

## Hoya Care Guide Reference

(based off my experience in the home and in the greenhouse 😊 by Alsatia Haas-Tome)

### Watering 💧

- Hoya love consistent waterings, and you should water your hoyo when you notice the soil is actively drying out or is about halfway dry
  - Imagine a scale of one to five, one being 100% dry and five being 100% wet, I would water your hoyo once you believe the soil is at a three or a two on that scale
    - I would not let your hoyo get bone-dry even though they are very tolerant to that; you will see a lot more successful growth keeping it consistently watered and not letting it get to that point of dryness
    - The same idea goes for keeping your hoyo too wet, which they are not very tolerant of; you will see a lot more success if you allow your hoyo to dry out some in between waterings
      - If you aren't letting your hoyo dry out a little bit in between waterings you may see signs of overwatering and rot

### Lighting ☀️

- Hoya appreciate lots and lots of bright light very much, and you will see the most success growing your hoyo by giving it as much bright indirect-light as you can
  - Sunlight through photosynthesis is their energy supply!
    - The more sunlight you give your hoyo, the more energy it receives to maintain pushing growth and even blooms
  - Some hoyo varieties can tolerate some medium light areas, but you may not see it thrive as much as it would in a sunnier spot

### Soil Type 🌱

- Hoya like to be in an aerated soil mix, to allow their roots breathe
  - An aerated soil mix allows air, as well as water and nutrients, to pass through the soil more easily which creates a very healthy environment for the roots
    - Compacted soil, where the roots do not have good airflow, can suffocate the roots and can lead to root-rot due to air not being able to pass through the soil
    - Compacted soil creates an unhealthy environment for the roots, and can be brewing grounds for bacterial and fungal diseases due to the soil not being able to dry out as easily
  - Additives such as rice hulls or perlite help create pockets in the soil that air can pass through
    - If its a ratio of three (1:2), I would recommend doing one part perlite or rice holes and the other two parts organic soil

- Orchid bark and Charcoal are other aerating additives that you can add to your soil mix

## **Fertilizer**

- You should fertilize your Hoya during the growing season (spring, summer and into the fall), but you should hit pause on fertilizing during their dormancy period which would be the end of fall through the winter to avoid fertilizer burn on the roots
- There are many different products and ways you can fertilize your Hoya
  - There is the Arber Plant Food fertilizer (3-2-1) which is amazing in my opinion, said to support 'a more vigorous plant' promoting greener leaves and bigger blooms
    - A fertilizer you would mix into your watering can before watering
    - It is organic
  - Adding some earthworm/worm castings into your soil when potting your Hoya is another popular way to give your Hoya more nutrients
    - Very organic
    - I recommend the organic mechanics worm castings, personally I've had much success with using this product
  - It is also popular to use an orchid fertilizer to fertilize your Hoya, this is because most orchid fertilizers are slightly acidic in pH (potential hydrogen) and Hoya love having a slightly acidic pH, so it's almost perfect!
    - People have lots of success getting their hoyo to grow well using a orchid fertilizer
      - There is the Espoma Organic Orchid Bloom Booster fertilizer that you would mix into your watering can
      - There is also the Jack's Classic 'Orchid Special' fertilizer (30-10-10) which is another you'd mix into your watering can
      - Miracle-Gro ready to use Orchid Plant Food Spray is another fertilizer that is popular and is vouched for by other Hoya growers that you would actually spray directly onto your Hoya
        - I don't typically suggest using Miracle-Gro products, but this specific product has been raved about
  - There is also the Jack's Classic 'Houseplant Special' fertilizer (15-30-15) which is said to be designed to be used on all foliage and flowering plants
    - A water soluble fertilizer that you can mix in your watering can before watering
    - It is synthetic