

Passion Flower

General Information:

The name “Passion Flower” is associated with a special story. Spanish missionaries are said to have seen symbols of Christ’s suffering when they first saw this plant. The petals were the apostles, the thread-shaped secondary petals resembled Jesus’ crown of thorns, the five anthers were his wounds, and the stigmas symbolized the cross and the nails.

This legend is associated with *Passiflora caerulea*, but since then many other species of Passion Flower have been discovered.

All passion flowers have tendrils. They can grow to almost unlimited heights. Continuously in flower from May to September, some are mildly fragrant.

Light and Temperature:

Passion Flowers thrive best between 56°-65° F. More warmth doesn’t hurt them, but it encourages spider mites. Provide plenty of fresh air. Flowering will depend on the plants getting a lot of light.

Water and Fertilizer:

Throughout summer, feed and water weekly. Always keep the soil moist, and use warm water. Plants should winter in a cool spot with moderate watering and no feeding.

Soil and Transplanting:

Passion Flowers like heavy, limey, nutritious soil if they are to bloom profusely.

Grooming:

Thinning out the weakest branches in summer will enhance flowering. In fall, cut the plant back to about 8-20 inches

Environment:

The Passion Flower requires a bright, warm spot. The best place is a large window facing south where the plant can be allowed to climb.