

Cultural Information – Manihot
(MAN-ee-hot)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun; a southern exposure is best.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 60°. They suffer under lower temperatures if kept there for any length of time.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Maintain relative humidity above 50% as a general rule, although they will tolerate lower levels for short periods of time without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the potting medium until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. Avoid severe drought stress.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate feeders during the spring and summer months. Feed with a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower at regular intervals through its active growing season. Discontinue or reduce frequency during the winter.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Plants can be pruned back any time growth is excessive as long as the temperatures are warm and the plants are actively growing. Generally, spring through summer is the best time to prune.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are highly susceptible to spider mites. Keep a careful eye on the plants when grown under hot dry conditions. Root disease can be an issue under a cool damp soil environment.
<u>Comments</u>	Tapioca is a fast-growing plant that needs warm and bright conditions to perform well. It thrives under the long days and heat of summer. During the winter, growth will come to a standstill and under cool temperatures; it can lose leaves, becoming almost deciduous.