



BROMELIAD CARE

Bromeliads make excellent houseplants due to their long-lasting colors and durability indoors. There are many types that come in different shapes and sizes. Regardless of the specific type there are some basic steps for care.



Light - Bromeliads grow naturally in dappled light of the jungle. Because of this they tolerate lower light levels. The types most tolerant of low light, even just artificial light, are those with soft and flexible leaves. Those with stiff, hard leaves prefer higher light.

Water - Generally they prefer little watering. Over watering is the most common reason they can fail. Soil should be dry between watering and not remain soggy. Each time you water, soak it so water runs out drain holes - this helps remove any salt buildup.

Occasionally, you can run water over the top of the plant to give it a bath. In nature they are used to bouts of intense rain and then they dry out.

Soil - Most take in water through their leaves and the air. Humidity is something beneficial. Light and very well-drained potting soil is required for proper health.

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Blooms

Flowers in many cases are actually bright colored leaves called bracts. These can last several months. There can also be a true flower. Cut the flower back once it becomes unsightly.



Food

Light feeding of an orchid food is recommended. Use a water soluble solution and dilute to 1/2 strength. Bromeliads are slow growing and benefit from gradual feeding.



Repotting

Root systems are small for the size of plant above the container. It's often best to keep the plant's roots confined in a small pot as long as the base is stable enough to hold the plant upright. Re-pot in spring as needed, choosing a heavy container for stability of needed.

