

Cultural Information – Heliotropium
(hee-lee-oh-TROH-pee-um)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain a 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<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. 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. Under high heat and sun, be careful not to subject them to severe wilts.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate to heavy feeders so ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week or ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water at very watering throughout the growing season. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. When growth slows in winter, discontinue feeding.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Generally, they are pruned in the fall as the flowers wane and again in late winter if growth is excessive. However, they can be pruned at any time of year to control size but it will also disrupt flowering.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to white fly and spider mite under dry conditions. Disease problems on the foliage and flowers can occur under cool damp conditions.
<u>Comments</u>	Heliotropium are fast and easy to grow, and bring months of continuous bloom and fragrance to the garden and potted container. They do require lots of direct sunlight and as soon as the light levels drop, they go out of flower. For best growth and flowering they prefer cooler temperatures.