

# Petrocosmea (peh tro KOZ mee a) Plant Care Guide

## **Origin and Characteristics:**

Origin: Petrocosmea plants belong to the Gesneriad family native to the Far East.

Size: Plants usually range in size from 5-12 cm.

Growth rate: These small plants have a very slow growth rate and live for several years.

## **Ideal Growing Conditions:**

Temperature: They grow best in cool temperatures, 50-77F, with a maximum not to exceed 86 and a minimum above 41.

Humidity: Keep the humidity high, but do not spray the leaves as this may result in a fungus. Place in a saucer with wet pebbles to increase the humidity, keeping the pot above the water.

Light: They thrive on filtered light and grow well on a windowsill. Leaves burn easily in direct sun. Rotate the pot frequently for even growth.

Soil: Use a light, well-drained soil as with AV's. Could add a touch of lime or shell. Good drainage is essential.

Watering: Allow topsoil to dry slightly between watering. Avoid over watering.

Fertilizer: Feed with a dilute fertilizer monthly during spring and summer, not with every watering. Any fertilizer you use for AV's works well.

Propagation:

Plants are easily propagated from leaf cuttings or offsets (suckers).

## **Blooming and Maintenance:**

Blooms: Colors range from blue to purple, pink and white/cream.

Transplanting: Use small, shallow pots. The root system is very sensitive and does not like to be disturbed. Repot no more than once every 2-3 years.

Maintenance: With low light, cooler temperatures, minimal water and fertilizer, you should enjoy these plants for years to come.

Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society

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