

Topiary Plant Care

GENERAL PLANT CARE:

All topiary needs on a regular, monthly basis is a light fertilizing and a trim to maintain its shape. Topiary that is allowed to dry out may shed leaves and flowers. As topiary tends to become root bound, it is imperative that the root ball is properly saturated.

Every other watering, submerge plants in 1 to 2 inches of water and let soak. Certain species have a tendency to attract aphids, which are common and easy to control by picking them off by hand or using an insecticidal soap.

FUCHSIA (F. species):

Flowers year round if kept in bright light. Protect from hot, direct sunlight and keep it moist. They love misting and regular feeding. They like the outdoors, but protect them from frost.

THAI PEPPER (Cephaelis frutescens):

Edible (very hot!) peppers. Likes bright light and regular feeding. Easy to grow indoors or out. Will continue to produce peppers year round if kept above 60 degrees F. Protect from frost. Keep soil moist. Harvest red peppers to encourage new foliage, flowers and fruit. Check regularly for aphids.

ROSEMARY, LAVENDER, THYME AND SANTOLINA:

Water as soon as soil feels dry to the touch. Avoid leaving standing water in saucer. Likes the outdoors as much as possible (needs good light and air circulation). Tolerates full sun. Rosemary flowers in spring and fall. Lavender flowers in summer and fall. Trim and use often.

CUPHEA/FALSE HEATHER (C. hyssopifolia):

Prefers light shade, water and fertilizer - does not like to dry out! Tiny white or pink flowers bloom in spring through fall. Cut back or keep pinched before/after blooming. Protect from frost. Okay indoors or outdoors.

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MYRTLE (*Myrtus communis*):

Let dry between waterings. Aromatic leaves and flowers. Sun to part shade. Protect from cold. Flowers spring, summer followed by blue-black berries. Indoors or outdoors.

ANISODONTEA/AFRICAN CAPE MALLOW:

Pink flowers resemble hollyhock. Profuse bloomers, sometimes year round. Tolerates heat. Outdoors.

ABUTILON/FLOWERING MAPLE, CHINESE LANTERN:

Flowers (many colors), bloom almost continuously. Likes water and part shade. Control rangy growth by pinching leaves back. Indoors or outdoors. Check regularly for aphids.

CESTRUM (*C. elegans*):

Likes part shade, water and fertilizer. Tubular pink or red flowers bloom almost continuously if sheltered. Protect from frost. Great hummingbird plant! Beautiful clusters of red berries.

PARAGUAY NIGHTSHADE (*Lycianthes rantonnei*):

Can tolerate full sun if kept watered. Keep pinched or cut back hard for nice shape and flowers. Long bloom season.

POTATO VINE (*Solanum jasminoides*):

Keep cut back to promote vigorous new growth. Perpetual bloomer, heaviest in spring. Weave new runners to keep hoop shape.

SERISSA (*S. foetida*):

Beautiful white flowers or stunning pink on variegated foliage. Can be grown indoors or outdoors (if protected by frost). Profuse bloomer.

JASMINE (*Jasminum polyanthum*):

Very fragrant, showy white flowers in spring. Likes water, frequent pinching to control growth.

SCENTED GERANIUM, LEMON VERBENA AND BAY:

Water thoroughly when soil starts to feel dry to the touch. Likes to be outdoors as much as possible but can be over-wintered indoors. Geraniums and lemon verbena need to be pruned back hard in spring to ensure nice, rounded ball.