



CALATHEA PLANT • CALATHEA ROSEOPICTA • PEACOCK PLANT

Calathea plants, native to tropical South and Central America, Africa, and the West Indies, are grown primarily for their beautiful, brightly colored, upright, oval leaves. There are over 300 different types of Calathea plants, many being man-made hybrids created by tissue cultures. The many varieties have leaves with a purple underside and various vibrant colorful patterns on the top side. As a houseplant, Calathea is a tabletop plant or short bush that rarely gets bigger than 24" tall and 24"-26" wide. A Calathea, with its exotic foliage, may take some care, but is well worth the effort.

CARE

LIGHT

A Calathea likes bright indirect light; so, placing it in front of an east, west, or north window is ideal. Too much direct sun burns the leaves and causes the beautiful leaf colors to fade.

WATER

Calathea likes to be watered with distilled water, rain water, tap water that you have left to sit out over night before using it. Keep the soil moist but never soggy. Allow the top 2-3" to dry out before watering. Never let a Calathea Plant sit in water.

FERTILIZER

Feed monthly in the spring, summer, and fall with a balanced plant food diluted to ½ the recommended strength. Don't fertilize if the plant is not growing.

TEMPERATURE

Calathea like temperatures between 65°-80°F. They do not like cold drafts or temperatures below 55°-60°F. Hot temperatures cause the leaves to curl.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is a must! A Calathea plant gets brown leaf edges when the air is too dry.

FLOWERING

The leaves of a Calathea are more beautiful than many of the flowers of other indoor plants. With over 300 varieties of Calathea, some types such as Calathea Crocata, White Ice, and Brazilian have lovely flowers as well as spectacular leaves.

PESTS

Spider mites, scale, mealy bugs and aphids are houseplant pests that can be a problem. Use a household safe insecticide if this problem arises.

DISEASES

The high humidity that a Calathea plant needs also encourages bacterial and fungal diseases which usually manifest themselves as leaf lesions.

SOIL

Use a good light porous indoor potting soil that retains water but still drains quickly. African Violet soil works well.

POT SIZE

A Calathea rarely need repotting.

PRUNING

Cut off brown or crispy Calathea leaves as soon as they appear.

PROPAGATION

Calathea plants are propagated by plant division but it is a little difficult.