

Cultural Information – Pereskia

(per-ESS-kee-uh)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.

Full sun, grows 1-3' in container, minimum temperature 50°, blooms in spring and summer.

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°. They will tolerate low temperatures for short periods with no harm.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. 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 light feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every other week. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. When growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Hard pruning in late winter or early spring will still allow flowers for the coming season.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Occasional susceptibility to mealy bugs and aphids. Spray with Neem Oil at first signs of infestation.
<u>Comments</u>	Pereskia need to dry out between waterings. It is normal for leaf drop to occur during the dormancy of winter. Do not be alarmed if it completely defoliates. Pereskia are excellent patio container plants and make a wonderful addition to any sunny room. The flowers continue to emerge in clusters from new shoots creating a continuous show of bloom.

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