

Cultural Information – Costus
(KOS-tus)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, partial sun or shade, a southern, eastern, western or northern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°. They will tolerate temperatures much lower; however, this can slow growth and flowering.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Maintain humidity at or above 50%; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water trickles out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Under low light, reduce the frequency. Use a balanced fertilizer such as a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like 7-9-5. Reduce feeding during the winter.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune after flowering. Old “canes” or stems can be pruned once they become rough looking. Once the flowering is finished on a “cane”, it will not bloom again but does add strength to the new growth.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have little problems with insects. <i>Costus cuspidatus</i> is susceptible to mealy bug. Their root systems are rugged, resisting disease.
<u>Comments</u>	Costus are easy to flower and vigorous growers. They bloom under varying light conditions. The two varieties we grow stay contained in their growth, making them excellent for containers.