

Cultural Information – Clerodendrum
(kler-oh-DEN-drum)

<u>Light:</u>	Full to partial sun is best (a south, east, or west exposure). <i>C. splendens</i> and <i>C. quadriloculare</i> are winter bloomers and are sensitive to the decreasing day length. Starting in early fall, grow them in an area that doesn't have artificial light after sunset, which promotes flower formation. If they fail to bloom, it's probably due to a disruption of the shortening day lengths.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 60 degrees for active growth, as they perform better on the warm side.
<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 waterings. In clay pots under warm conditions, they can have a high demand for water and, thus, should be checked once a day for dryness. Try to prevent them from wilting severely; however, a slight wilt shouldn't hurt.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Fertilize with a soluble fertilizer - ½ tsp./gallon every two weeks or, under high light conditions, once a week. They are rapid growers and heavy feeders under high light. Reduce or restrict fertilizer in winter under low light.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Over a growing season, they can become large plants that won't fit well in the indoor growing space. Pruning should be done after the blooming cycle is completed. Winter blooming varieties need their last pruning in early to mid summer, bringing the plants into full growth by early fall while they sense the decreasing day light. They can be pruned severely, from which they quickly re-sprout.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Clerodendrums have a susceptibility to spider mites, white flies and aphids. Periodic checking of the undersides of the leaves is important to maintain control. Spray the plants immediately when insects are first noticed. Be sure to keep infected plants away from healthy plants.
<u>Comments</u>	Clerodendrums are both vines and shrubs that are vigorous and easy to grow. Some are summer blooming or respond to high light and long days to induce flowers; others are short day length bloomers. <i>C. thomsoniae</i> flowers in the spring and summer but needs a winter dormancy to flower well. The restriction of water and cool temperatures along with shortening day length will do the trick.