

Cultural Information- Chirita

(ky-RY-tuh)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.

Partial sun or shade, grows 6-12" in container, minimum temperature 50° for indoors, intermittent bloomer.

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun or shade, an eastern, western or northern exposure. For optimal flowering, keep in a partial sun exposure where the plant receives a few hours of direct sunlight and for the remainder of the day receives strong indirect light.
<u>Temperature:</u>	For best results, grow in temperatures above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between waterings. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system. Avoid wetting the leaves when watering.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are light feeders, fertilize once a month at ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water of a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer like a 7-9-5 or 15-15-15.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Remove old flowers, stems and leaves as needed. Can be easily rooted from cuttings of mature plants. Repot once plant has completely filled the pot.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to mealy bug and cyclamen mite.
<u>Comments:</u>	Chirita are excellent indoor plants. Many varieties will flower over long periods and although they perform better under warm temperatures, they will tolerate cool nights even into the 40's. The rosette varieties are slower growing and take longer to bring into flower.

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