second most AOS awards. Brassia gireoudiana has the third most F1 progeny, second most total progeny, and most AOS Awards. Brassia arcuigera has the second most F1 progeny, third most total progeny and AOS awards. All three of these species are from the 'classical' Brassia Group. Not until you look at the next cluster (also three grexes, Brassia maculate, Brassia aurantiaca, and Brassia caudata) do you get a non – 'classical' Brassia, Brassia aurantiaca, in the 'classical' Ada Group, is tied for fifth in F1 progeny, fourth in total progeny, and tied for fourth in AOS awards.

The emphasis of Brassia breeding has been intergeneric with over 20 intergeneric crosses made prior to the first brassia hybrid being registed. The three major intergenic crosses are: Aliceara [Brassia, Miltonia, Oncidium, 278 grexes], Brassidium [Brassia, Oncidium, 232 grexes], and Bratonia [Brassia, Miltonia, 172 grexes] of the 52 intergeneric crosses having more grexes than Brassia 102 crosses. Breeding trends appear to be towards floriferous plants with large, round flowers with a large flat lip.

Brassia verrucose

Brassia verrucose
'John Margaret' AM/AOC
Sep 2015, NS 10.0 x 31.0 cm
44 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 4 Inflrs
70 F1 and 653 total progeny

Brassia gireoudiana
'Luisito SABG' AM/AOS
May 2017, NS 13.5 x 22.0 cm
41 Flwrs, 11 Buds, 3 Inflrs
42 F1 and 355 total progeny

Brassia arcuigera
'Christina' AM/AOS
Aug 1996, NS 13.3 x 35.0 cm
12 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 1 Inflrs
49 F1 and 284 total progeny

Brassia aurantiaca
'Nye Hill' AM/AOC
Sep 2012, NS 2.7 x 3.7 cm
50 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 10 Inflrs
25 F1 and 72 total progeny

The key species used in Brassia breeding are pictured above with key progeny below: **Most F1 and notable**

Brassia Rex
'The Giant' AM/AOS
May 2008, NS 15.2 x 35.0 cm
39 Flwrs, 4 Buds, 4 Inflrs
(Brassia verrucose x
Brassia gireoudiana)
85 F1 and 193 total progeny

Bratonia Charles M. Fitch
'Krueger' AM/AOS
Oct 1987, NS 15.4 x 10.5 cm
23 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 4 Inflrs
(Brassia verrucose x
Miltonia spectabilis)
47 F1 and 82 total progeny

Aliceara Tahoma Glacier
'Karlita Mata' AM/AOS
Sep 2014, NS 13.3 x 12.5 cm
11 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Bratonia Cartagena x
Oncidium Alaskan Sunset)
42 F1 and 76 total progeny

Brassidium Pagan Lovesong
'Cupid's Beau' AM/AOS
Oct 1999, NS 10.6 x 11.0 cm
9 Flwrs, 7 Buds, 10 Inflrs
(Oncidium Tiger Butter x
Brassia verrucose)
33 F1 and 39 total progeny

Brassia Edvah Loo
'NIshida' AM/AOS
Nov 1996, NS 9.5 x 53.0 cm
16 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Brassia arcuigera x
Brassia gireoudiana)
41 F1 and 95 total progeny

Brassidium Guilded Urchin
'Brianna' AM/AOS
Feb 2017, NS 8.8 x 11.1 cm
9 Flwrs, 4 Buds, 1 Inflr
(Brassia arcuigera x
Oncidium wentworthianun)
21 F1 and 41 total progeny

Bratonia Royal Robe
'Karlita Mata' AM/AOS
Sep 2015, NS 9.5 x 11.5 cm
8 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 3 Inflrs
(Bratonia Erachne x
Miltonia Seminole Blood)
18 F1 progeny

Bratonia Orange Sherbert
'Highlands' HCC/AOS
Oct 2005, NS 6.0 x 6.1 cm
13 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 2 Inflrs
(Brassia aurantiaca x
Miltonia William Kirch)
5 F1 progeny

Most Awards and notable (not mention above)

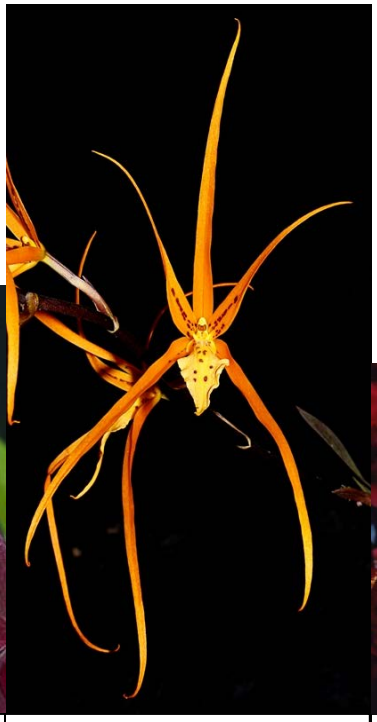
Aliceara Memoria Teruo Oka
'Adele' AM/AOS
Oct 1986, NS 10.8 cm
17 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 2 Inflrs
(Aliceara Dorothy Oka x
Brassia gireoudiana)
No progeny

