

Cultural Information – Brachychiton
 (brak-ee-KY-ton)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure. Will also grow under partial sun
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 35°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Tolerates wide swings in relative humidity without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring potting mix to dryness or near dryness between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the root ball.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate feeders. Feed during the growing season once a month with a balanced granular organic or a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue in fall and winter.
<u>Pruning:</u>	When growing to create a mature specimen little pruning is need as a central leader is encouraged which in time makes the thickened trunk or bottle. When growing as a bonsai, it is the root the swells and forms the caudex and the top is pruned to maintain size and form. Pruning is best done in late winter as new growth starts to emerge.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	In container culture they are prone to spider mites and can be affected by mealybugs is other infested plants are nearby. Little or no problems with diseases.
<u>Comments</u>	The species <i>B. rupestris</i> is a great plant for warmer and dry area gardens to grow as a central specimen with the unique bottle looking trunk. They are very drought tolerant both in the landscape and in containers. As a potted plant they make a great caudiciform when the root system is exposed and they can be grown in bonsai pots and trained with wire to make unique specimens. Due to their drought tolerance, they can remain in small containers for many years and pruned as necessary to maintain sized. They do have a vertical grow habit so when growing in tight pots periodic pruning is need to keep the height in check.