

Cultural Information – Heliconia

(hel-ih-KOH-nee-uh)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.
Partial sun to shade, grows 2-3' in container, minimum temperature 60°,
blooming season depends on species.

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun to shade, an eastern, western or northern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 65°. They will not do well in cool temperatures.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher.
<u>Watering:</u>	When actively growing, they need constant moisture. We recommend bringing the soil to a state of visual dryness between waterings; try not to put the plant under drought stress. When watering, thoroughly saturate 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.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are sensitive to excessive salt levels in the soil. Go easy on fertilizing them. Little is better.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune off any yellowed leaves. The foliage can look rough if grown under low humidity, cool temperature or excessive fertilizer. Even seasonally, they can have poor looking foliage. Once new growth has replaced the old growth, these damaged or brown leaves can be cut off.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Heliconia have few problems with insects. They have some susceptibility to root disease during the winter months under excessive soil moisture and cool conditions.
<u>Comments</u>	Heliconia are stunning tropicals that need warmth and moderate light to thrive. They are very susceptible to excessive fertilizer with the big problem being browning edges on the leaves.

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