Gombrassiltonia Sweetheart Jonel
'Thousand Oaks' AM/AOS
Jan 1982, NS 10.7 cm
6 Flwrs, 1 Bud, 1 Inflr
(Bratonia Cartagena x
Gomesa Enderanum)
2 F1 progeny

Bratonia Aztec
'Hilo' HCC/AOS
Sep 2002, NS 9.3 x 10.3 cm
6 Flwrs, 1 Bud, 2 Inflrs
(Bratonia Cartagena x
Miltonia Minas Gerais)
29 F1 and 45 total progeny

Brassia Eternal Wind
'Summer Song' AM/AOS
May 2004, NS 11.5 x 21.0 cm
52 Flwrs, 24 Buds, 5 Inflrs
(Brassia Bracdiana x
Brassia Rex)
5 F1 progeny

Bratonia Dark Star
'Darth Vader' AM/AOS
Oct 2004, NS 9.5 x 53.0 cm
2 Flwrs, 3 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Bratonia Olmec x
Miltonia Anne Warne)
1 F1 progeny

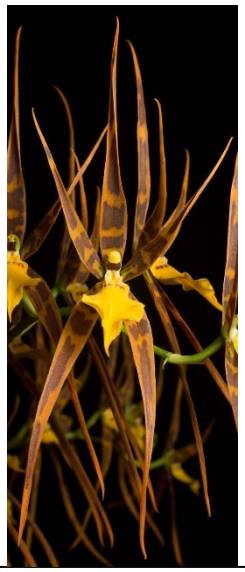


Brassia Memoria Bert Field
'Panama' AM/AOS
Apr 2015, NS 9.0 x 20.0 cm
65 Flwrs, 17 Buds, 7 Inflr
(Brassia arcuigera x
Oncidium wentworthianun)
21 F1 and 41 total progeny

Aliceara Marfitch
'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS
Nov 1997, NS 14.0 x 13.5 cm
22 Flwrs, 3 Buds, 2 Inflrs
(Bratonia Charles M. Fitch x
Oncidium Fremar)
8 F1 progeny

Brassidium Golden Harry
'Highlands' HCC/AOS
Mar 2010, NS 8.0 x 9.0 cm
9 Flwrs, 3 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Brassidium Gold Star x
Oncidium Harry Baldwin)
3 F1 progeny

Recently Registered awardees:



Brassia Steve Male
'Thanks, John' FCC/AOS
Jan 2019, NS 7.4 x 18.0 cm
21 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 2 Inflrs
(Brassia keiliana x
Brassia Memoria Bert Field)
No progeny

Brassidium Gilded Rex
'Ada's Origin' AM/AOS
Feb 2020, NS 11.1 x 18.2 cm
22 Flwrs, 2 Buds, 2 Inflr
(Brassidium Gilded Urchin x
Brassia Rex)
No progeny

Brassidium Scrabmbled Eggs
'With Bacon' AM/AOS
Jun 2018, NS 5.0 x 5.8 cm
39 Flwrs, 7 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Brassia Memoria Bert Field x
Oncidium leucochilum)
No progeny

Brassidomesa Golden Stars
'Keith' AM/AOS
Oct 2020, NS 7.8 x 9.0 cm
23 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 2 Inflrs
(Gomesa echinata x
Brassidium Shooting Star)
No progeny

Aliceara Sophia Liebman
'Rustic #1' AM/AOS
Sep 2021, NS 7.4 x 18.0 cm
19 Flwrs, 7 Buds, 3 Inflrs
(Aliceara Marfitch x
Oncidium Burning Red)
No progeny

Brassidium Orange Lustre
'Trixie' HCC/AOS
May 2021, NS 7.2 x 10.5 cm
17 Flwrs, 3 Buds, 1 Inflr
(Brassia Orange Delight x
Oncidium Illustre)
No progeny

Brassidium Scarlet Star
'Fireworks' HCC/AOS
Jul 2019, NS 4.9 x 6.5 cm
9 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Brassia keiliana x
Oncidium Lois Posey)
No progeny

Brascidostele Catatante Rex
'Highlands' HCC/AOS
Mar 2010, NS 8.0 x 9.0 cm
9 Flwrs, 3 Buds, 1 Inflrs
(Brassidium Gold Star x
Oncidium Harry Baldwin)
No progeny

