



HELLO, WE ARE THE

# Lipstick Plants

AESCHYNANTHUS SPECIES

## Get to know me

Believe it or not we're actually closely related to those African Violets that your Gran used to grow, we're all members of the Gesneriaceae family. We get our common name from our flowers. Our petals emerge from a tubular calyx which some say looks like a lipstick case. Some less kind people have referred to us as Dog's dick plants also. Our foliage tends toward a trailing habit so we look great placed somewhere where we can let our leaves down. We do well with a haircut at the end of the growing season so we grow nice and bushy next season.

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## What I like

### POSITION



Position – We need bright indirect light for a portion of the day but not the full day. Your dreaming if you place us in the shade and think we're going to flower for you, we won't! Near an East facing window is great or even a West facing window (as long as we're not too close to it).

### TEMPERATURE



As we are mostly from the subtropics we like warm humid summers and cooler winters. In fact we need cooler temps in winter to help us flower.

### WATER



Like most indoor plants wait until the top 2 -3 cm of soil in our pots has dried out then give us a good drink in the warmer months (Spring and Summer). In the cooler months let us dry out a bit more between watering. Overwatering can be detrimental for us so never let our soil stay soggy!

### FERTILIZER



A good pinch of slow release indoor plant fertilizer in spring is all we need.

### RE -POTTING



Repot us in spring. As we grow quite quickly we will probably need to be repotted every year or two until we reach our mature size. As we are epiphytic in nature we prefer a soil mix that is free draining. A mix formulated for Cymbidium orchids is good for us or you could try this recipe: 3 parts perlite, 3 parts cocoa peat, 1 part vermiculite.

## What I don't like

### TOO MUCH SHADE



We don't like too much shade or waterlogged soil! As we love humidity keep us away from heaters and air conditioning units that could dry us out, especially in the warmer months.