

## Summer Care:

**Fertilizer:** Plant Prod Poinsettia 18:6:20 is the favorite amongst growers (available at Integrity Sales, Keating Cross Road, Saanichton).

A 3:1:2 ratio works well. E.g., 24: 8:16.

The plant Prod 18:6:20 has low phosphorous but higher magnesium and iron which suits the needs of brugmansia well. If the leaves on your plant, look pale you can feed them Epsom salts.

You can also fertilize with a balanced fertilizer occasionally or give them some Comfrey or Alfalfa tea.

Adding slow-release fertilizer 14:14:14 to your potting soil is recommended.

Brugmansia are fertilizer hogs. Feed them at least two or three times per week. They require lots of fertilizer to flower well.

## Watering:

Water pots often during the summer, but make sure your soil drains well. Brugs like lots of water but do not like having wet feet. During the summer I find they need water daily and if weather is extremely hot it may be necessary to water morning and night.

Misting your plants once or twice a day will help keep spider mites and aphids at bay.

## Soil Mix:

Use a well draining soil mix (e.g., Promix Hp) or good peat moss.

Add perlite or coconut husks or fine bark mulch.

Also add composted manure (Superior Farms sells good compost)

Add slow-release fertilizer.

You may need to add lime if using peat moss.

## Fall and Winter Care:

When the time comes to bring your plants inside for winter, you must decide whether to keep them growing or to put them into hibernation. Because the plants have soft leaves, they are very susceptible to spider mites and aphids, causing problems for all your house or greenhouse plants. Most people prefer to put them into dormancy. To do this, strip your plant of all leaves and flowers. I spray my plants with Safer's Soap prior to bringing them inside. Store them in a cool, dark room, a closet, a crawl space, or a garage. It is imperative that the plants do not freeze. They do best if temperature is kept above 8 degrees. My unheated, attached garage works well. I use an electric heater if temperatures outside stay cold for a prolonged period. Water very lightly (no more than one cup per month).

Come January or February watch for aphids and spider mites. Keep them under control with End All or Safers Soap. I make a Neem oil spray to keep bugs at bay.

When trimming plants back in the fall, take cuttings from the removed pieces. Make sure the bottom is cut just below a node and the top is cut just above a node.

Most root well in water. Add a few drops of hydrogen peroxide to the water to help keep bacteria from growing. Change the water every few days for a couple of weeks, then weekly after that. Once rooted pot in well draining soil mix. pot them in clear solo cups so that it is easy to see when the plant is dry. Only water once soil is dry, to prevent roots from rotting. Feed young cuttings with ¼ to ½ strength balanced fertilizer (e.g., 20:20:20). Come spring pot up into one or two gallon pots and enjoy your beautiful plants.

## Resources:

Facebook: Brugmansia Canada C to C

Brugmansia Growers International: [www.Brugmansia.us](http://www.Brugmansia.us)

Nicholsons Nursery 4014 6 Ave, Port Alberni: [nicholsonsnursery.com](http://nicholsonsnursery.com)

Huanduj: Brugmansia book by Adolfo Holquin , Alistair Hay and Monika Gottschalk (out of print but available online as a pdf)

## Monty Shinn's Preventative Bug Spray

1 litre water

1 tsp neem oil

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp insecticidal soap

2 drops peppermint oil

Spray top and bottom of leaves.

I use this spray every week or two during the winter months to keep bugs away.

## Alfalfa Tea

1 lb Alfalfa pellets

5 gal water

5 T Blackstrap molasses

10T fish Fertilizer

Stir well and let sit a couple of days

Stir before using. Add 2 cups per gallon of water

## Soil mix

2 parts promix

1 part Perlite

1 part coconut husks

1 part composted manure

Limestone

14:14:14 slow-release fertilizer