

Cultural Information- Bougainvillea
(boo-gan-VIL-lee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 50°, 60° in winter if active growth is desired.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, prefers high humidity.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. The best flowering occurs when the plants are brought to a slight wilt between waterings. 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>	Fertilize with a balanced, soluble fertilizer like a 15-15-15 every two weeks at ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water. Reduce the frequency during the winter months, especially under cool temperatures.
<u>Pruning:</u>	They can be pruned hard if growth is excessive. The best time is right after a flowering cycle is completed. On vining varieties, the selective pruning of stems to thin or reduce the size of the plant can maintain a flowering specimen.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to aphids and at times mealy bugs. They have little trouble with disease.
<u>Comments:</u>	Bougainvillea are easy to grow and flower if grown under maximum light and stressed with dryness. The increase and decrease in day length stimulates bud formation, which causes them to go into seasonal blooming cycles. However, under high light and dryness most varieties will stay in bloom continuously. All of our varieties have thorns, which can be removed at no harm to the plant.