

Cultural Information – Hoya
 (HOY-a)

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun, an eastern or western exposure. They will grow in a northern window; however, they do benefit from a little direct sunlight.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°. They are quite varied in their natural habitat; those that come from high elevation do well with cooler nights. If a variety doesn't flower, even under good, quality light, try growing it a little cooler at night.
<u>Humidity:</u>	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. Many grow epiphytically and prefer a drier root environment.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are light feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a month. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. When grow stops in winter, discontinue feeding.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune anytime growth is excessive or after the flowering cycle is complete. They bloom on the new growth so hard pruning will slow down flowering. Some varieties will flower off old flower spurs so leaving them on when pruning will increase future blooms.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Hoyas are highly susceptible to mealy bug. Hoya lanceolata bella is susceptible to spider mite. Under damp soil conditions, they can have problems with root diseases. Growing them dry eliminates the problem.
<u>Comments</u>	Hoyas are great indoor plants that thrive under lower light and dry conditions. Flower initiation is induced by environmental factors such as day length, light intensity, or cool night temperatures, depending on variety. Hoya odorata flowers on the shortening day length of fall. Hoya lanceolata is a summer bloomer that responds to the long day. Hoya lauterbachii needs higher light levels to bloom and at least 6 feet of vining growth. If a variety doesn't flower, try increasing the light or grow cooler during the winter.