

Cultural Information – Opuntia
 (op-UN-shee-a)

<u>Light:</u>	Full to partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure. They do best in higher light. Too low and the pads will get small and weak.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 40°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Generally not an issue.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring soil to dryness between waterings and then thoroughly saturate. Grow dryer in winter under cooler tmeperature. As they are cactus they can take long periods of dryness and will still recover. Summer is their growing season, so more moisture is beneficial at this time.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Light feeder, fertilize with a dilute solution several times during the growing season. Don't overdo it.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Plants can be cut back by removing the pads to control height and form.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Can have problems with mealybug. Root diseases are an issue under wet cool conditions especially in poorly drained potting mixes.
<u>Comments</u>	Easy to grow just give them the light they need and water. They can tolerate dryness so are good plants for neglectful situations.