

Species
of the
Month

September 2003



Brassavola nodosa

Lady of the Night – Hardy Orchid

Easy growing *Brassavola nodosa* can be grown potted or mounted. The fast growing plants can produce multiple spikes from May through December with up to 6 flowers per spike. The epiphytic plants can be found growing throughout Mexico to Venezuela and Brazil. The terete gray-green, grooved leaves are produced singly and range from 4 to 12 inches long. The 8" inflorescence arises from the leaf axil and supports long-lived, heart-shaped, pale green to white flowers that are night fragrant. This is a clump forming epiphyte with a short connecting rhizome. Established plants produce multiple growths. Excellent for specimen culture.

LIGHT

Very Bright, Indirect; 2500 – 3500 Footcandles.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; °60F min. to 90°F max.
Summer temperatures can be a bit warmer.
Winter temperatures a bit cooler.

WATER

Water heavy throughout the growing season. But let dry between waterings. Keep drier in winter to help induce flowering.

HUMIDITY

80% or higher, but will handle less.

POTTING

Plants may be mounted if humidity is high. If potted, use a very open fast draining medium. Repotting is best done when new roots are starting growth.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period, 1/4 to 1/2 strength applied weekly. Low nitrogen and high phosphate may be used in the autumn to mature growths.