

## Cultural Information – Punica

(PUH-ni-kuh)

Hardy to Zone 8 and higher for outdoors.

Full or partial sun, grows to 2' in container, minimum temperature 40°, blooms in spring.

<b><u>Light:</u></b>	Full or partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure.
<b><u>Temperature:</u></b>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 40°.
<b><u>Humidity:</u></b>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<b><u>Watering:</u></b>	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.
<b><u>Fertilizer:</u></b>	Go easy on the fertilizer: use ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every two weeks. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. Discontinue feeding in fall and winter, resuming once growth starts in spring.
<b><u>Pruning:</u></b>	Prune anytime growth is excessive or they need to be shaped. The best time is just before growth starts in late winter or spring.
<b><u>Insects and Disease:</u></b>	Punicas can have problems with white fly, aphids, and mealybug. A careful eye needs to be kept on plants that have summered outdoors as they can pick up insects when outside. Their root systems are strong and have little problems.
<b><u>Comments</u></b>	Punicas flower on the tips of the soft growth throughout the summer and are self-pollinating. They are deciduous or semi-deciduous plants that can be grown cool and maintained under lower light during the dormant period. <i>P. granatum nana</i> is an excellent container plant, often used in bonsai culture.

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