In order to select the three Building Block grexes, I generated the following table of information below:

Grex	AOS Awards	Progeny					
		F1	Total	F1, 2011-	Total, 2011-	F1, 2016-	Total, 2016-
Brassia Rex	38	85	193	10	22	5	11
Brassia Edvah Loo	11	41	95	2	9	1	2
Brassia Memoria Bert Field	9	16	21	5	9	3	5
Bratonia Charles M. Fitch	14	47	82	4	11	1	6
Bratonia Royal Robe	7	18	18	3	0	1	0
Bratonia Aztec	10	29	45	4	7	0	1
Aliceara Tahoma Glacier	18	42	76	3	7	0	4
Aliceara Tropical Splendor	3	17	21	0	1	0	1
Brassidium Pagan Lovesong	54	33	39	1	4	1	2
Brassidium Guilded Urchin	3	21	41	1	9	1	5

Highlighted cells are top three in categories. Clearly Brassia Rex is selected since it is top in all categories. Bratonia Charles M. Fitch is selected next since in top three in all categories except AOS awards (4th). Based on number of AOS awards, one would expect to both Alicerara Tahoma Glacier and/or Brassidium Pagan Lovesong selected. But based on progeny, they do not appear to be good breeding plants (Brassidium Pagan Lovesong is a notorious slow grower). The third grex to be selected is between Brassia Memoria Bert Field and Brassidium Guilded Urchin. Brassia Memoria Bert Field is selected based on greater number of recent F1 progeny, flower color, and number of AOS awards.

References:

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https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx
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Bechtel, H.; Cribb, P.; Launert, E.: *The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species*, 1992
Phytotaxa, *Further Taxonomic Transfers in Oncidiinae (Orchidaceae*, Chase, M. W., Whitten, W. M.; 20:26-32,2011
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Judging webinar: Judging the Oncidiinae
Oncidinae Intergenerics – Breeding Trends and Judging Standards
By Ron Midgett, Sept 2018

Short Commentary on most Valuable Information Learn

Three breeding directions:

- Undiscovered Country – Individual hybridizers investigating new and crosses for various reasons. The most common would be large round flowers that will bloom in warmer climates. Most of these are intergeneric crosses
- Classical Crosses – This would include the classical Miltonias, Odontoglossum, etc.
- Commerialization – Grown for the mass market. Requirements are blooming in two years, two spikes per mature bulb, good flower count, clean foliage. Flower quality and color are secondary.

Within the Oncidium family, occasionally there are special genetic cases were you don't get what you expect. This is usually when a diploid is crossed with a tetraploid. Two classic casese are:

Aliceara Tahoma Glacier – Sepals and petals wider at base than anticipated, cool grower.

Brassidium Pagan Lovesong – Sepals and petals wider at base. Great parent but a slow grower.

Judging Criteria – In general, the judging criteria is the same as all orchids. Areas of particular emphasis / difference are discussed below:

- Type and Breeding
- Color – no bleeding
- Flower forms
  - Open star
  - Full star (Tahoma Glacier)
  - Round and full (strong Odontoglossum influence)
  - Lip dominant (progeny of Gomesa vericosa, Miltoniopsis, and Miltonia)
  - Lip not dominant (Such as Odontoglossum)
- Flower count
  - Geometric mean not always reliable estimate
  - Awarding of immature plants affects what we should expect, recommend not awarding
- Presentation
  - Flowers bunched at end of the inflorescence normally a negative

Zelenkoa onustum species and progeny tend to have lips that are at right angles to sepals and petals

Oncidium cirrhosum tends to have VERY twisted progeny.

BUILDING BLOCK DATA

Brassia Rex
(Brassia verrucosa x Brassia gireoudiana)

Registered in 1964 by W. W. G. Moir. Third Brassia cross register, three years after the first registered Brassia cross.

Selected since it is highly award, has been a great parent and is still being heavily used in current breeding programs. This is based on it having the second most AOS awards and most progeny in all six categories considered (Total F1, total progeny, F1 and total progeny since 2011, F1 and total progeny since 2016).

