

Cultural Information – Pentas
 (*PEN-tass*)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels for short periods.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring soil to a state of visual dryness between watering. When watering, thoroughly saturate 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.
<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 every 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 at any time of the year whenever growth is excessive. However, they bloom on the long day length and high light intensity of summer so pruning from early spring through fall will disrupt flowering.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have susceptibility to whitefly, spider mites and aphids. Root diseases can be a problem under cool, damp conditions. Growing them warm, under high light and bring the soil to visual dryness between waterings will help mitigate the problem.
<u>Comments</u>	Pentas are fast-growing plants that bring months of flowers to the garden and potted container. They do require lots of direct sunlight for best growth and flowering.