

Cultural Information – Vanilla
(van-IL-a)

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun, an eastern or western exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm. Growing on a pebble tray, misting, and growing the vanilla among other plants will help the humidity.
<u>Watering:</u>	Water when the potting media (sphagnum moss) is almost dry then thoroughly saturate the moss until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Go easy on the fertilizer. Apply monthly or bi-monthly. Fertilize with ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5. Excessive fertilization can create difficulties in culture.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Little, if any, pruning is needed with the exception of plants that have become too massive.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are highly susceptible to root disease if kept too wet. Other than low quality light, this is the main cause of their decline.
<u>Comments</u>	The vanilla vine is an orchid that needs an open potting media and high quality light to grow well. A climber needs support in the way of a heavy stake or masonry wall on which to climb. Air roots emerge out of the vining stem and these need something to attach to. Once the vine has climbed to the top of the support and started to dangle off, it is ready to flower.