

Cultural Information – lochroma
(eye-oh-KROH-muh)

Hardy to Zone 7 and higher for outdoors.
Full sun, grows to 3' in container, minimum temperature 35°, blooms in summer.

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure is best.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures indoors above 35°. Can be over wintered outdoors as far north as zone 7. Here it will die back to the ground re-sprouting in the spring and does benefit from a light mulch.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Best to keep humidity levels above 50% although it will tolerate lower levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	It wilts easily and there for need attention to watering. Avoid a severe wilt.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Heavy feed in containers. Feed monthly throughout the growing season with a top dress of a granular organic fertilizer or weekly with a dilute soluble fertilizer like a 7-9-5 or 10-10-10. Maintain fertilizer levels below 15-15-15. Discontinue in late fall and winter especially under low light and cool temperatures.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Best to prune in late winter so as to not interrupt flowering although it can be pruned anytime growth is excessive.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Susceptible to aphids, whitefly, spider mites and thrip. Diseases in the roots and foliage are generally not a problem.
<u>Comments</u>	lochroma, members of the tomato family , are fast growing needing warmth, sun, fertilizer and water to perform well. They do bloom nonstop through the summer months and are easy to bring through the winter, even in a cool growing space. If they get too big cut them back and they will quickly re-sprout and return into bloom.

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