

# *Brassavola nodosa*

## “Lady of the night”

### ABOUT

*Brassavola nodosa*, also called “lady of the night” due to the intense jasmine like fragrance produced during night. It is a hot growing Caribbean species which thrives in full sun. In Florida, this species will flower several times per year and require no long-term maintenance after being established on trees. It’s a great orchid for planting on palms.

### GROWING IN A POT

Requires bright, indirect light with good air circulation and high humidity. Water frequently in spring and summer, during active growth—especially if plants are mounted. Reduce water during the cooler months. Allow plants to dry out between waterings.

### PLANTING ON TREES

These orchids can establish on most tropical hardwood trees and palms, avoiding smooth flaky bark species. Select horizontal limbs that have some shade from the afternoon sun. If possible, choose branches that are visible to enjoy your plants. You can also plant directly on the trunks of trees and palms, preferably on the north or east face to avoid direct afternoon sun.

### HOW TO PLANT

Remove from the pot and gently clean the potting mix from roots. Attach seedlings individually or in clusters of 2-4 orchids using sisal string or zip tie. Make sure the plants are tightly secured to the branch and any new root leads are in contact with the bark surface; take special care not to injure the new roots or leaves. The strongest configuration occurs when the twine is tightly bound at the base of the stem, where the root and stem meet (see photo ex: #1).

Other products such as horticulture tape and monofilament can be used but these products are slow to deteriorate and are not biodegradable. You can also reinforce attachment using Liquid Nails glue to cure. Apply small drops of glue directly to the bark of the tree, allow glue to harden for 15 to 30 minutes, until it has the consistency of sticky clay. Press the stems or pseudobulb (base of leaves, above roots) into the drop of glue, allowing the roots to hang below the glue and contact the bark. Avoid embedding roots in the glue (see photo ex #2). Fasten with twine for 24 hours to allow glue to cure.

### WHEN TO WATER

In south Florida orchids require little to no long-term care once they become established on the tree. However, watering is necessary during the root attachment phase. For the first month daily watering is required, after roots become attached to tree watering is not necessary. Using hose or misters thoroughly soak the orchid roots and surrounding bark. For best results allow roots to dry for 10-15 minutes and reapply water. Plants that are in pots will need to be watered when the media becomes completely dried.

### SHOULD I FERTILIZE

Standard garden fertilizer can be applied monthly to enhance growth.

