

Cultural Information – Aechmea
 (EEK-mee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Part sun, an eastern or western exposure. Avoid direct noonday sun as it can burn the leaves as plants are not adjusted.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Optimum minimum temperatures are in the 50's although they can tolerate temperatures in 40's with no harm.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Tolerant to wide swings in humidity. As a rule 50% relative humidity or higher is best for growth.
<u>Watering:</u>	Allow the potting medium to dry out some between watering and then thoroughly saturate. They can tolerate extended periods of dryness.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate levels of fertilizer can be given to promote growth. Once a month with a balanced soluble fertilizer i.e. 5-5-5 or 4-6-3 at half the recommend dilution.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little is needed in pruning except to remove the old flower stalks. In time the back growth or old growth can die back and these can be removed. Often older plants will need dividing and at this time the older growth can be removed.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with diseases or insects.
<u>Comments</u>	Aechmea are an easy to grow plant with a high tolerance to neglect. As they are epiphytes or tree dwellers they can tolerate a dry soil enviroment without harm. Potting mixes need to be well drained and open so there is plenty of air available to the roots systems. They also can do well in moderate light levels which make them a good candidate for the home enviroment.