

Cultural Information – Malpighia
 (mal-PEE-gee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°; however, they can tolerate temperatures to just above freezing for short periods.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between waterings. When watering, thoroughly saturate the 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 once a week with ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. Under cooler winter temperatures and lower light levels, stop feeding. Excessive fertilization can induce soft growth and reduce flowering and fruiting so it's best to err on the lean side.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Periodic pruning is necessary to maintain shape. Often branches will develop that reach out and up. These can be pruned back to maintain size and form. Flowers form on the mature wood and side branches so the inner branches need to be left to grow.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to aphids, especially when growth is soft and too heavily fertilized. Diseases are generally not a problem.
<u>Comments</u>	Malpighia are fast and easy to grow having strong and resilient root systems. Malpighia glabra as a southern plant will fruit and flower several times throughout the year. In the north, it is generally a summer fruiting plant benefits from being grown outdoors during the summer months.