

Cultural Information- Solanum
 (so-LAN-num)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun; a southern exposure is best.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°, although they will tolerate temperatures down to just above freezing.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Best to maintain humidity above 50%, although they will tolerate lower levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Allow the soil surface to become visually dry between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the soil until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. Most varieties transpire (lose water through their leaves) easily so careful attention needs to be given to avoid severe wilt stress.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate to heavy feeders under warmth and high light. Feed with a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower at regular intervals throughout its active growing season. For northern growers, discontinue during the winter.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune whenever growth is excessive. They are rapid growers and pruning can be done at any time of the year as long as they are in active growth.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Highly susceptible to aphids and whitefly. Spider mites will attack this genus under hot dry conditions. Foliar diseases can be an issue if grown cold and under high humidity.
<u>Comments:</u>	Solanums are fast-growing plants that prefer warmth, temperatures above 60° and lots of direct sunlight. They do have susceptibility to some insects so an eye needs to be kept out for possible infestations. When grown under warmth and high light, they benefit from regular applications of fertilizer; however, care must be taken to not feed with high levels of nitrogen as this can reduce flowering.