

Cultural Information – Strophanthus
 (stroh-FAN-thus)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun; a southern exposure. Partial sun, with an east or west exposure, will reduce flowering.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°. They will tolerate lower temperatures down into the low forties and high thirties for short periods of time without harm although this does shut down the growth and flowering.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Best to maintain humidity above 50% although they will tolerate lower levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Allow the soil to become visually dry between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the soil until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help ensure a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are moderate feeders from spring through fall. Feed with a balanced fertilizer (like a 15-15-15 or lower) every two weeks. Or top-dress with an organic fertilizer once a month.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune after flowering cycle is completed. <i>S. gratus</i> needs to be pruned no later than mid-summer so as to not disrupt the following season's blooms.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Mealy bugs can attack the plants. Spider mites can be a problem on <i>S. preussii</i> . Foliar diseases are generally not an issue. Root disease can be troubling under cold wet soils in the winter.
<u>Comments</u>	Strophanthus are showy climbers that need some direct sunlight to flower well. They prefer a wet-to-drier soil environment and tolerate drought stress with ease. <i>S. gratus</i> is a seasonal bloomer that begins flowering in the spring and into the summer. Late season pruning will disrupt the flowering cycle. <i>S. preussii</i> is a long-day bloomer that flowers whenever the light is high and the days are long. The latter, under low light and cool temperatures, can go into a semi-deciduous state. At this time don't over-water and spring will bring on a new flush of leaves.