Miltassia

The *Brassia* hybrids genus with by far the most registrations are *Miltassia* (*Brassia* x *Miltonia*) with a total of 144 entries. Awards include 1 AQ,

The combinations of Miltonias with Brassias have been more worthwhile. They have become heavy bloomers in full sun and a breeze, provided they are watered frequently. *Miltassia* Premier, the first registered, was the combination of *Brs. caudata* and *M.* spectabilis, and resulted in the concentration of red in the center of the hybrid flower, a color not easily seen in the parents. However, the is of this first cross, with its flowers crowded together, has resulted in but a slightly greater read of the flowers on the new spike, with the further Miltonia blood. (Moir 1967).

Vigor and health is another contribution of this grex. You can plant a Miltassia in a pot, and in a rather short time you will find residing in its neighbor's container. (Baker 1986).

Most *Miltassia* cultivars have short to medium sized unbranched inflorescences and suffer from relatively low flower count. It seems that in certain hybrid genera, such as in *Miltassia*, the Brassia parent sharply limits floriferousness. (Rohrl 2003).

Breeding *Miltassia* are associated with the name of W. W. G. Moir. His first *Brassia* intergeneric, *Miltassia* Premier, was followed by many additional grexes in this hybrid genus during the decade of the 1960s. Between 1960 and 1967, Moir registered 13 more Miltassias, including three second-generations ones.

Thanks to the variety of colors of *Miltonia* species and hybrids, *Miltassia* display a veritable rainbow of floral tints. There are whites, browns, chocolates, purples, yellows with lavender lips and countless multicolored forms.

Because the influence of Brassias, Miltassias flowers are large, open star shape. Flowers are usually well spaced and nicely displayed on stems. *Miltassia* Charles M. Fitch (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Miltonia spectabilis*), a cross made by Flanklin W. Gamble is a notable exception, its flowers invariably are bunched together, reflecting the influence of the *Miltonia spectabilis* parent.

Speaking about negative traits, some Miltassias shown a lip twisted. Fading floral colors as the flower age is other undesired characteristic, but these "defects" can be overcome to a considerable degree by crossing the *Miltassia* back to *Miltonia*. The creation of second-generation Miltassias often does wonder for the twisted lips, giving labellum that are much flatter and rounder. In addition, the sepals and petals are less narrow, and the colors often are more brilliant and less apt to fade. A famous earlier second-generation hybrid was *Miltassia* Harry Dunn (*Miltassia* Premier x *Miltonia* Goodale Moir), registered by Moir in 1965. This in turn, was crossed with *Miltonia* Santos to create *Miltassia* Brazilia, which registered in 1975. Each successive infusion of *Miltonia* genes flattened and round out the lips. (Baker 1986).

To judge Miltassia I would suggest using the Miltonia scale.

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