

Cultural Information – Epiphyllum

(ep-ih-FYE-lum)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.

Partial sun, grows 1-2' in container, minimum temperature 35°, spring bloomer.

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun, an eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 35°. In winter, grow in an area that has night temperatures below 60° and above 32° on a consistent basis.
<u>Humidity:</u>	They will tolerate low levels with no harm, even preferring dryness.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. They prefer more moisture in the summer. For mature plants, in the winter from November to March, totally restrict water. Younger plants will need to be watered sparingly during these months.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Use a balanced fertilizer such as a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like 7-9-5. Reduce feeding during the winter.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little pruning is needed unless height is a concern or the plant is sprawling out of its growing area. The best time to prune is right after flowering. <i>E. oxypetalum</i> forms tall upright stems on which the flat leaf emerge. These can be removed to maintain a manageable height.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Epiphyllum have some susceptibility to mealy bug. They also are susceptible to fungal leaf spot, especially during the winter months under excessive humidity and cool conditions. If grown too wet under cool temperatures they also can have problems with root and stem diseases.
<u>Comments</u>	Epiphyllum are easy plants to grow, loving dry conditions and some direct light. The flowers form at the notches on the flat or triangular leaves of last year. To help induce blooms, grow dry and cold in the winter with nights below 60° and above freezing. Once buds are clearly visible, watering can be resumed.

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