

**Cultural Information – Pycnostachys**  
 (pik-no-STAK-iss)

<b><u>Light:</u></b>	Full sun, a southern exposure is best.
<b><u>Temperature:</u></b>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°. Can take lower temperatures down to freezing for short periods as long as the light levels are high and conditions are not excessively wet.
<b><u>Humidity:</u></b>	Tolerant to various swings in relative humidity but generally 50% humidity is adequate.
<b><u>Watering:</u></b>	Allow the soil to become visually dry between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the potting mix until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help ensure a healthy root system.
<b><u>Fertilizer:</u></b>	A moderate to heavy feeder. Feed a balanced fertilizer no higher than 15-15-15 from late spring until fall as need to keep the foliage green and the plant moving forward. Slow or discontinue during the winter especially when grown under cooler temperatures.
<b><u>Pruning:</u></b>	Prune in late summer if growth is excessive and after flowering. A vigorous grower that can take a hard pruning with ease.
<b><u>Insects and Disease:</u></b>	Aphids can affect them as well as late seasonal caterpillars. Some species are susceptible to root diseases under cool damp conditions.
<b><u>Comments</u></b>	Pycnostachys are wonderful winter flowering plant for a sunny spot imitating flower buds on the short days of fall and winter. They flower for months and if height and form get excessive they can be pruned, even during the flowering season, reblooming if the daylength is short. They are fast growing and in containers they need fertilizer on a regular basis to keep the plant green and flowering heavy.