Brassia verrucosa

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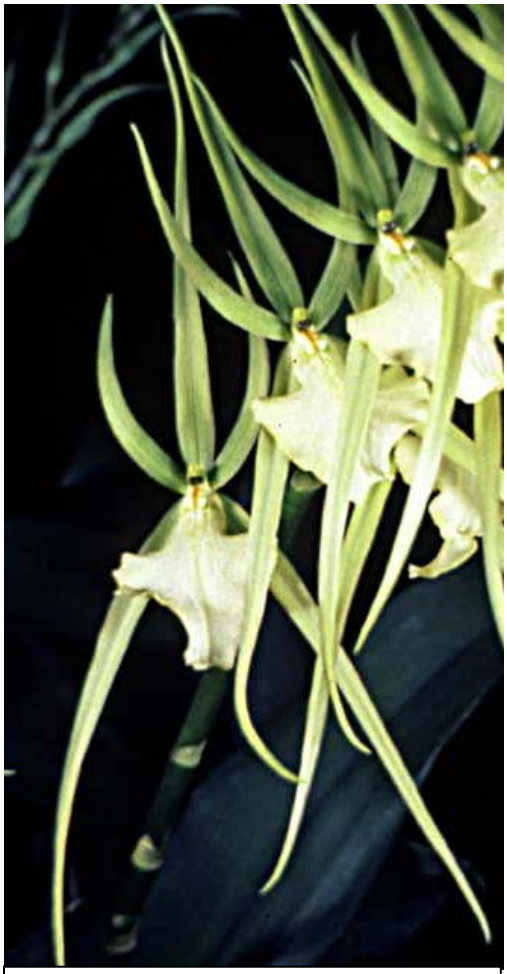
Brassia gireoudiana



Brassia Rex
'Waiomao Spotless' FCC/AOS
May 2006, NS 15.0 x 27.0 cm
52 Flwrs, 31 Buds, 5 Inflrs

Awards:

Below are AOS awards that Brassia Rex has received:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	AD	JC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS	3	18	5				1	11			**38**
Year(s) Awarded	1996-2006	1969-2014	1968-1991				2002	1992-2019			

This cross has received 38 awards since initially being shown in 1968.

Breeding Characteristics:

There are presently 193 progeny associated with Brassia Rex and most of these were F1 and F2 progeny. To this day, it is a showstopper, when a well grown plant is shown. The table below list the Brassia Rex progeny registered per decade and awards associated with the grex (per OrchidWiz 8.1).

Brassia Rex	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	Total
Reg	0	7	38	64	60	22	2	193
Assc Awds	0	8	26	69	39	5	0	147
F1								
Reg	0	5	18	31	21	9	1	85
Assc Awds	0	8	20	45	16	3	0	92
F2								
Reg	0	2	14	30	27	8	0	81
Assc Awds	0	0	10	32	10	0	0	52
F3								
Reg	0	0	6	3	12	4	1	26
Assc Awds	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Total (F1-F3)								
Reg	0	7	38	64	60	21	2	192
Assc Awds	0	8	30	78	27	4	0	147

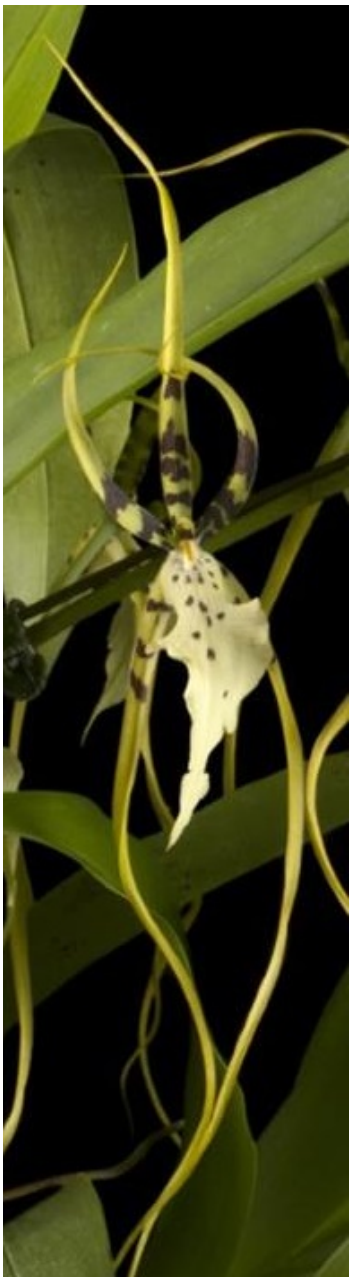
Possible breeding attributes are: 'spider' shaped flowers with relatively large natural spreads. Flower color is limited, no purple and limited red flowers. Breeding with Brassia Rex peaked in 1990-2000s at around 60 registered crosses per decade to presently around 20 registered crosses per decade and falling. Primary breeding interest as been in regards to first- and second-generation hybrids with around 80 crosses registered. Third generation registered crosses drops to 26 and only one fourth generation cross registered.

There are only 43 Brassia crosses register of the 193 registered crosses receiving 50 awards, the remaining 150 hybrids and 97 awards are distributed between 19 intergeneric genera. The three largest groups are Aliceara (Brs x Milt x Onc, 31 registered crosses and 9 awards), Bratonia (Brs x Milt, 42 registered crosses and 30 awards), and Brassidium (Brs x Onc, 30 registered crosses and 31 awards.). Clearly, as is the case for the all of the Brassia family, the greatest hybridizing interest is in intergeneric breeding with an apparent goal of large round flowers with more variety in color.

