

Cultural Information- Salvia
(SAL-vee-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun; a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 35°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Best to maintain relative humidity above 50% although lower levels can be tolerated without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring potting mix to visual dryness between waterings, avoiding a severe wilt. Many varieties are soft-growing plants that wilt easily, so attention needs to be paid to their water demands.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week is a general recommendation. Under the fast growth of summer, ½ tsp per gallon of water once a week is acceptable. When active growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like Dyna-Gro Grow Liquid Plant Food 7-9-5.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Pruning can be done anytime growth is excessive, generally in late winter or early spring just as plant vigor increases.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They have some susceptibility to aphids and whitefly as well as spider mites. Foliar and root diseases are generally not a problem.
<u>Comments:</u>	Salvias are easy-to-grow sun-loving plants that tolerate a wide range of temperatures. Some varieties have hardiness into zones 4 while others are tender to temperatures below freezing. Many of the flowering cultivars are fast growing and benefit from regular applications of fertilizer as long as the light levels are high enough. Flowering is either induced by the light intensity, as with those cultivars that are Everblooming, or they respond to a shortening day length as we head into fall. These are the ones that flower in fall and winter.