

Cultural Information – Vigna
 (VIG-nuh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°. They will tolerate lower temperatures; however, consistent cool temperatures in the winter will induce defoliation and dormancy.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	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.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They need moderate levels of fertilizer. Give them more under high light. Fertilize with ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week when in active growth which is from late winter until fall. Use a balanced fertilizer i.e. 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5.
<u>Pruning:</u>	The best time to prune is late winter or early spring, just as growth resumes. They can be pruned at any time growth is excessive; however, they bloom on the new growth in spring and fall and pruning during their growth period can discourage flowering.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are highly susceptible to spider mite and careful attention needs to be given to the beginnings of infestations especially when plants are moved indoors for winter or during periods of hot dry weather. Root diseases can be a problem during the winter when grown under cool damp conditions.
<u>Comments</u>	Vigna caracalla is a vigorously growing vine that produces clusters of highly fragrant corkscrew-shaped blooms. Its growing season is generally during the longer days of the year with a flowering period mainly in the fall and spring. In temperate areas, it will go into semi dormancy where it will lose some leaves and stop growing. At this time, stop fertilizing and reduce watering to help maintain a healthy root system. They can be grown outdoors in the summer but it is best to grow them on a stake or trellis that is moveable as their heaviest flowering cycle is October and November and they are not tolerant to freezes or frost. They need high light to perform at their best.