

Cultural Information – Duranta
(door-AN-tuh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure, is best. East or west windows would be the next choice. They are high light plants that need as much direct sunlight as possible for flowering and compact growth. Grow as close to the window as possible.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 40°. During the winter, however, temperatures above 60° are preferred in order for the plant to absorb nutrients and maintain active growth.
<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. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. They are soft growers and can use a lot of water under high temperatures and low humidity. A slight wilt does no harm.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Duranta are heavy feeders. Fertilize with ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like 7-9-5. When seasonal growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding. If leaves become pale or older leaves turn yellow and fall excessively, increase fertilizer to twice a week until they green up.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune after flowering is complete. As they are large and rapid growers, they periodically need a hard pruning, which they take with ease. Prune back on lateral branches if a tree form is desirable. It is best to prune in spring or when the plant is placed outside. After the pruning, it can take a month or more before they re-bloom.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Susceptible to aphids and white fly.
<u>Comments</u>	Duranta are fast growing and prolific bloomers that need high light and fertilizer to flower well. They flower on the long days and can be trained into standards or used in hanging baskets.