Outstanding progeny and reason they are considered outstanding:

Bratonia Olmec
'Waterfall' HCC/AOS
8 Flws, 16 Buds, 4 Infls., NS 11.3 x 9.0 cm
(Brassia Rex x Miltonia Minas Gerais)
Registered in 1975 by W. W. G. Moir

This was the third cross registed involving Brassia Rex as a parent. It has the most progeny (24 F1 and 33 total progeny) and the fourth most awards (8 total awards, 4 AOS awards: 1 AM , 3 HCCs). The most notable progeny is Bratonia Dark Star, see below.



Brassia Memoria Fritz Boedeker 'Mitamura' AM/AOS
15 Flws, 0 Buds, 1 Infl., NS 4.7 x 36.0 cm
(Brassia arcuigera x Brassia Rex)
Registered in 1983 by B. Brazaitis

It has the second most progeny (10 F1 progeny) and three AM/AOS awards. The most notable progeny is Brasidium Pisgah Recluse (Bras. Memoria Fritz Boedeker x Brsdm. Kenneth Bivin), 1999, Looking Glass Orchids, no progeny, and 5 AOS awards (2 AMs and 3 HCCs).

Brassia Eternal Wind 'Summer Song' AM/AOS
52 Flws, 24 Buds, 5 Infl., NS 11.5 x 21.0 cm
(Brassia Bracdiana x Brassia Rex)
Registered in 1993 by M. Sato

This grex has the most awards for a Brassia Rex hybrid, 10 with five being AOS awards (2 AMs, 1 HCC, 1 CCE, and 1 CCM) and five F1 progeny. No major progeny.

Bratonia Dark Star 'Darth Vader' AM/AOS
57 Flws, 26 Buds, 43 Infls. NS 8.8 x 11.2 cm
(Brat. Olmec x Milt. Anne Warne)
Registered in 1998 by J. W. McCully

This grex has the second most awards for a Brassia Rex hybrid, nine AOS awards (1 AM, 2 HCCs, and 6 CCMs) and one F1 progeny. No major progeny.

Desirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Large flowers, well-spaced flowering habit, vigor, intermediate to warm growing conditions.

Undesirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Stellate flowers, limit color variation, sprawling plant habit.

References:

https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx
OrchidWiz Database x8.1, update: December 2021

BUILDING BLOCK DATA

Bratonia Charles M. Fitch
(Brassia verrucosa x Milt. spectabilis)

Registered in 1961 by C. M. Fitch (made by F. Gamble). This cross seems to have kicked off interest into high gear.

Selected since it and its progeny appear to be very good parents (total, F1, F2, and progeny total and registered since 2016). From looking at the parents it is apparent that Bratonia Charles M. Fitch has combined the better attributes of both parents, large stellate flowers, ovate lip, and pleasing colors.

Bratonia Charles M. Fitch
'Izumi' AM/AOS
Jul 1997, NS 11.0 x 14.0 cm
31 Flwrs, 1 Bud, 3 Inflrs

Brassia verrucosa

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Miltonia spectabilis

Awards:

Below are AOS awards that Bratonia Charle M. Fitch has received:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	AD	JC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS		5	4			1		4			**14**
Year(s) Awarded		1966-1997	1967-2005			2004		1971-1975			

This cross has received 14 awards since initially being shown in 1966, the two most recent awards for peloric flowers / grexes.

Breeding Characteristics:

There are presently 82 progeny associated with Bratonia Charles M. Fitch and most of these were F1 and F2 progeny. Most of the progeny, 55, are in the genus Alicerara with the second most, fourteen, in the genus Bratonia. The remaining 13 grexes are in seven other genera. The table below list the Brassia Rex progeny registered per decade and awards associated with the grex (per OrchidWiz 8.1).

Bratonia Charles M. Fitch	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	Total
Reg	0	9	17	16	22	16	2	82
Assc Awds	0	10	11	6	2	1	0	30
F1								
Reg	0	7	14	10	5	10	1	47
Assc Awds	0	10	12	4	0	1	0	27
F2								
Reg	0	2	2	6	17	4	1	32
Assc Awds	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
F3								
Reg	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Assc Awds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total								
Reg	0	9	17	16	22	16	2	82
Assc Awds	0	10	12	5	2	1	0	30

Possible breeding attributes are: 'spider' shaped flowers with relatively large natural spreads. Several awarded cultivars have relative uniform plum to plum / lavendar flower color and nicely shaped ovate lips. Breeding with Bratonia Charles M. Fitch fluctuates, from decade to decade. In regards to awards, it appears that first generation progeny have caught the judges eyes the most.

