

Cultural Information – Tibouchina
(tib-OO-kee-nuh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun; a southern exposure. They will tolerate lower light levels but this will cause stretching and reduction of blooms.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 55°. Will tolerate lower temperatures to above freezing although it will slow growth and flowering.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Maintain relative humidity above 50% as a general rule, although they will tolerate lower levels for short periods without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	Bring the soil to visual dryness between waterings and then thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. They are soft growing plants that transpire freely so be careful to not allow them to go into a severe wilt. Growing in a clay pot will help ensure a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Moderate feeders from spring to fall. Feed with a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or lower at regular intervals throughout its active growing season. Discontinue or reduce frequency during the winter, especially if plants are grown below 60°.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune any time growth is excessive. Although flowering can occur throughout the year, generally T. urvilleana blooms heaviest in fall and early winter. Pruning in late winter or early spring will do the least in disrupting the blooming cycle.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Aphids and to some extent spider mites can be troubling insects. Few problems with foliar and root diseases.
<u>Comments</u>	Tibouchinas are fast growing and showy plants that need as much sun as possible to flower well. As a rule of thumb, young plants of T. urvilleana can be planted in late spring for fall blooms with one pinching back of the newest growth before the beginning of summer. This variety does have trouble with edema, which happens when the plants are moved inside before frost. This appears as a whitish outgrowth on the tops of the leaves. In severely affected plants it can damage the leaves badly.