

Cultural Information – Eranthemum
(er-RANTH-ee-mum)

<u>Light:</u>	Full or partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 45°.
<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 watering. A little wilt will not hurt them. 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. The foliage can show staining on the leaves if watered with ice-cold water.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Go easy on the fertilizer; ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every two weeks. Excessive fertilization can create difficulties in culture, so it is best to err on the lean side. When active growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like 7-9-5.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune hard once flowering has finished in late spring. They can be pruned to maintain shape and form throughout the summer. Stop pruning in August.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Eranthemum can have problems with spider mite and mealy bugs. A careful eye needs to be kept on plants that have summered outdoors as they can pick up insects when outside. Their root systems are strong and have few problems. They are prone to exudates (the excretion of excess fluids through the surface of the leaves, producing tiny, raised beads along stems and leaf surfaces. This can be mistaken for mites. It is unsightly, but not harmful to the plant.
<u>Comments</u>	Eranthemum pulchellum initiates flowers on the shortening day length of fall. Be sure to keep it in a place with no artificial light after dark, at that time of year, until buds are formed. Cool night during blooming will extend their flowering season.