

# Streptocarpus

**Streptocarpus** are easy growing perennials in warmer zones. They prefer partial shade but can tolerate up to 5 hours of direct sunlight per day (less in low-humidity environment).

Other Names: Cape Primrose, *Streptocarpus saxorum*, *Streptocarpella saxorum*

- Type: Perennial
- Height: 12-18 in. ( 30-45 cm)
- Popular Varieties: Weismoor Hybrids, Windowsill Magic, Dibley's Series, Bristol's Series



## How to Grow Streptocarpus as a House Plant

Streptocarpus are wonderful house plants, blooming freely throughout the year. **Streptocarpus care** and cultural requirements are similar to those of [African violets](#) with a few minor adjustments. The following are general guidelines for **growing Streptocarpus** plants in the home.

### Temperature

Streptocarpus prefer moderate temperatures in the range of 65 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit. They are not as heat-tolerant as African violets and like more humidity, if possible. Use pebble trays to increase ambient humidity. Streptocarpus leaves tend to get “crispy” on the edges in low-humidity situations or if plants are allowed to dry out between waterings. If that happens and you find it unsightly, you can cut off the tips of the leaves with sterilized scissors without harming the plants. (You can do this with other house plants, as well, such as spider plants and *Dracaena* which tend to get ‘leaf burn’ at the tips.)

### Air Circulation

Adequate air circulation is important for all house plants to avoid problems such as molds and powdery mildew. Space streptocarpus plants apart from each other and add a small fan to rooms with poor air flow.

### Light Requirements

Streptocarpus grow well in natural light and prefer some direct sunlight. Three to five hours of morning sunlight works well for most growers. Streps can also be grown successfully on lighted plant stands using regular fluorescent tubes (cool light). Place plants 8 to 12 inches from the lights for 12 to 14 hrs per day. More or less light may be required depending upon other environmental factors and you may want to experiment.

### Watering

If you grow Streptocarpus in potting soil, water the plants approximately once a week in winter, twice a week in summer *or as required* – plants should not be allowed to dry out completely. If you have poor quality tap water or your water contains additives such as chlorine, chloramine, or water softeners we suggest you use filtered or bottled water. Chemical additives can [inhibit growth or blooming](#) in flowering house plants and ornamental plants.

### Fertilizing

Fertilize your Streptocarpus with a weak solution (1/4 strength) of a balanced fertilizer each time you water. You may also Folier Feed be adding a drop of Superthrive to your misting water. Mist 1-3 times a day depending on the humidity levels in your home. Brown edges on leaves indicate the humidity level is too low.