

Care Tips for Hoya (Wax Flower)

These tips are considered basic care tips for all of the species in this genus. Individual notes on favorite species can be found on the reverse.

- **Light:** Although the best exposure can vary between different hybrids, most *Hoya* appreciate medium to bright, indirect light. While some are tolerant of direct sunlight, this can also cause leaf burn.
- **Soil:** Pick a well-draining mix that's suitable for succulents. Try a pre-made mix or create your own with a good potting soil mixed with pumice and/or perlite and bark for drainage.
- Water: Rainwater is ideal, or distilled water if rainwater isn't available. Some varieties can be sensitive to the minerals in tap water, so use caution if you have no other option.
- **Drainage:** All *Hoya* require excellent drainage and will not tolerate standing water or waterlogged soils. Allow to dry well in between watering.
- **Feeding:** Monthly, with a liquid seaweed-based fertilizer such as Hasta-Gro.
- Other tips for success: Many *Hoya* actually bloom best when potbound, so don't be in a rush to re-pot them. Their cascading habit makes them ideal for hanging baskets, or they can be trained up a moss totem. They appreciate high humidity, so they're also happy in a terrarium or other warm, damp location.



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Our favorite species, hybrids and varieties with individual notes and tips:



Hoya carnosa – The old standby variety and one of the most commonly grown. Extremely easy-care plant that can last for decades in the same container with minimal input. Variegated hybrids including 'Crimson Queen' and 'Tri-Color' have beautiful pink coloration. 'Ripple' has an undulating leaf form.



Hoya carnosa compacta – has twisted, waxy leaves that emerge on long rope-like vines, making this Hoya perfect as a hanging plant. Sometimes known by its nicknames, 'Hindu Rope' Hoya and 'Indian Rope' Hoya, this cultivar of *Hoya carnosa* will eventually produce beautiful clusters of star-shaped pink flowers as it matures.



Hoya obovata – large, deep green oval-shaped leaves, often speckled with flecks of white and pink. The leaves emerge on long tendrils that shoot out dramatically from the base of the plant, eventually setting sweet-smelling flowers that look like little clusters of pink stars.



Hoya curtisii – is a miniature trailing *Hoya* with small, round olive green leaves mottled with grey. The apex is pointed on the thick. succulent leaves. Can be more finicky than other species.



Hoya kerrii – often called the 'heart leaf' *Hoya* for its unique form. Thick, leathery leaves trail on long stems, but can be extremely slow growing. One of the easier species to succeed with. Most often found as single-leaf cuttings rather than vining specimens; these cuttings can take years to begin to produce long stems, but they're worth waiting for.



Hoya wayettii – this more linear-shaped species is often confused with other narrow-leaf species such as *H. linearis* and *H. kentiana*. All are easy to care for and worthy of any collection.



Hoya retusa– A less often seen, rather unusual *Hoya* with exceedingly narrow, thread-like leaves arranged in a tangle of delicate stems. One of the rarer species in cultivation, it's an excellent collector specimen.



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