

Cultural Information- Bouvardia
(boo-VAR-dee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun exposure, a southern window, is best. They are high light plants that need direct sunlight for flowering and compact growth.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Keep temperatures above 40° when growing it as an indoor container plant. For winter flowering, grow above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels for short periods with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between watering; a slight wilt does no harm. 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>	Fertilize using ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow Plant Food 7-9-5. If leaves become pale or older leaves turn yellow and fall excessively, increase fertilizer to twice a week until they green up.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Bouvardia love to be pruned and respond well to hard pruning. To culture specimens over the long term, it is necessary to prune up to 50-70% of growth. Anytime the growth gets straggly, cut it back hard.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Bouvardia are susceptible to white fly. Keep the plants away from other infected plants. If they are kept outdoors in summer, check them carefully before bringing them back in, and give them a preventative spray. They also can have difficulty with root diseases especially in the winter when light is low and temperatures are cool.
<u>Comments:</u>	Bouvardia are great flowering container plants preferring full sun with some dryness between waterings. Bouvardia ternifolia, when grown in sun, is never without flowers. Bouvardia longiflora has a semi-dormancy in the winter in northern climates. It is important to grow warm and sunny and allow some soil dryness to bring them through this period successfully. This plant is also an upright grower that in time can get scraggly. Pruning hard will reshape it. Note: do this pruning only during active vigorous growth.