

Cultural Information – Alstroemeria

(al-stre-MEE-ree-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	As container plant, they must be kept above freezing. Many varieties are hardy to Zone 5 when planted in the ground.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Generally not an issue as they are perennials that are grown outdoors. Inside they will tolerate varying humidity levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	They are like most container plants, preferring a well-drained potting mix. Water when the mix become visually dry then thoroughly saturate until some water trickles out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help ensure a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate feeders. During the growing season regular applications weekly or bi weekly of a balanced fertilizer (no higher than 15-15-15) will keep the growth moving forward. A topdressing of an organic fertilizer once a month will also work. Stop feeding in late summer to let plant prepare for their winter dormancy. In the ground they need little if any fertilizer unless the soil is very poor.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little need for pruning. Old growth stalks can be removed if unsightly then it's a general clean up in the spring before or just as growth resumes. In pots, old growth should be removed as the spring growth starts or any time it is unsightly.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Few problems with insects or diseases. In containers, spider mites will occasionally feed on them but this is usually due to extremes of heat and dryness.
<u>Comments</u>	Alstromerias are easy to grow as perennials or as potted plants and are generally used for their abundance of bloom. They are quite hardy in gardens and with a little mulching can with stand our very cold winters of New England. <i>A. caryophyllaea</i> is one of the fragrant species from Brazil and is smaller growing than others and somewhat shyer blooming. We see it flower in summer into fall. It doesn't have as much hardiness as other varieties and thus we grow in in containers and winter in cool greenhouses.