

Cultural Information – Nematanthus
(nee-mah-TAN-thus)

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun or shade, an eastern, western or northern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	For best results, grow in temperatures above 60°, preferably 65°. Nematanthus can take cooler temperatures.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate lower levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. When growing in direct sunlight, avoid wetting the leaves during watering. They are epiphytes and need a drier root system. 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>	They are light feeders. Fertilize once monthly at ½ 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.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Remove old flowers and prune back stems as needed to maintain size. Most are trailing plants grown in baskets and periodically they can be trimmed back to maintain the length of the stems.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to mealy bugs, cyclamen mites, aphids and thrip as well as whitefly. Under excessive moisture, they can have problems with root diseases.
<u>Comments</u>	Grow in an open potting mix. Contemporary soilless mixes work well. Repot once plant has completely filled the pot. Generally, we grow them in no larger than 8" pots. Although they are not fast growing plants, under good light and warm temperatures they do make beautiful specimens. Some are everblooming; others are seasonal.