Outstanding progeny (All from the Aliceara genus) and reason they are considered outstanding:

Aliceara Marfitch
'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS
22 Flws, 3 Buds, 2 Infls., NS 14.0 x 13.5 cm
(Brastonia Charles M. Fitch x Oncidium Fremar)
Registered in 1983 by R. Dugger

This grex only has 8 F1 progeny. This is surprising to me, suspect it is related to fertilite issues. It has 8 total awards, 6 AOS awards: 3 AMs , 2 HCCs, 1 CCM). No notable progeny.

Aliceara Hani
'Star of Unicorn' AM/AOS
8 Flws, 5 Buds, 3 Infl., NS 14.0 cm
(Bratonia Charles M. Fitch x Oncidium hallii)
Registered in 1989 by E. Katier

As above, no major breeding with this grex. There are 6 F1 and 8 total progeny. There has been only 1 AM/AOS award for this grex. No notable progeny.

Aliceara Admiralty Islands

‘Oslo’ HCC/AOS
7 Flws, 0 Buds, 1 Infl., NS 10.6 cm
(Bratonia Charles M. Fitch x Oncidium Jackie Gleason)
Registered in 1972 by Beal

This grex has five AOS awards (2 AMs and 3 HCCs) and no progeny.

Desirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Large flowers, well-spaced flowering habit, vigor, intermediate to warm growing conditions.

Undesirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Stellate flowers, limit color variation, sprawling plant habit. I suspect there are fertility issues associated with its progeny since none of the progeny were very productive.

References:

https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx
OrchidWiz Database x8.1, update: December 2021

BUILDING BLOCK DATA

Brassia Memoria Bert Field
(Brassia aurantiaca x Brassia verrucosa)

Registered in 1970 by Grace Field. Third Brassia cross register, three years after the first registered cross.

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Selected since it is highly award, has been a great parent and is still being used in current breeding programs, five F1 progeny registered in the last 10 years. It has received 9 AOS awards (4 AMs, 3 HCCs, 1 AD, 1 CCM) and has 16 F1 and 21 total progeny. The crossing with Brassia aurantiaca has brought an exciting color into brassia breeding.

Brassia aurantiaca

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Brassia verrucosa

Brassia Memoria Bert Field
'Panama' AM/AOS
Apr 2015, NS 9.0 x 20.0 cm
65 Flwrs, 17 Buds, 7 Inflrs

Awards:

Below are AOS awards that Brassia Memoria Bert Field has received:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	AD	JC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS		4	3		1			1			**9**
Year(s) Awarded		1920-2015	1985-2005		1975			2014			

This cross has received 9 awards since initially being shown in 1975.

Breeding Characteristics:

There are presently 21 progeny associated with Brassia Memoria Bert Field and most of these were F1 and F2 progeny. To this day, it is a showstopper, when a well grown plant is shown. The table below list the Brassia Memoria Bert Field progeny registered per decade and awards associated with the grex (per OrchidWiz 8.1).

Brassia Memoria Bert Fields	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	Total
Reg	0	5	4	3	8	1	21
Assc Awds	0	3	1	8	4	0	16
F1							
Reg	0	5	4	2	4	1	16
Assc Awds	0	3	1	0	4	0	8
F2							
Reg	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Assc Awds	0	0	0	8	0	0	8
F3							
Reg	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Assc Awds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total							
Reg	0	5	4	3	8	1	21
Assc Awds	0	3	1	8	4	0	16

Possible breeding attributes are: 'spider' shaped flowers with relatively large natural spreads. The carroty flower color is not dominate. Breeding with Brassia Memoria Bert Fields has not been high but appears to be at a constant level since it was registered in 1970. Since the first hybrid was registered in 1981, eleven years after Brassia Memoria Bert Fields was registed, that the progeny are slow to flower. There may be a peak in interest in breeding with it since eight progeny was registered in the 2010s.

There are five Brassia crosses register of the 21 registered crosses receiving 3 awards, the remaining 16 hybrids and 13 awards are distributed between 5intergeneric genera. The largest group is Brassidium (Brs x Onc) with 9 registered crosses and 11 awards. I suspect the reason is the yellow color that the Oncidium family brings to its progeny.

Outstanding progeny and reason they are considered outstanding:

Brassidium Golden Harry
'Golden Vision' HCC/AOS
14 Flws, 0 Buds, 1 Infls., NS 9.0 x 8.0 cm
(Brassidium Gold Star x Oncidium Harry Baldwin)
Registered in 2000 by Glen.O.Acres (Glenwood Orchid Acres)

This is the only progeny, second generation, of Brassia Memoria Bert Field with significant progeny and awards. It has three F1 progeny and eight AOS awards (2 AMs , 6 HCCs). There are no significant progeny.

Desirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Large flowers, well-spaced flowering habit, intermediate to warm growing conditions.

Undesirable characteristics which can be passed to progeny:
Stellate flowers, limit color variation, apparently slow maturing habit.

References:

https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx
OrchidWiz Database x8.1, update: December 2021

The Genus Aliceara
Orchid Rev. 72(853, noh): 1 (1964)
[Brassia × Miltonia × Oncidium]
'Type': Aliceara [Alcra.] Limbo Dancers
[al-iss-ARE-a LIM-bo DANS-ers]

Aliceara Limbo Dancers
'Clement' AM/AOS
Nov 1976, NS 10.2 cm
11 Flwrs, 8 Buds, 2 Inflrs

This genus was form by intergeneric breeding between the genus Brassia, Miltonia, and Oncidium. As of Sept 2021, there are 278 grexes in this genus. This genus was named in 1964 with the registration of what is now referred to as Brassidium Pacesetter by E. Iwanaga. But around 2010 there was a taxonomic reorganization of the Oncidiinae Family, moving Drassidium Pacesetter into the genus Bassidium. With is renaming the 'first' registered grex of Aliceara became Aliceara Limbo Dancers which was registered by George Black in 1969.

The comments from W. W. G. Moir written in the 1967 article still hold true "The darkness of the flower colors makes a most striking floral display in which the brassia and the Miltonia won out over the Oncidiums."

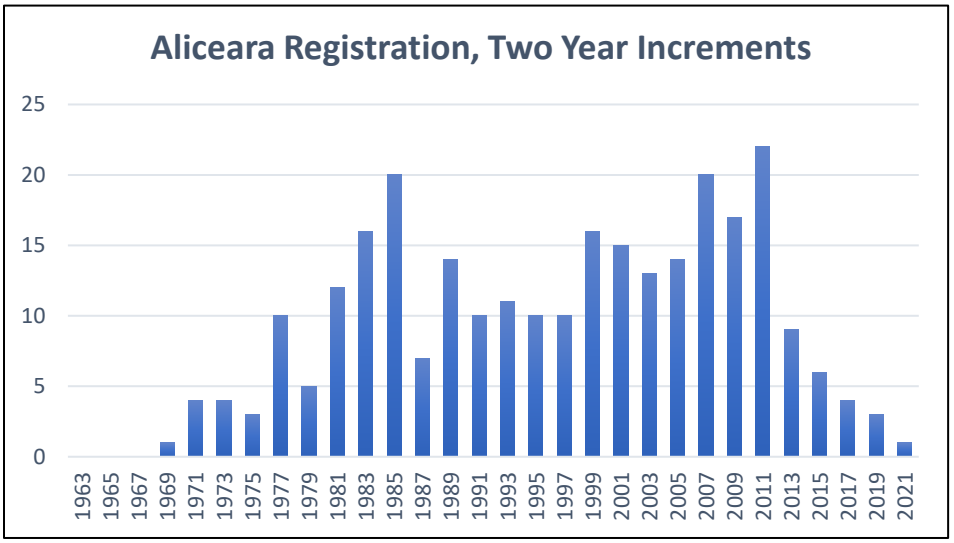
One problem that early Aliceras had was the need for a cool time period to stimulate flowering. This issue was solved with the introduction of warm growing 'Brazillian' Miltonas, such as Miltonia spectabilis, Miltonia moreliana, Miltonia regnelli, Miltonia clowesii, etc. in the breeding lines.

Generally, you would point scale using the general point scale.

Hyrbridization:

This grex of this genus was registered in 1969 and based on the table to the right there appears to be a peak of Alliceara registration. Plotting this data in two-year increments, see plot to the right, it does show a decrease in Aliceara registration since a peak in 2011. In prior two-year increments there have been peaks in registration, but not the steady decline in registration that has occurred since 2011. I'm sure this will NOT go to zero but it does indicate that interest in this genus is decreasing.

Aliceara	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	Total
Reg	0	1	26	69	57	79	44	1	277
Assc Awds	0	1	39	65	11	21	4	0	141



Another interesting fact from generating this data was that only five Brassias (Brs. verrucose, Brs. gireoudiana, Brs. arcuigera, Brs. maculate, and Brs. aurantiaca). Brs. verrucose was used the most, 221 grexes, by far and both Brs. maculate, 5 grexes, and Brs. aurantiaca, 3 grexes, used by far the least. The other two species had around 50 (+/- 10) grexes.

