

Cultural Information- Operculicarya
(oh-per-koo-lee-KAIR-yuh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full or partial sun; a southern, eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 40; when grown in cooler temperatures keep soil dry.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Tolerant of a wide range of relative humidity levels.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring soil to dryness between watering. Err on the dry side when temperatures are cool. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Light to moderate feeders. Fertilize with a balanced low-level fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower once or twice a month when temperatures are generally above 60° and the plant is in active growth. This is usually spring through fall.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Plant can be pruned at any time of the year to maintain size and form.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with insects. Root diseases are an issue if grown cool and wet.
<u>Comments:</u>	Operculicarya are arid land plants that love sunny conditions and a dry period between waterings. They need a well-drained potting mix with a pH of 5 to 6. The main trunk is one of the more entertaining aspects of these plants and allowing them to grow a straight trunk up to the desired height before pruning will begin the eventual form. Once this height is reached then pruning will encourage side branching or a lateral limb structure. This will give the plants their unique form.