



Dieffenbachia or Dumb Cane plants, native to the tropics of Mexico and all the way south to Argentina, are relatively easy-care houseplants with large, broad, patterned, oblong leaves. They can be small table plants or 5ft-6ft. trees depending on the variety you select. Dieffenbachias are fast-growing houseplants that tend to get top heavy if not properly pruned.

CARE

LIGHT

Dieffenbachia require medium to high light. Direct sun burns the leaves and too much bright light causes the vibrant leaf color to fade. When an indoor Dieffenbachia does not get enough light, the new leaves are small and far apart on the stem.

WATER

Water well and then allow the top 2"-3" of soil to dry out before watering again. Dieffenbachia does best when watered on a regular schedule.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize only when the plant is actively producing new leaves. Most Dieffenbachia should be fed every two weeks in the summer and once a month in the spring and fall. Never feed in the winter. Excess plant food causes browning around the edges of the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Dieffenbachia prefer temperatures above 60°F Lower leaves turn yellow when exposed to cold drafts from doors, windows, or air conditioners.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is a plus, but a Dieffenbachia still does well in basic household humidity.

FLOWERING

Dieffenbachia develop rather non-descript spath-like flowers. It is recommended to cut flowers off as soon as they appear because they slow leaf development.

PESTS

Look out for spider mites and mealy bugs.

DISEASES

Humidity loving Dieffenbachia plants are subject to bacterial leaf spot disease, erwinia blight, and other bacterial diseases that develop in humid conditions.

SOIL

The best soil for a Dieffenbachia is a rich organic mixture that drains quickly.

POT SIZE

A Dieffenbachia likes to be a little pot-bound. Repot your plant in the spring if the roots have filled the existing pot. The new container should only be an inch or two wider than the old container.

PRUNING

Aggressively prune to keep a Dieffenbachia bushy and prevent it from getting top heavy.

PROPAGATION

Air layering and stem cuttings are the best ways to propagate a Dieffenbachia.