

# Collectors Corner Fact Sheet

## Hoya—The Wax Flower



**Hoya cinnamomifolia**

Hoyas are a popular genus with about 200 different species and numerous hybrids. Hoyas are found throughout Asia with a number of species occurring in Northern Australia. Hoyas belong to the family Asclepiaceae, they are mostly climbers with leathery succulent leaves.

Hoyas come from many climate ranges from cool to Tropical so instructions will vary by species. Some can tolerate complete exposure whilst others are high shade lovers.

Hoyas are most famous for their unique five sided waxy flowers that appear in umbels from the upper leaf axils. Flowers can vary from 3mm across to a huge 7cm across. Umbels can bear 1 to 50 flowers on each depending on species sometimes creating almost perfect balls of flowers. Hoyas also have the unique ability of being able to reflower from the same umbel many times. Flowers in some species can occur throughout the growing season from spring to autumn.

### Location,

Hoyas are best kept in partly shaded positions where they are protected from the worst of the midday sun. In full exposure leaves will often be yellow and with a red tinge, leaves will also be thicker and flowering poor. In very cold climates all hoyas will do better under cover, this allows watering to be controlled in winter and give more warmth in the growing period. Many Hoyas will do well indoors but will not flower unless they get sufficient sunlight, only *H. lacunose* and *H. bella* are easily flowered indoors. Tropical species should be wintered indoors in colder climates.

### Watering

Hoyas throughout the growing season must have water otherwise they will go backwards and flowering will be affected. Pots should be well watered but water should not sit at the base of the plant. Water again when soil is almost dry. In very hot weather this can be daily. In winter the plants can be allowed to almost dry out.



**Hoya kerii variegata**

### Fertilising

Fertilizer is required for good growth and flowering, and general complete plant food will work and should be applied according to instructions. Slow release fertilisers are great but will require some additional liquid fertiliser in spring when growth starts.

### Repotting

An old wives tale is that hoyas prefer to be root bound. This is far from the truth as tight roots reduce access to food and water and will slow down growth. Old pot bound plants will do well provided food and water is kept up. Once growth appears to slow plants should be potted into a slightly larger pot with new potting mix, the roots should not be teased but should be left untouched. Do not use an oversize pot as root systems will take to long to fill the pot. Water well after repotting.

### Flowering

Hoyas will flower if the conditions are right, if not they will not flower, the requirements are, light, temperature, food and water. Without these they will not flower well if at all. Some hoyas can carry large numbers of umbels if all conditions are met. Some can carry flowers non stop for 8 months whilst others may have a huge burst of flowers every 6 to 8 weeks.

### Problems, Pests and diseases.

Most common pests on Hoyas is Mealy Bug, these can be removed with a cotton bud soaked in Methylated spirits, snails are also to be watched for.



**Hoya archibildiana**

The most common problem with hoyas is root damage from poor repotting, over potting, to long in a pot, poor potting media. All of these will cause the roots to stop working and the leaves to drop and or dehydrate.

Another common problem is yellowed plants with very few leaves and almost no growth, this is either to much sun or lack of food and water.

Very important, when you purchase your hoya find out what its climate requirements are.

### Good Growing!

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**Hoya bella**