

Cultural Information- Strobilanthes
(stroh-bih-LAN-theez)

<u>Light:</u>	Full or partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 55°. Will tolerate lower temperatures down to freezing for short periods of time.
<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 then thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water trickles from the bottom of the pot. They 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 as a general recommendation. Under the fast growth of summer use ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week. When active growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower.
<u>Pruning:</u>	They can be pruned anytime growth is excessive: however, the best time is after flowering is complete which is generally in late winter or spring. For flowering varieties, pruning later than May will discourage flowering.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Susceptible to whitefly and aphids. They have strong root systems and few problems with foliar diseases.
<u>Comments:</u>	Strobilanthes are fast growing and easy plants to grow. <i>S. dyerianus</i> is grown for its brilliant foliage during the summer months. This species flowers in the winter like others but the foliage gets very poor looking which is normal. Once the days lengthen, the healthy brilliant foliage will reappear. Most species have trouble with leaf staining from cold water. Never water the foliage with cold water when the sun is out, as this will cause spotting on the leaves.