Aliceara Tahoma Glacier (Brat. Cartagena x Onc. Alaskan Sunset) is the most prominent Aliceara grex with 42 F1 and 76 total progeny (from 1975 to 2020) as well as 19 awards of which 18 were AOS awards (1 FCC, 11 AMs, 5 HCCs, 1 CCE from 1972 to 2014). Aliceara Tahoma Glacier was registered in 1980 by W. W. G. Moir. Clearly Alcra. Tahoma Glacier is the most prominent Aliceara as can be seen the following second place finishers in regards to the of progeny or awards.

The grex with the second most progeny is Alcra. Tropic Splendor (Brat. Cartagena x Alcra. Tahoma Glacier) registered in 1980 by W. W. G. Moir with 17 F1 and 21 total progeny (from 1990 to 2020) with four total awards, three of which were AOS awards (2 AMs, 1 CCM from 1998 to 2007).

The grex with the second most awards is Alcra. Memoria Teruo Oka (Alcra. Dorothy Oka x Brs. gireoudiana) registered in 1980 to E. Oka with no progeny but 18 awards of which 12 were AOS awards (6 AMs, 6 HCCs from 1981 to 1988).

Aliceara Tahoma Glacier
'Olga' FCC/AOS
Mar 1979, NS 15.3 cm
12 Flwrs, 2 Buds, 2 Inflrs

Aliceara Tropic Splendor
'Golden Gate' AM/AOS
Sep 2002, NS 14.6 x 15.3 cm
22 Flwrs, 1 Bud, 3 Inflrs

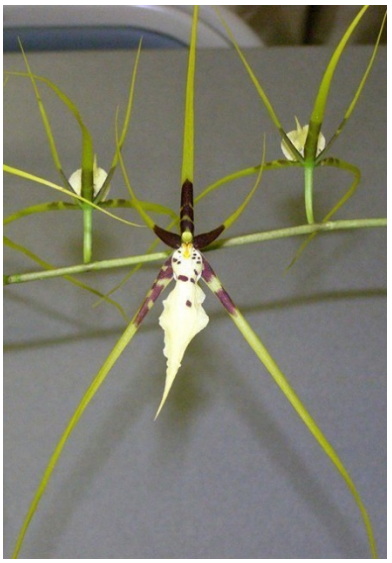
Aliceara Teruo Oka
'Adele' AM/AOS
Oct 1986, NS 10.8 cm
17 Flwrs, 0 Buds, 2 Inflrs

References:

https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx
OrchidWiz Database x8.1, update: December 2021
AOS Bulletin, *Man-Mad Genera – Oncidium Hybrid Genera,* Moir, W. W. G.; Vol. 36, Aug-1967, pgs 664-667

Award Descriptions (Feb 2022)

Brassia sulphurea – Quality Award Description



Six iridescent lemon-yellow, lightly overlaid gold marginally tubular flowers, on a flattened inflorescence; sepals and petals cupped; lip lemon-yellow to white distal half with a two-ridged thick callus, apex recurved and slightly crisped; column yellow; anther cap dark mahogany; substance translucent; texture iridescent.

Brassia Ralph Wiedem – Quality Award Description

(Brs. jipijapensis x Brs. Memoria Fred Boedeker)

Thirty-two flowers and four buds on three inflorescences; sepals lime-green, basally heavily blotched dark mahogany; petals lime-green, basally fifth fully overlaid dark mahogany; lip lancelot, margins undulating, light cream randomlly spotted mahogany basally, callus white, yellow centrally; column light green; substance firm; texture matte.

Brassia Rattler – Cultural Award Description

(Brs. maculata x Brs. arcuigera)

One hundred and six slightly cupped flowers and 18 buds on 12 inflorescences; an extremely well-balanced plant, 80 cm wide by 38 cm high, grown in a 30-cm square basket, foliage clean, blemish-free; sepals olive-green, basal fifth heavily blotched dark mahogany, lateral sepals not as heavily blotched; petals olive-green, overlaid dark mahogany basal fifth, apex half generally swept to one side; lip lancelot, margins undulating, light yellow randomlly spotted mahogany basally two thirds, callus yellow; column light green; substance firm; texture matte

Aliceara Randii – Quality Award Description

(Onc. Oragne Marmalade x Alcr. Winter Wonderland)

Five flowers and one bud on one upright inflorescence; flowers white, broad lavender-pink picotee; sepals overlaid light pink-cream, basal half mid-rib mahogany line with random blotches; petals basaly irregularly blotched mahogany; lip distally overlaid lavender-pink, basal fifth mahogany blotches with white border, crest yellow; substance firm; texture matte.

Brassostele Tarantula – Quality Award Description

(Brs. aurantiaca x Bst. Summit)

Twenty-three flowers and two buds on two rigid, erect inflorescences; sepals and petals orange-yellow heavily randomly blotched dark mahogany; lip orange-yellow, callus yellow; substance hard; texture satiny.